



SPECIALISED RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rajya Sabha

SECTION 1: VOTING

1.1 Voting Procedures

1.1.0.1 When voting, the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha may choose the voting procedure, unless a Motion for a Roll Call Vote has passed, in which case Roll Call Voting is initiated, with reference to **Rule 2.4.3**. If the Chairman is absent, the Vice-Chairman or the Dais will choose. The two possible choices of voting procedures are the voice vote, and the division vote.

1.1.0.2 The voice vote entails the delegates declaring either “aye” or “nay” to the motion, with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, or the Dais estimating the division of votes and declaring whether it passes or not.

1.1.0.3 The division vote entails delegates raising their placards and the Dais counting the number of votes for and against before declaring the result.

1.2 Voting Procedures

1.2.0.1 The conference shall adhere to the following definitions contained below concerning voting.

1.2.0.2 A ‘simple majority’ is defined as half plus one of the total number of delegations present and voting, if that number is even. If it is an odd number, a ‘simple majority’ is defined as half the total number of delegations present and voting rounded up to the nearest whole number.

1.2.0.3 A 'substantive majority' is defined as two-thirds of the total delegations present and voting, rounded up to the nearest whole number where necessary.

1.2.0.4 'Abstentions' count as a vote and vote totals shall be counted with the inclusion of abstentions.

1.2.0.5 'Procedural voting' applies to parliamentary procedures during committee sessions, such as motions. Abstentions are not in order for procedural votes.

1.2.0.6 'Substantive voting' concerns voting regarding the passage of documents including Legislative Bills and Unfriendly Amendments. Abstentions are in order for substantive voting.

1.2.0.7 There should be no change to the total number of delegations present until voting has concluded.

SECTION 2: LEGISLATIVE BILLS

2.1 Definitions

2.1.0.1 A Bill is a document encapsulating all the proposed solutions by one or more members. Its format is to follow **Annex A** below.

6.1.0.2 The 'initiating member' is the member who initiates the bill into the house.

2.1 General Rules Regarding Legislative Bills

2.2.0.1 Before the introduction of a Legislative Bill to the committee, they should neither be mentioned in formal debate nor circulated around the committee.

2.2.0.2 Legislative Bills are to be introduced with a *Motion to Introduce Legislative Bill* by any member. Such a motion requires a procedural vote and a simple majority to pass. Following which, all delegates will be given reading time for the Legislative Bill at the discretion of the Dais. The initiating member is to take the floor for a Question and Answer (Q&A) session of **five (5) minutes**. Delegates intending to ask questions regarding the Legislative Bill should raise their placard and state their question only when called upon by the Dais. After the time for Q&A elapses, the committee would enter Open Debate on the Legislative Bill.

2.2.0.3 There can be several Legislative Bills on the floor at the same time, and debate can be either general - pertaining to several Legislative Bills through the GSL - or specific - pertaining to a single Legislative Bill or part of it through caucuses.

2.2.0.4 Legislative Bills can be removed from debate by a *Motion to Table Legislative Bill*. This motion requires a procedural vote with a two-thirds majority to pass.

2.3 Amendments

2.3.0.1 Amendments to a Legislative Bill enable addition, edits, and deletion of clauses from Legislative Bills. There are two types of amendments.

1. Friendly Amendments do not require voting and are immediately added to the Legislative Bill once agreed upon by the initiating member, as well as at the discretion of the Dais.
2. Unfriendly Amendments are substantive amendments to the Legislative Bill that require council debate and have not obtained the approval of the initiating member.

2.3.0.2 Amendments may only be proposed once a Legislative Bill has been introduced.

2.3.0.3 Amendments must be written in the form of "Add/Strike/Replace ..."

2.3.0.4 Unfriendly Amendments may be submitted by any member, except the initiating member.

2.3.0.5 Before the introduction of any amendment, delegates are required to submit the amendment to the Dais via email. The Dais may entertain said amendment at their discretion.

2.3.0.6 To introduce an unfriendly amendment, one member must raise a *Motion to Introduce Unfriendly Amendment*. This motion requires a procedural vote with a simple majority to pass. Once introduced and sufficiently debated upon, the Dais will entertain a *Motion to Move into Direct Voting Procedures* on the Unfriendly Amendment.

2.3.0.7 To vote on amendments, a *Motion to Move into Direct Voting Procedures* must be raised. This motion requires a procedural vote with a simple majority to pass. Upon the passing of this motion, Closed Debate of two (2) speakers for and two (2) speakers against the amendment will commence, with a speaking time of 120 seconds. After the time for Closed Debate has elapsed, the amendment would be voted upon substantively and requires a **two-thirds** majority to pass.

2.3.0.8 Amendments can be removed from debate with a *Motion to Table Unfriendly Amendment*. This motion requires a procedural vote with a **two-thirds** majority to pass.

2.3.0.9 A *Motion for a Roll Call Vote* may be in order during voting on the amendment, with reference to **Rule 2.4.3**.

2.4 Voting Procedures

2.4.0.1 The committee enters into voting procedures upon a single Legislative Bill by passing a Motion to Move into Direct Voting Procedures, which requires a procedural vote and simple majority to pass.

2.4.0.2 Upon moving into direct voting procedures, all delegates and student officers will not be allowed to enter or exit the council venue to minimise disruption to the voting procedure. Closed Debate of two (2) speakers for and two (2) speakers against will commence, with 120 seconds speaking time. After Closed Debate has elapsed, the Committee will vote on the Legislative Bill. The Legislative Bill requires a substantive vote with a **two-thirds majority** to pass.

2.4.0.3 Upon the passing of a Legislative Bill, council debate on the topic will elapse.

2.4.0.4 The following motions are in order during voting procedures on Legislative Bills:

2.4.1 Motion to Divide the House

2.4.1 This motion removes the right for members to abstain from the substantive vote in question, and requires a procedural vote with a simple majority to pass. This motion may be raised both before and after a vote.

2.4.2 Motion to Divide the Question

2.4.2.1 This motion will allow the bill to be voted upon by parts, and requires a procedural vote with a simple majority to pass. Once passed, a substantive vote is held on each section of the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority to pass. If a section fails, a substantive vote will be held for each clause within that section.

2.4.2.2 Once all clauses of the bill have been voted upon, the sections and clauses passed will be organised into a new bill. A substantive vote will then be held on the new bill, which requires a two-thirds majority to pass. Note no time for debate will be allotted to the newly organised bill; voting procedures will commence immediately after all clauses of the previous bill have been voted upon.

2.4.3 Motion for a Roll Call Vote

2.4.3.1 This motion requires each delegate to verbally announce their vote. This motion requires a procedural vote with a simple majority to pass. Once passed, there will be two rounds of voting and delegates will be called upon to announce their vote in alphabetical order.

2.4.3.2 In the first round of voting, delegates are allowed to vote "for", "against", "abstain", or "pass" to the second round of voting. In the second round of voting, delegates who voted "pass" in the first round will be called upon to either vote "for" or "against". Abstentions in the second round are not allowed.

ANNEX A

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT

(1) This Act may be called the [Name]

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

(3) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,

(a) [Defined Word] means...

SECTION 3...