

Standing Rules

*of the*

National Senate

2026

## STANDING RULES OF THE THIRD NATIONAL SENATE

*National Senate Resolution No. 5001, Adopted January 3rd, 2026*

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## **SECTION I: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Rule 1: Sessions of the National Senate**

1. The term of the National Senate shall start and end at noon of the 23rd of May every year.
2. The National Senate shall meet in regular session once every month. Before the adjournment of a session, the National Senate shall decide the date and time of the next session of the National Senate.
  - a. If the National Senate does not decide by time of adjournment, the Speaker shall set the date and time of the next session, in consultation with Senators so as to achieve quorum.
3. Special sessions of the National Senate may be called by the following: the Speaker, the National Senate by adoption of a motion, or the President on extraordinary occasions.
4. The National Senate shall recess from the 16th of May to the 23rd of May unless called into special session in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the Standing Rules of the National Senate.

### **Rule 2: The Speaker of the National Senate**

1. The Speaker shall be the presiding officer of the National Senate.
2. At the commencement of every term, the National Senate shall elect a senator to be the Speaker of the National Senate.
3. The Speaker shall call the National Senate to order at the time appointed for meeting, and, if a quorum is found to be present, shall begin the meeting. They shall then announce the business in order.
4. The Speaker shall decide and announce the result of any vote taken. The Speaker shall sign all acts and resolutions, and all warrants and subpoenas.
  - a. If the National Senate is operating in a remote format, an electronic or scanned signature is authorized in place of a physical signature.
5. The Speaker shall preserve order and decorum and may order the removal of any person creating the disturbance within the Capitol Building.
6. The Speaker shall have charge of and see that all officers and employees perform their respective duties.
7. The Speaker may address points of order and shall rule on all questions of order, subject to appeal by any Senator to the National Senate.

8. The Speaker of the National Senate may be removed from the office of the Speaker by a motion of no confidence of the National Senate in the form of a resolution, passed by majority of all senators serving.
  - a. Senators may propose a motion of no confidence against the Speaker at any time. A motion of no confidence shall be treated as a privileged motion and shall not be amended except by the proposer.
  - b. The Speaker shall recuse themselves from the chair during the consideration of this motion.
  - c. The National Senate shall vote by roll call.
  - d. If the vote of no confidence is successful, the Speaker shall be immediately removed from office and a vote to elect a new Speaker will be held within a reasonable and expeditious period of time. No other business shall be dealt with until a new Speaker is elected.
  - e. If the vote of no confidence fails, there may not be another vote against the same Speaker within a period of three months.
  - f. The Speaker shall not propose a motion of no confidence against themselves.

### **Rule 3: Officers and Employees of the National Senate**

1. The National Senate shall elect a Speaker pro tempore, who shall serve as the chair of the National Senate in their absence or in case of the inability of the Speaker.
  - a. The Speaker may recuse themselves from the chair in active session, at which time the Speaker pro tempore shall take the chair.
2. The Speaker pro tempore shall have the right to name in active session or, if absent, in writing, a senator to perform the duties of the Speaker pro tempore, including the signing of duly enrolled bills and resolutions, but such substitution shall not extend beyond an adjournment, except by general consent.
3. The National Senate shall also elect other officers as decided by the National Senate.
4. An office of the National Senate other than the Speaker may be declared vacant by the vote of a majority of the National Senate, the senators voting by roll call.

### **Rule 4: Conduct of Senators and Officers**

1. If a senator violates the rules of the National Senate while speaking or otherwise, the Speaker or any senator may call the senator to order. The senator must yield the floor and may not continue without permission from the National Senate. If permission is granted by a motion, the senator may then continue speaking on the matter under consideration.

- a. No senator shall be held to answer for any language used upon the floor of the National Senate if business continued before an exception to the language was taken and noted.
2. No senator shall be absent from the National Senate without leave, except in case of accident or sickness, and no senator or officer shall obtain leave of absence or be excused from attendance without the consent of the Speaker or a majority of the senators present.
3. A vote by the National Senate on a motion to censure or punish a senator shall require the vote of a majority of all senators. A vote to expel a Senator shall require a three-fifths vote of all senators. Such votes shall be taken by roll call.
4. Any senator who has a conflict of interest in any measure, bill, or resolution proposed or pending before the National Senate shall so disclose such fact to the National Senate.

#### **Rule 5: The Keeping of a Legislative Record**

1. In accordance with Article 4, Section 8d of the Constitution of the Republic, the National Senate shall publish all acts passed by the National Senate and maintain a record of the agenda, including all votes and amendments. This record may be redacted only to remove classified or sensitive information.
2. In addition to the publication of such, any person or organization may request a copy of any act introduced in the National Senate. They may request a version from at any main stage of proceedings.

## **SECTION II: PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

#### **Rule 6: Adoption and Suspension of Rules**

1. The standing rules adopted at the first meeting of the National Senate shall govern any subsequent meeting of the National Senate for the rest of its term.
2. No standing rule of the National Senate shall be rescinded or changed after the adoption of the standing rules without a majority vote of the senators of the National Senate, and two days' notice of the motion.
3. A standing rule or order may be temporarily suspended by a general consent of two-thirds the senators present unless otherwise specified. A motion for suspension of the rules shall not be debatable but the mover of the motion may briefly explain the purpose of the motion.
4. For the purposes of this rule, two day's notice means written notice is provided to all senators of the National Senate by 2:00 p.m. two days prior to the amendment being offered and the notice must include, at a minimum, a description of the change to be offered and the date and time of the meeting.

## **Rule 7: The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure**

1. The rules of parliamentary practice as contained in The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure shall govern the National Senate except when they are not consistent with the Standing Rules.

## **Rule 8: Quorum**

1. A majority of all serving senators of the National Senate shall be necessary to constitute a quorum to do business. Less than a quorum may adjourn from day to day until a quorum can be had.

## **Rule 9: Order of Business**

1. Business shall be disposed of in the following order:
  1. Call to order and taking of the quorum.
  2. Reading and approval of the minutes.
  3. Motions for reconsideration.
  4. Messages from the President and other national officers.
  5. Messages from state and territorial officers.
  6. Reports from committees
  7. Unfinished business.
  8. First reading and referral of bills and resolutions.
  9. Final reading of bills and resolutions.
  10. The confirmation of treaties and Presidential nominations.
  11. Presentation of motions.
2. The order of business established by this rule may be changed by a majority vote of those present.
3. All questions relating to the priority of business shall be decided without debate. Messages from the President and other national officers may be considered at any time by general consent.

## **Rule 10: Unfinished Business**

1. Unfinished business at the preceding adjournment of the National Senate shall have preference over all other matters and no motion or any other business shall be received without a vote of the National Senate until the former is disposed of.

## **Rule 11: Voting**

1. All votes on motions shall be taken by voice vote, and all votes on bills and resolutions and other substantive matters shall be taken by roll call.
2. In regard to a voice vote, the Speaker shall put the question in the following form: "The question before the National Senate is (state the question). As many as are in favor say 'Aye'; and after the affirmative vote is expressed, "as many as are opposed say 'Nay'."
3. In regard to a roll call vote, the Speaker shall put the question in the following form: "The question before the National Senate is (state the question)." The order of the names on the

roll call shall be alphabetical by last name, and the Senators shall pronounce their vote as a 'Aye', 'Nay', or 'Present'. When once begun, the roll call may not be interrupted.

4. The announcement of all votes shall be made by the Speaker.
5. A senator, having been absent during roll call, may ask to have their name called. Such a request must be made before the result of the roll call has been announced by the Speaker.
6. No senator may change their vote after the result is announced.
7. In case of a tie of votes, the question shall fail.
8. If the Speaker is uncertain as to the outcome of a voice vote, or if any senator calls for a division, the National Senate shall proceed to a roll call vote.

### **Rule 12: Rules of Debate**

1. When any senator desires to speak in debate or submit any matter to the National Senate, the senator shall respectfully indicate to or address the Speaker.
2. When two or more senators arise to speak at once, the Speaker shall name the one who is to speak.
3. No senator shall speak longer than ten minutes without the consent of the National Senate. The Speaker, by general consent, or a majority of the Senators present, may further limit the length and number of times a senator may speak on any question.
  - a. Unless a motion to close debate has been sustained, a senator shall not be denied the right to speak at least once on each question, nor shall a senator be limited to less than two minutes on each question.

### **Rule 13: Motions**

1. No motion shall be entertained or debated until announced by the Speaker, and every motion shall be deemed to have been seconded.
2. When a debatable motion has been made by a senator and stated by the Speaker, the following shall dictate the order of precedence for entertaining motions in the rank named:

#### **(1) PRIVILEGED MOTIONS**

Privileged motions shall be defined as motions of great urgency entitled to immediate consideration, not directly relating to legislation. They shall include:

Adjourn, recess, or go at ease  
 No confidence  
 Reconsider  
 Demand for roll call  
 Demand for division  
 Question of privilege

## Orders of the day

### **(2) SUBSIDIARY MOTIONS**

Subsidiary motions shall be defined as motions altering legislation or its consideration. They shall include:

- To close debate
- Limit or extend debate
- Postpone temporarily (table)
- To postpone to a time certain
- To recommit
- To refer to committee
- To amend
- To consider informally

### **INCIDENTAL MOTIONS**

Incidental motions shall be defined as motions that arise only incidentally out of business being considered, not relating directly to legislation. They shall have no order of precedence, and shall be dealt with as soon as they arise. They shall include:

- Point of order
- Point of information
- Parliamentary inquiry
- Personal privilege
- Appeal a decision of the chair
- Suspend the rules
- Withdrawal of a motion
- Division of the question

3. Motions or other business that are routine or uncontroversial, as decided by the Speaker, may be approved by general consent. The Speaker shall ask for any objections, and hearing none, shall adopt the motion.

### **Rule 14: Call for Division of a Question**

1. Any senator may move that a question be separated into different questions. The question shall be separated if it contains distinct subjects such that removing one leaves a complete issue for the National Senate to decide. A motion to strike out and insert may not be separated.

## SECTION III: BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

### **Rule 15: Introduction of Bills & Resolutions**

1. A senator may introduce a bill or resolutions electronically by filing it with a form approved by the Speaker.
2. The Speaker shall number each bill or resolution in the order filed.
3. Senators may add themselves as cosponsors of a colleague's bill or resolution after its filing by contacting the Speaker or other provided means prior to its final reading.
4. No bill or resolution may be introduced that is identical to any other pending bill or which consists of only preambulatory clauses.

### **Rule 16: Bills and Resolutions Expire at End of Term**

1. Every pressing bill and resolution in the National Senate shall expire at the end of the term of the National Senate in which they were introduced.

### **Rule 17: One Subject in a Bill**

1. No bill shall include more than one subject and its related issues, and that shall be expressed in the long title.

### **Rule 18: Reading of Bills**

1. Every bill shall be read on two separate instances.

- a. **FIRST READING.** The first reading of a bill shall be in full, unless the Speaker decides or a majority of senators present demand only that the bill number, title and last line be read.

The bill may be referred to an existing or new committee, to a hearing of the full National Senate by the Speaker.

The bill shall be subject to amendment. Amendments may be proposed from the floor or be sent to the Speaker. Written amendments may also be submitted at any time after the first reading. All amendments adopted during final reading shall be securely fastened to the original bill.

When no further amendments shall be offered, the Speaker shall declare the bill has passed its final reading.

- b. **FINAL READING.** Only the bill number, title, and last line of bills shall be read on final reading unless a majority of the senators present demand a reading in full. No amendments to a bill shall be received on final reading.

The vote shall be taken by roll call.

When a bill shall pass, it shall be certified to by the Speaker, together with the vote upon final passage, and noting the day of its passage.

### **Rule 19: Amendments**

1. The Senators may offer amendments to proposed legislation as according to rule 18 and as follows:
  - a. **AMENDMENTS TO BE GERMANE.** No motion or proposal on a different subject shall be accepted under the guise of an amendment. No bill or resolution may be amended by adding or incorporating any other bill or resolution that is currently pending before the National Senate.
  - b. **SCOPE AND OBJECT NOT TO BE CHANGED.** No amendment to any bill shall be allowed that shall change the scope and object of the bill.
  - c. **TITLE AMENDMENTS.** The bill title shall not be amended.

### **Rule 20: Vetoed Acts**

1. Any messages of the President returned along with the act shall be read. The National Senate then shall reconsider the act, not reconsider it, refer it, or postpone its consideration.

### **Rule 21: Confirmation of Presidential Nominees**

1. When the names of Presidential nominees are transmitted to the National Senate for confirmation, the communication from the President may be considered in a hearing of the full National Senate or a committee.
2. The National Senate may require the nominee to answer a questionnaire.
3. The National Senate may require the nominee to appear before a hearing. When appearing, the nominee may be required to testify under oath.
4. When the matter has been sent to the floor for voting, the question shall be the confirmation of the name proposed, and then the Speaker shall begin roll call. In the event a message is received from the President requesting return of a nominee or nominees to the President prior to confirmation, the National Senate shall vote upon the President's request and the nominee or nominees shall be returned to the President if the request is approved by a majority of the senators present.

### **Rule 22: Treaties**

1. When a treaty shall be laid before the National Senate for ratification, the National Senate shall read it a first time, and, by means of motion, shall refer it to be considered in a hearing of the full National Senate or committee, or propose amendments.
2. The National Senate shall make no decision altering the functioning of, or placing conditions upon, a treaty in any way, but may attach preliminary clauses expressing the sentiment of the National Senate. These clauses shall be amenable.

3. The decisions made shall be considered in the form of a resolution of ratification in final reading. A two-thirds majority of the Senators present shall be required for it to be approved.
4. Treaties transmitted by the President to the National Senate for ratification that have not been dealt with at the time of an adjournment of a term of the National Senate shall be resumed at subsequent terms of the National Senate at the stage in which they were left.

## **SECTION IV: COMMITTEES**

### **Rule 23: Committees**

1. The National Senate shall have the power to create standing and select committees. The Speaker shall have the power to appoint the chair and members of such committees upon the general consent of the National Senate.

### **Rule 24: Subpoena Power**

1. Any standing committee or select committee created by the National Senate may have the following powers of the National Senate: the power of subpoena, the power to administer oaths, and the power to issue commissions for the examination of witnesses.

### **Rule 25: Committee Rules**

1. No committee shall amend a measure or vote upon any measure or appointment absent a quorum. A committee may conduct a hearing absent a quorum. A majority of any committee shall constitute a quorum and committees shall be considered to have a quorum present unless the question is raised. Any question as to quorum not raised at the time of the committee action is deemed waived.