



REPRINT AS AT  
February 2009

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

---

## **STANDING ORDERS**

**(ADOPTED 29 AUGUST 1985)  
(AS AMENDED)**

**INCORPORATING AMENDMENTS TO AND INCLUDING 26 NOVEMBER 2008**

---

## **SESSIONAL ORDERS**

**(AS AT 26 NOVEMBER 2008)**



# CONTENTS

	Page No.
Time Limits on Debate	iv
Quorum	v
Frequently Used Motions and Procedures	1
Standing Orders	7
Contemporary Procedures—	
Casual Senate Vacancy—Rules	103
Casual Senate Vacancy—Daily Procedure	105
Referendums—Nomination pursuant to Section 10(2) of the Referendums Act 1998	113

## NOTE

The revised Standing Orders of the Assembly were adopted on 29 August 1985 and came into effect on that day. The following amendments have been made since that date:

- SO2** Amended, Standing Orders Committee Report No. 2, Eighth Assembly, adopted on 20 August 1998, (Minutes page 210)
- SO8, 9, 10** Amended by Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly, adopted recommendations 29 November 2005 (Minutes page 113)
- SO18** Amended by omitting the words “by the Speaker or” to achieve consistency with the provisions of Standing Order 83. Standing Orders Committee Report No. 2, Eighth Assembly, adopted on 20 August 1998, (Minutes page 210)
- SO18(2)** Amended by Resolution, dated 10 October 1991, (Minutes page 209)
- SO19** Amended by Standing Orders Committee Report No. 2, Eighth Assembly, adopted on 20 August 1998, (Minutes page 210)
- SO20** Amended by Standing Orders Committee Report No. 2, Eighth Assembly, adopted on 20 August 1998, **SO 20** and **SO 21** rescinded, (Minutes page 210)
- SO20** Transitional Note: Resolution 20 August 1998, (Minutes page 211)
- SO21A** Standing Order agreed to by resolution 23 August 1988

- SO21A** Standing Order 21A(2)(a) and (e) amended by Standing Orders Committee Report No. 2, Eighth Assembly, adopted on 20 August 1998, (Minutes page 210)
- SO21B** New Standing Order, adopted on 20 August 1998, (Minutes page 210). Amended 14 October 1998, (Minutes page 244)
- SO22** Amended by First Report of Standing Orders Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly, adopted 24 August 2005 (Minutes page 65)
- SO35** Omitted "Upon any such adjournment the resolution of the question upon which the discussion was held shall become an order of the day for the next sitting day.", Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, adopted 20 March 1986, (Minutes page 289)
- SO 36,37,40** Amended by Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, 9<sup>th</sup> Assembly, adopted 20 August 2003 (Minutes Page 452)
- SO71** Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, adopted 20 March 1986, (Minutes page 289). Omitted "be permitted to continue" and inserted "be granted an extension of time"
- SO77** Amended by Standing Orders Committee Report No. 5, August 1989, Sessional Order 77, adopted 22 August 1989, (Minute page 516). Standing Order reverted to this form on commencement of 6th Assembly, 4 December 1990
- SO77** Amended by Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly, recommendations adopted 29 November 2005, (Minutes page 113)
- SO82** That the words "or decision" be omitted after "ruling" from Standing Order 82. Standing Orders Committee Report No. 2, Eighth Assembly, adopted on 20 August 1998, (Minutes page 210)
- SO86-88** Repealed as a result of Standing Orders Committee Report No. 2, Seventh Assembly, adopted on 23 May 1996; Chapter VIII replaced
- SO90** Amended by Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly, recommendations adopted 29 November 2005, (Minutes page 113)
- SO94** Amended by Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly, recommendations adopted 29 November 2005, (Minutes page 113)
- SO96A and 96B** Inserted by Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly, recommendations adopted 29 November 2005, (Minutes page 113)
- SO99** Amended by Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, Fourth Assembly, adopted 20 March 1986, (Minutes page 289)
- SO100A** New Standing Order adopted, Standing Orders Committee Report No. 2, Eighth Assembly, adopted on 20 August 1998, (Minutes page 210)

- SO119A** Adopted as Sessional Order on 26 November 1997, (Minutes Page 20) and adopted as Standing Order on 1<sup>st</sup> sitting day of 1999
- SO161** Standing Orders Committee Report No. 1, Seventh Assembly, adopted September 1994, (Minutes page 82). Amended as Sessional Order on 26 November 1997, (Minutes page 20) and adopted on 1<sup>st</sup> sitting day of 1999
- SO162** Standing Orders Committee Report No. 1, Seventh Assembly, adopted September 1994, (Minutes page 82)
- SO164** Standing Orders Committee Report No. 1, Seventh Assembly, adopted September 1994, (Minutes page 82)
- SO177A** Inserted by Fourth Report of Standing Orders Committee, 9th Assembly, adopted 5 May 2005 (Minutes page 821)
- SO188** Amended by Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, Fourth Assembly, adopted 20 March 1986, (Minutes page 289)
- SO218** Amended by Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, Fourth Assembly, adopted 20 March 1986, (Minutes page 289) — gave casting vote to Chairman of Committees
- SO240** Trialled as Sessional Order from 26 November 1997, (Minutes page 23) and adopted as new Standing Order on the 1<sup>st</sup> sitting day of 1999
- SO240A** Trialled as Sessional Order on 26 November 1997, (Minutes page 23) and adopted as new Standing Order on the 1<sup>st</sup> sitting day of 1999
- SO241** Added paragraph to Standing Order 241, Standing Orders Committee, Report No. 3, adopted 2 March 1988. Trialled as Sessional Order on 26 November 1997, (Minutes page 23) and adopted as new Standing Order on the 1<sup>st</sup> sitting day of 1999
- SO 263** Amended by Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, 9<sup>th</sup> Assembly, adopted 20 August 2003 (Minutes Page 452) - see translation Table (below) of changes to Standing Order numbers and amendments made on 23 February 2006
- SO265** Amended by First Report of Standing Orders Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly, adopted 24 August 2005 (Minutes page 65) - see translation Table (below) of changes to Standing Order numbers and amendments made on 23 February 2006
- SO270A** Inserted by Fourth Report of Standing Orders Committee, 9th Assembly, adopted 5 May 2005 (Minutes page 821) see translation Table (below) of changes to Standing Order numbers and amendments made on 23 February 2006

**SO 260 to 283 CHAPTER XXVII - SELECT COMMITTEES**

Revised as result of adoption on 23 February 2006 of 3<sup>rd</sup> Report of the Standing Orders Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly. The following is the Translation Table of existing and new Standing Orders with amendments adopted:

Existing SO No	Proposed SO No	Amended
260	260	Yes
264	261	Yes
261	262	Yes
262	263	Yes
263	264	Yes
265	265	Yes
266	266	Yes
267	267	Yes
268	268	Yes
269	269	Yes
270 & 270A	270A, 270B, 270C	Yes
271	271	Yes
272	272	Yes
273	273	No
274	274	Yes
275	275	Yes
276 & 277	276	Yes
278	277	Yes
279		Yes – Delete
	278	Yes – New
280	279	Yes
281	280	Yes
282	281	Yes
283		Yes – Delete

**SO31, 77, Amended; 31A, 41A, and 41B** Inserted by adoption of First Report of the Standing Orders Committee, 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly, dated 26 November 2008

## SPEECH TIME LIMITS

The maximum period for which a Member may speak on any subject indicated in this Standing Order and the maximum period for any debate, shall not, unless otherwise ordered, exceed the period specified opposite to that subject in the following schedule:

### In the Assembly

Subject	Time
Election of Speaker or appointment of Chairman — Each Member	5 minutes
Address-in-Reply — Each Member	30 minutes
Mover in reply	20 minutes
Ministerial Reports— Whole period for Reports	30 minutes
Minister making report	5 minutes
Opposition Member and one Independent Member	2 minutes
Minister in reply	1 minute
Discussion of a definite matter of public importance — Whole debate	2 hours
Proposer	20 minutes
Member next speaking	20 minutes
Any other Member	15 minutes
Bills — second reading — Mover	45 minutes
Member next speaking	45 minutes
Any other Member	30 minutes
Mover in reply	30 minutes
Bills — third reading— Mover	10 minutes
Member next speaking	10 minutes
Any other Member	5 minutes
Mover in reply	10 minutes
Debates not otherwise provided for— Mover	30 minutes
Member next speaking	30 minutes
Any other Member	20 minutes
Mover in reply	20 minutes
Motion for adjournment of the Assembly to close the business of the day Each Member	5 minutes
In committee Each question before the Chair — Member in charge of a bill	No limitation
Other Members	Unlimited, each speech not to exceed 10 minutes
In the Assembly or in committee Extension of time — with consent of a majority of the Assembly or of the committee a Member may be allowed to continue a speech interrupted under the foregoing provisions of this Standing Order, on motion without debate ( <b>except a speech on a motion for the adjournment of the Assembly</b> )	for one period not exceeding 10 minutes

## QUORUM

The following sections of the *Northern Territory Self-Government Act* of the Commonwealth provide the mechanism for determination of a quorum of the Legislative Assembly:

23. The number of members necessary to constitute a meeting of the Legislative Assembly for the exercise and performance of its powers and functions shall be as prescribed by enactment.
  
64. Until provision is made by enactment for the purposes of section 23, the number of members of the Legislative Assembly required for the purposes of that section is 10.

**Note:** No enactment has been made from the commencement of the Act in 1978 to date, varying the number of members to constitute a quorum for the purposes set out in section 23. The same quorum of 10 Assembly members has stood the test of time from the original 19-member Assembly in 1978 to the 25-member Parliament of today.

---



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### STANDING ORDERS

CHAPTER	<i>STANDING ORDER</i>	<i>PAGE</i>
I	General Rule and Definitions	1-2 7
II	Procedure for First Meetings	3-6 9
	Meeting of new Assembly after a General Election	3
	Presentation of Address in Reply	4
	References to Administrator	5
	Meeting for new Session after Prorogation	6
III	Officers of the Assembly	7-16 11
	Election of Speaker	7
	Appointment of Chairman of Committees	8
	Absence of Speaker	9
	Absence of Speaker and Chairman	10
	Deputy Speaker to take Chair	11
	Deputy Chairman of Committees	12
	Deputy Chairman to take Chair	13
	Office of Speaker Vacant	14
	Absence of Clerk	15
	Office of clerk Vacant	16
IV	Standing Committees	17-22 17
V	Attendance, Seating, Leave of absence, Minutes and Records	23-30 25
VI	Sitting and Adjournment of the Assembly	31-43 27
VII	Rules of Debate	44-82 31
VIII	Privilege	83-88 39
IX	Business	89-96 41
X	Petitions	97-100 45
XI	Notices of Motion	101-108 47
XII	Questions Seeking Information	109-121 49
XIII	Motions	122-135 53
XIV	Amendments	136-151 55
XV	Orders of the Day	152-155 57
XVI	Divisions	156-172 59
XVII	Bills	173-204 63
	Introduction	173
	Title and Contents	174
	First Reading	175
	Title Only Read	176
	Second Reading	177
	Explanatory Statement	177A
	Time Limit on Passage	178
	Urgent Bills	179
	Defeat of a Bill	180
	Reasoned Amendment	181
	Second Reading <i>proforma</i>	182
	After Second Reading	183

CHAPTER	<i>STANDING ORDER</i>	<i>PAGE</i>
XVII Bills (cont)	173-204	63

Resumed Consideration	184	
Debate on Motion for committal after proforma second reading	185	
Referral	186	

*IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE*

Long Title	187	
Order of Consideration	188	
Amendments	189	
Amendments in Writing	190	
Discussion confined to Question	191	
Postponement of Clauses	192	
Clause as Amended	193	
No Repetition	194	
Amendment of Title	195	
Report	196	
No Notice until Reported	197	
Recommittal	198	
Adoption of Report and Third Reading	199	
Defeat	200	
Disposal	201	
Subsequent Amendments	202	
Restoration of Lapsed Bills	203	
XVIII Proposed Laws Returned	205-209	69
XIX Committee of the Whole Assembly	210-228	71
XX Financial Procedures	229-231	75
Appropriation Proposal to be Recommended	229	
Supply Bills, Appropriation Bills and Taxation Proposals	230	
Taxation Proposals by Minister only	231	
XXI Messages from the Administrator	232-234	77
XXII Instructions to Committees	235-238	79
XXIII Disorder	239-247	81
XXIV Strangers	248-250	85
XXV Papers and Documents	251-257	87
XXVI Ministerial Statements	258-259	89
XXVII Select Committees	260-283	91
XXVIII Witnesses	284-296	95
XXIX Balloting	297-299	97
XXX Addresses to Queen or Administrator	300-305	99
XXXI Standing Orders	306-309	101



---

**FREQUENTLY USED MOTIONS**

**AND**

**PROCEDURES**

---



# ***BILLS***

## NOTICE

**MINISTER:** Mr/Madam Speaker, I give notice that on the next sitting day, I shall present a Bill entitled (insert short title of Bill) (Serial No. ...)

## WHEN CALLED ON BY MR/MADAM SPEAKER

**MINISTER:** Mr/Madam Speaker, I present a Bill entitled (insert short title of Bill) (Serial No. ...)

## WHEN THE CLERK HAS READ BILL A FIRST TIME

**MINISTER:** Mr/Madam Speaker, I move - That the Bill be now read a second time.

[SECOND READING SPEECH]

AFTER SECOND READING SPEECH IS CONCLUDED, a Motion - **That the debate be adjourned** - will usually be moved by another Member.

WHEN SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS IS REQUIRED TO CIRCUMVENT A DELAY OF ONE CALENDAR MONTH BEFORE THE DETERMINATION OF THE SECOND READING (see Standing Order 178) —

## BEFORE CALLING ON ORDER OF THE DAY FOR ADJOURNED SECOND READING DEBATE-

**MINISTER:** Mr/Madam Speaker, I move - That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the (insert short title of Bill) (Serial No. ...) passing through all stages at this/these sitting/s.

## WHEN BILL HAS BEEN READ A SECOND TIME -

- (a) COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
No action necessary

**OR**

**MINISTER:** (b) COMMITTEE STAGE POSTPONED  
Mr/Madam Speaker, I move - That the Committee stage be later taken.

**OR**

**MINISTER:** (c) THIRD READING FORTHWITH  
Mr/Madam Speaker, I seek leave to move the Motion - 'That the Bill be now read a third time', forthwith.

[WHEN LEAVE GRANTED]

**MINISTER:** Mr /Madam Speaker, I move - That the bill be now read a third time.

## AFTER COMMITTEE STAGE

Mr/Madam Speaker puts the question - **That the report be adopted.**

## WHEN REPORT ADOPTED

**MINISTER:** Mr/Madam Speaker, I move - That the Bill be now read a third time.

## **COGNATE BILLS**

IF IT IS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE TO TAKE TOGETHER TWO OR MORE BILLS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN -

BEFORE CALLING ON NOTICES -

**MINISTER:** Mr/Madam Speaker, I move - That so much of Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent (insert number of) Bills (insert short titles and serial numbers of Bills):

- (a) being presented and read a first time together and one motion being put in regard to, respectively, the second readings, the Committee's report stage and the third readings of the Bills together; and
- (b) the consideration of the Bills separately in the Committee of the Whole

## **PROCEDURES AND MOTIONS**

ABSENCE OF SPEAKER - PROLONGED

AFTER THE DEPUTY SPEAKER FIRST TAKES THE CHAIR IN THE SPEAKER'S ABSENCE AND HAS READ PRAYERS -

**MINISTER:** Mr/Madam Deputy Speaker, I move - That, during the absence of the Speaker, the Chairman of Committees shall, on each sitting day, take the Chair of the Legislative Assembly as Deputy Speaker and may, during such absence, perform the duties and exercise the authority of the Speaker in relation to all proceedings of the Assembly and to proceedings of Committees of the Assembly to which the Speaker is appointed.

ADJOURNMENT OF ASSEMBLY -

- (a) EACH SITTING

**MINISTER:** Mr/Madam Speaker, I move - That the Assembly do now adjourn.

- (b) SPECIAL (NEXT MEETING)

**MINISTER:** Mr/Madam Speaker, I move - That the Assembly, at its rising, adjourn until 10.00am on Tuesday (day, month, year), or such other time and date set by Mr/Madam Speaker, pursuant to Sessional Order.

ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE -

**MINISTER  
OR MEMBER:** Mr/Madam Speaker, I move - That the debate be adjourned.

**NOTE:** This Motion may be moved only by a Member who has not spoken to the question, or who has the right of reply. No Member may move the adjournment of a debate while speaking to the Motion. He/she must seek leave to continue his/her remarks.

ABSENCE, LEAVE OF

**MINISTER, WHIP,  
OR MEMBER:** Mr/Madam Speaker, I move - That leave of absence for (insert period of absence) be granted to the Honourable Member for (insert Electorate and name of Member) on account of (insert reason).

## ***PROCEDURES AND MOTIONS (continued)***

### BUSINESS POSTPONEMENT/REARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS

**MINISTER:** Mr/Madam Speaker, I move - That Government Business, Notice/Order of the Day No. ..., be postponed until a later hour/the next sitting day.

OR

That consideration of Government Business, Notice/Order of the Day No. ..., be postponed until after consideration of (insert Business of the Day to be considered).

OR

That Government Business, Notice/Order of the Day No. ..., be called on forthwith.

OR

That Government Business, Notices/Orders of the Day be considered in the following order.

OR

That intervening business be postponed until after the consideration of Government Business, Notices/Orders of the Day, Nos. ..., in that order.

### CENSURE - WHEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN OF MOTION OF CENSURE OR WANT OF CONFIDENCE

**MINISTER:** Mr/Madam Speaker, I accept the Motion as a censure/want of confidence Motion.

**NOTE:** The motion will then be moved by the Member who has given the Notice.

### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - REPORT PROGRESS

**MINISTER OR**

**MEMBER:** Mr/Madam Speaker, I move - That the Chairman do report progress and ask leave to sit again.

**NOTE:** This motion must be put without debate.

### DISSENT FROM RULING

(a) SPEAKER

**MEMBER:** Mr/Madam Speaker, I move - That the ruling of the Speaker (insert reference to ruling) be dissented from.

**NOTE:** This motion requires a seconder and may be debated.

(b) CHAIRMAN

**MEMBER:** Mr Chairman, I move - That the ruling of the Chairman /Acting Chairman (insert reference to ruling) be dissented from.

**NOTE:** No seconder is required and the question must be put without debate.

## ***PROCEDURES AND MOTIONS (continued)***

### EXTENSION OF TIME

- (a) TEN MINUTE EXTENSION, PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 77

*MINISTER OR*

*MEMBER:* **Mr/Madam Speaker, I move - That the Honourable Member for (insert Electorate) be granted an extension of time.**

- (b) ADDITIONAL TIME

*MINISTER OR*

*MEMBER:* **Mr/Madam Speaker, I move - That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the Member for (insert Electorate) from speaking for such time as would permit him/her to conclude his/her speech.**

OR

**Mr/Madam Speaker, I move - That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the Member for (insert Electorate) from speaking for an additional .... minutes.**

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

- (a) TAKE NOTE

*MINISTER OR*

*MEMBER:* **Mr/Madam Speaker, I move - That the Assembly take note of the Statement.**

AND/OR

- (b) PRINT

*MINISTER OR*

*MEMBER:* **Mr/Madam Speaker, I move - That the Statement be printed.**

**NOTE:** A Minister may make a Statement at any time when there is no question before the Assembly, PROVIDED that copies of the Statement are available distribution to Members before the Minister commences his Statement.

### NAMING OF A MEMBER

- (a) WHEN A MEMBER HAS BEEN NAMED BY THE SPEAKER

*MINISTER OR*

*MEMBER:* **Mr/Madam Speaker, I move - That the Honourable Member for (insert Electorate) be suspended from the service of the Assembly.**

- (b) WHEN A MEMBER HAS BEEN NAMED BY THE CHAIRMAN AND THE CHAIRMAN HAS REPORTED TO THE SPEAKER

*MINISTER OR*

*MEMBER:* **Mr/Madam Speaker, I move - That the Honourable Member for (insert Electorate) be suspended from the service of the Assembly.**

**NOTE:** No amendment, adjournment or debate is permitted on these Motions. They must be put forthwith.

## ***PROCEDURES AND MOTIONS (continued)***

### PAPERS

(a) DOCUMENT QUOTED FROM BY MINISTER

**MEMBER:** Mr/Madam Speaker, I ask that the document quoted from by the Minister be laid on the Table (see Standing Order 255).

(b) DOCUMENT QUOTED FROM BY MEMBER

**MINISTER OR**

**MEMBER:** Mr Speaker, I move - That the document quoted from by the Honourable Member for (insert Electorate) be laid on the Table.

(c) MOTIONS ON PAPERS WHICH HAVE BEEN TABLED

**MINISTER OR**

**MEMBER:** Mr/Madam Speaker, I move - That the Paper be printed.

AND/OR

**MINISTER OR**

**MEMBER:** Mr/Madam Speaker, I move - That the Assembly take note of Paper.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

(a) IF A MEMBER HAS SPOKEN IN A DEBATE AND BELIEVED HIS/HER SPEECH WAS MISQUOTED OR MISUNDERSTOOD

[WHEN NO OTHER MEMBER IS ADDRESSING THE CHAIR]

**MEMBER:** Mr/Madam Speaker, I claim that my speech has been misquoted/misunderstood by the Honourable Member for (insert Electorate). (See Standing Order 54.)

**NOTE:** The member may then make an explanation, but *may not* introduce any new matter, or debate the subject.

(b) EXPLANATION OF A MATTER OF A PERSONAL NATURE

**MEMBER:** Mr/Madam Speaker, I seek your leave to make a personal explanation relating to (insert subject matter). (See Standing Order 57.)

**NOTE:** A personal explanation may only be made when there is no other question before the Chair and the explanation may not be the subject of debate.

### QUESTION TIME - CLOSURE OF

**MINISTER:** Mr/Madam Speaker, I ask that further Questions be placed on the Question Paper.

### QUORUM (WHEN QUORUM [10 MEMBERS] IS NOT PRESENT)

**MEMBER:** Mr/Madam Speaker/Chairman, I draw your attention to the state of the Assembly/Committee.



---

# **STANDING ORDERS**

**(ADOPTED 29 AUGUST 1985)  
(AS AMENDED)**

**INCORPORATING AMENDMENTS EFFECTIVE TO AND INCLUDING  
26 NOVEMBER 2008**

---



# Chapter I

## GENERAL RULE AND DEFINITIONS

### 1. GENERAL RULE

In all particular cases not provided for hereinafter, or by sessional or other orders or practice of the Assembly, resort shall be had to the practice of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia in force for the time being, which shall be followed as far as it can be applied.

### 2. DEFINITIONS

In these Orders unless the contrary intention appears:

“A session” means the series of sittings —

- (a) from the calling together of the Assembly after a general election until the Assembly is prorogued; or
- (b) from the calling together of the Assembly after a prorogation until the Assembly is next prorogued.

<sup>1</sup>“A sitting day” means a meeting of the Assembly from the ringing of the bells at the appointed time until the adjournment of the Assembly.

“An Assembly” means the series of sittings comprised of one or more sessions from the calling together of the Legislative Assembly after a general election until it is prorogued prior to the next general election.

“Chief Minister” means the Minister designated as Chief Minister by the Administrator.

“Minister” means a Member appointed to a ministerial office by the Administrator with such designation as the Administrator from time to time determines.

“Speaker” means the Member elected to be Speaker pursuant to Standing Order 7 and in the absence of that Member means the Deputy Speaker.

“The Assembly” means the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory of Australia constituted by the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act*.

“The Chamber” means the area within the walls enclosing the Speaker’s Chair, the Table and Members’ seats but does not include areas specifically set aside for strangers.

---

<sup>1</sup> SO2 Amended, Standing Orders Committee Report No. 2, Eighth Assembly, adopted on 20 August 1998, (Minutes page 210).

## *Standing Orders*

## **Chapter II**

### **PROCEDURE FOR FIRST MEETINGS**

#### **3. MEETING OF NEW ASSEMBLY AFTER A GENERAL ELECTION**

On the first sitting day of the session of the Assembly after a general election, Members having assembled at the time appointed —

- (a) The Clerk shall read the notice calling the Assembly together.
- (b) The Deputy of the Administrator appointed under Section 41(1) of the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978* shall then be introduced by the Sergeant-at-Arms to the Assembly Chamber and the Clerk shall read the Deputy's Commission.
- (c) The Deputy shall then inform the Members that the Administrator will at a later time attend the Assembly to declare the causes of his calling the Assembly together.
- (d) The writ or copy-writ of the election of each Member shall be laid upon the Table by the Clerk, and Members shall then make and subscribe the oaths or affirmations of allegiance and of office, in the form set forth in the schedule to the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978*, as amended.
- (e) The Assembly shall then proceed to elect a Speaker.
- (f) Until a Speaker is elected, the Clerk shall act as chairman of the Assembly.
- (g) The Speaker, having presented himself to the Administrator and having reported the fact to the Assembly, shall inform the Assembly at what time the Administrator will declare the causes of his calling the Assembly together and the sitting may be suspended until that time.
- (h) When the Administrator has arrived at the Assembly Chamber, the Serjeant-at-Arms shall announce his arrival and conduct him to the Chair, the Speaker leaving the Chair and taking one to the right of His Honour.
- (j) The Administrator will proceed to declare the causes of his calling the Assembly together from the Chair.
- (k) The Speaker will then receive a copy of the Administrator's Speech and His Honour will then withdraw from the Assembly Chamber.
- (m) After the Administrator has withdrawn some formal business shall be transacted.
- (n) The Assembly may then proceed with the following ordinary business —  
Petitions; Notices; Questions; and Papers.
- (p) The Speaker shall then report to the Assembly the Administrator's Speech.
- (q) The Speech having been reported by the Speaker, a motion for an Address-in-Reply will be moved and seconded.

## *Standing Orders*

### **4. PRESENTATION OF ADDRESS-IN-REPLY**

The Address-in-Reply, as adopted by the Assembly, shall be presented to the Administrator by the Speaker, accompanied by any Members who may think fit to attend, and the Speaker shall report the Administrator's reply to the Assembly.

### **5. REFERENCES TO ADMINISTRATOR**

Where, in these Standing Orders, the Administrator is referred to, such reference shall be read as extending and applying to the person for the time being acting as Administrator of the Northern Territory.

### **6. MEETING FOR NEW SESSION AFTER PROROGATION**

On the first day of the session of the Assembly after prorogation, Members having assembled at the time appointed by the Administrator, the Clerk shall read the Notice calling the Assembly together and the Assembly shall await the arrival of the Administrator. Thereafter the proceedings shall be as in the case of the first meeting after a general election.

## Chapter III

### OFFICERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

#### 7. ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The election of a Speaker shall be conducted in the following manner —

- (a) At the opening of an Assembly, after the Members present have been sworn, or whenever the office of Speaker becomes vacant, a Member addressing himself to the Clerk, shall propose some Member then present to the Assembly for its Speaker and move that such Member “do take the Chair of this Assembly as Speaker” which motion shall be seconded. A Member, when proposed and seconded, shall inform the Assembly whether he accepts nomination or not.
- (b) The Clerk shall then ask “is there any further proposal?”, and if there is no further proposal, the Clerk shall say “the time for proposals has expired”. No Member may then address the Assembly or propose any other Member, and the Clerk shall, without question put, declare the Member so proposed and seconded to have been elected as Speaker, and such Member shall be conducted to the Chair by his proposer and seconder, and shall take the Chair of the Assembly as Speaker.
- (c) If more than one Member is proposed as Speaker the Clerk shall, after the second proposal and after each subsequent proposal (if any) is made and seconded, ask “is there any further proposal?”, and if there is no further proposal the Clerk shall say “the time for proposals has expired”.
- (d) When the time for proposals has expired, debate may ensue, but it shall be relevant to the election.
- (e) No Member may speak for more than 5 minutes.
- (f) At any time during the debate a motion may be moved by a Member rising in his place, and without notice, and whether any other Member is addressing the Chair or not, “that the question be now put”.

The Clerk shall then put the question, without debate, “that the question be now put”. In the event of the numbers being equal the question shall be decided in the negative. Upon the carrying of the question “that the question be now put” or upon the cessation of the debate otherwise, the election shall be proceeded with as provided in this Standing Order.

- (g) Before the Assembly proceeds to a ballot the bells shall be rung as for a division.
- (h) When only 2 Members are proposed and seconded as Speaker, each Member present shall deliver to the Clerk a ballot paper in writing, containing the name of the candidate for whom he votes and the votes shall be counted by the Clerks at the Table; and the candidate who has the greater number of votes shall be the Speaker and be conducted to the Chair.
- (j) When more than 2 Members are so proposed and seconded the votes shall be taken in like manner, and the Member who has the greatest number of votes shall be the Speaker, provided he has also a majority of the votes of the Members

## *Standing Orders*

present; but if no candidate has such majority, the name of the candidate having the least number of votes shall be excluded from subsequent ballots, and a fresh ballot shall take place; and this shall be done as often as necessary, until one candidate is declared to be elected as Speaker by such majority, when such Member shall be conducted to the Chair.

- (k) If at any ballot it is impossible by reason of equality of votes to determine which name shall be excluded from subsequent ballots, a special ballot shall take place at which there shall be submitted only the names of those candidates who have received equal votes. At such special ballot each member shall write on his ballot paper only the name of the candidate he wishes to retain. The candidate whose name appears upon the least number of ballot papers shall then be excluded from subsequent ballots.
- (m) At any time after the result of the first ballot is declared, but before the commencement of the second or other subsequent ballot, a candidate may withdraw his name from the election which shall then proceed as if he had not been nominated.
- (n) If by reason of equality of votes a ballot or special ballot is rendered inconclusive, the Clerk shall so declare and unless by a withdrawal another ballot or special ballot is rendered unnecessary, he shall cause another such ballot or special ballot to be taken. If after the counting of votes the equality continues he shall so declare. Thereupon the sitting shall be suspended for 30 minutes and when the Assembly reassembles the votes shall be taken again, unless this is rendered unnecessary by a withdrawal.
- (p) In the event of there still being an equality of votes, the Clerk shall declare such to be the case, and shall determine by lot which of the candidates, having the same number of votes, shall be withdrawn, as if he had obtained the lesser number of votes.
- (q) Whenever at any stage a withdrawal leaves only one candidate remaining he shall, without further voting, be declared elected as Speaker and shall then be conducted to the Chair.
- (r) Having been conducted to the Chair, the Member elected returns his acknowledgments to the Assembly for the honour conferred upon him and thereupon sits down in the Chair and then the Mace (which before lay under the Table) shall be laid upon the Table.

### **8.<sup>2</sup> APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY SPEAKER AND CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES**

- (1) At the commencement of each Assembly, or whenever the office becomes vacant, a Member shall be appointed by the Assembly to be the Chairman of Committees and Deputy Speaker of the Assembly to take the Chair of all Committees of the Whole. The Deputy Speaker to be Acting Speaker at any time the Speaker is absent or unable to perform the function of the Speaker in accordance with section 25 of the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act*.

---

<sup>2</sup> SO 8, 9, 10 Amended by Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly, recommendations adopted 29 Nov 2005, (Minutes page 113)

## *Standing Orders*

- (2) The Chairman/Deputy Speaker shall be appointed in the following manner
  - (a) A motion shall be moved, without notice, that a Member be appointed Chairman/Deputy Speaker of this Assembly, which motion shall be seconded.
  - (b) The Speaker shall then ask if there is any further motion and, if there is not, shall say that the time for motions has expired. No member may then address the Assembly or move any motion for the appointment of a Member as Chairman/Deputy Speaker, and the Speaker shall, without question put, declare the member named in the motion to have been appointed Chairman/Deputy Speaker.
  - (c) If more than one motion for the appointment of the Chairman/Deputy Speaker is moved and seconded, the Speaker shall, after the second motion and after each subsequent motion (if any), ask if there is any further motion and, if there is not, shall say that the time for motions has expired.
  - (d) When the time for motions has expired, debate may ensue, but it shall be relevant to the election.
  - (e) No Member shall speak for more than 5 minutes.
  - (f) At any time during the debate, a motion without notice may be moved by a Member rising in his place, and whether any Member is addressing the Chair or not, "that the question be now put", which question shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate.

Upon the carrying of the question "that the question be now put", or upon the cessation of the debate otherwise, the appointment of the Chairman/Deputy Speaker shall be proceeded with as provided in this Standing Order.

- (g) Before the Assembly proceeds to a ballot the bells shall be rung as for a division.
- (h) When only 2 motions for the appointment of Chairman/Deputy Speaker are moved and seconded, each Member present shall deliver to the Clerk a ballot paper in writing, containing the name of the Member named in one or other of the motions for whom he votes, and the votes shall be counted by the Clerks at the Table; and the Member who has the greater number of votes shall be the Chairman/Deputy Speaker.
- (j) When more than 2 motions for the appointment of Chairman/Deputy Speaker are moved and seconded, the votes shall be taken in the same manner, and the member who has the greatest number of votes shall be the Chairman/Deputy Speaker, provided he has also a majority of votes of the Members present; but if no Member has such majority, the name of the Member having the least number of votes shall be excluded from subsequent ballots, and a fresh ballot shall take place; and this shall be done as often as necessary until one member has such majority when he shall be Chairman/Deputy Speaker.
- (k) If, after any ballot other than a ballot which takes place in accordance with paragraph (m) of this Standing Order, in which the names of only 2 Members are submitted, there is an equality of votes, the Speaker shall give his casting vote and the Member for whom he gives his casting vote shall be the Chairman/Deputy Speaker.

## *Standing Orders*

- (m) If, after any ballot in which the names of more than 2 Members are submitted, it is impossible by reason of an equality of votes to determine which name shall be excluded from subsequent ballots—
  - (i) if there is an equality of votes for 2 Members, the Speaker shall give his casting vote and the name of the Member for whom he does not give his casting vote shall be excluded from subsequent ballots;
  - (ii) if there is an equality of votes for more than 2 Members, a special ballot shall take place at which there shall be submitted only the names of those members who have received equal votes and in which case each member shall write on his ballot paper only the names of the Members he wishes to retain. The name of the member who receives the least number of votes shall be excluded from subsequent ballots. If, by reason of a continued equality of votes, the special ballot is inconclusive, then, unless a name is withdrawn, the sitting shall be suspended for 30 minutes. When the sitting is resumed, the votes shall be taken again unless this is rendered unnecessary by a withdrawal; and
  - (iii) in the event or there still being an equality of votes, the Speaker shall declare such to be the case and shall determine by lot which of the candidates having the same number of votes shall be withdrawn, as if he had the least number of votes.
- (n) At any time after the result of the first ballot is declared, but before the commencement of any subsequent ballot, a member whose name was submitted in the first ballot may withdraw his name and all further proceedings shall take place as if a motion for his appointment as Chairman/Deputy Speaker had not been moved.
- (p) Whenever a withdrawal leaves only one Member in respect of whom a motion for appointment as Chairman/Deputy Speaker is before the Assembly, that Member shall be declared to have been appointed Chairman/Deputy Speaker.

### **9. ABSENCE OF SPEAKER**

Whenever the Assembly is informed by the Clerk of the absence of the Speaker the appointed Deputy Speaker shall, subject to any other order of the Assembly, perform the duties of the Speaker during that absence.

### **10. ABSENCE OF SPEAKER AND CHAIRMAN**

Whenever the Assembly is informed by the Clerk of the absence of both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, the Members present, if a quorum, shall proceed to elect, subject to any other order of the Assembly, an Acting Speaker to perform the duties of the Speaker during that absence.

When a Speaker has not been appointed by the Assembly the Administrator for the Northern Territory may appoint a Speaker in accordance with s.26 of the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act*.

## *Standing Orders*

### **11. DEPUTY SPEAKER TO TAKE CHAIR**

The Chairman of Committees shall take the Chair as Deputy Speaker whenever requested so to do by the Speaker during a sitting of the Assembly, without any formal communication to the Assembly.

### **12. DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES**

The Speaker shall nominate at the commencement of every Assembly not less than 2 Members to be Deputy Chairmen of Committees, any of whom shall act as Chairman of Committees when requested so to do by the Chairman/Deputy Speaker, or when the Speaker or the Chairman is absent. The Speaker may revoke the nomination of any Member and at any time may nominate additional Members.

### **13. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN MAY TAKE CHAIR**

The Speaker, if the Chairman of Committees be absent, or the Chairman of Committees when acting as Deputy Speaker, may call on any of the Deputy Chairmen to take the Chair as Deputy Speaker.

### **14. OFFICE OF SPEAKER VACANT**

When a vacancy has occurred in the office of Speaker, the Clerk shall report the same to the Assembly at its next sitting day, and the Assembly shall either forthwith, or at its next sitting day, proceed to the election of a new Speaker in the manner provided by these Standing Orders.

### **15. ABSENCE OF CLERK**

In the case of unavoidable absence or illness of the Clerk, his duties shall be performed by the Deputy Clerk, or, should the latter be absent, by the senior Clerk-Assistant.

### **16. OFFICE OF CLERK VACANT**

During any vacancy in the office of Clerk all powers, functions, and duties of the Clerk shall be exercised and performed by the Deputy Clerk.

## *Standing Orders*

## Chapter IV

### STANDING COMMITTEES

#### 17. STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

A Standing Orders Committee to consist of the Speaker and four other Members shall be appointed at the commencement of each Assembly and such committee shall have power to sit during any adjournment.

#### 18.<sup>3</sup> COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

- (1) A Committee of Privileges to consist of five Members shall be appointed at the commencement of each Assembly or at such other time as the Assembly may decide, to inquire into and report upon complaints of breach of privilege which may be referred to it by the Assembly and such committee shall have power to sit during any adjournment.
- (2)<sup>4</sup> The committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, to adjourn from place to place, to meet and transact business in public or private session and to sit during any adjournment of the Assembly.

#### 19.<sup>5</sup> HOUSE COMMITTEE

- (1) A House Committee to consist of the Speaker and four other Members shall be appointed at the commencement of each Assembly to advise the Speaker on matters relating to the operation of Parliament House and its precincts including:
  - (a) building operations;
  - (b) repairs, renewals, and alterations to the Parliament House and all fittings and furniture;
  - (c) information technology services for the Assembly and Members;
  - (d) the library services provided to the Assembly and Members;
  - (e) allocation of rooms;
  - (f) catering for Parliament;
  - (g) maintenance and upkeep of gardens, parking areas and associated roadways;
  - (h) any other matter referred to it by the Speaker or the Assembly.
- (2) The Committee shall have power to –
  - (a) meet and transact business in public or private session;
  - (b) send for persons, papers and records;

---

<sup>3</sup> SO18 Standing Order 18 be amended by omitting the words “by the Speaker or” to achieve consistency with the provisions of Standing Order 83. Standing Orders Committee Report No. 2, Eighth Assembly, adopted on 20 August 1998, (Minutes page 210).

<sup>4</sup> SO18(2) Amended by Resolution, dated 10 October 199, (Minutes page 209).

<sup>5</sup> SO19 Standing Orders Committee Report No. 2, Eighth Assembly, adopted on 20 August 1998. Amended, (Minutes page 210).

## *Standing Orders*

- (c) sit during any adjournment of the Assembly; and
- (d) move from place to place.

### **20.<sup>6</sup> SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

- (1) A Standing Committee on Subordinate Legislation and Publications to consist of five Members shall be appointed at the commencement of each Assembly. The Committee shall examine and report upon all instruments of a legislative or administrative character and other papers which are required by statute to be laid upon the Table.
  
- (2) The Committee shall, with respect to any instrument of a legislative or administrative character which the Legislative Assembly may disallow or disapprove, consider—
  - (a) whether the instrument is in accordance with the general objects of the law pursuant to which it is made;
  - (b) whether the instrument trespasses unduly on personal rights or liberties;
  - (c) whether the instrument unduly makes rights and liberties of citizens dependent upon administrative and not upon judicial decisions;
  - (d) whether the instrument contains matter which in the opinion of the committee should properly be dealt with in an Act;
  - (e) whether the instrument appears to make some unusual or unexpected use of the powers conferred by the statute under which it is made;
  - (f) whether there appears to have been unjustifiable delay in the publication or laying of the instrument before the Assembly; and
  - (g) whether for any special reason the form or purport of the instrument calls for elucidation.
  
- (3) The Committee, if it is of the opinion that an instrument ought to be disallowed or disapproved—
  - (a) shall report that opinion and the grounds thereof to the Assembly before the end of the period during which any notice of the motion for disallowance of that instrument may be given to the Assembly; and
  - (b) if the Assembly is not sitting, may refer its opinion and the grounds thereof to the authority by which the instrument was made.

---

<sup>6</sup> *SO20 Standing Orders Committee Report No. 2, Eighth Assembly, adopted on 20 August 1998, SO20 and SO21 rescinded, (Minutes page 210).*

## *Standing Orders*

For the purposes of these Standing Orders, “instrument of a legislative or administrative character” has the same meaning as that defined in the *Interpretation Act*.

- (4) The Committee, if it is of the opinion that any matter relating to any paper which is laid upon the Table of the Assembly should be brought to the notice of the Assembly, may report that opinion and matter to the Assembly.
- (5) All petitions and papers presented to the Assembly which have not been ordered to be printed shall stand referred to the Committee, which shall report from time to time as to what petitions and papers ought to be printed and whether wholly or in part.
- (6) The Committee shall inquire into and report, from time to time, on the printing, publication and distribution of publications or such other matters as are referred to it by the Speaker or the Assembly.
- (7) The Committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, to sit in public or private session notwithstanding any adjournment of the Assembly and to adjourn from place to place.
- (8)<sup>7</sup> The Committee have the power to consider, disclose and publish the Minutes of Proceedings, evidence taken and records of the Subordinate Legislation, Tabled Papers Committees and Publications Committees established in this Assembly and all previous Assemblies.

### **21A<sup>8</sup> PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

- (1) A Standing Committee of Public Accounts to consist of five members shall be appointed at the commencement of each Assembly.
- (2) The Duties of the committee shall be –
  - (a) to examine the accounts of the receipts and expenditure of the Northern Territory and each statement and report tabled in the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to the *Financial Management Act* and the *Audit Act*;
  - (b) to report to the Legislative Assembly with such comments as it thinks fit, any items or matters in or arising in connection with those accounts, statements or reports, or in connection with the receipt or disbursement of the moneys to which they relate, to which the committee is of the opinion that the attention of Parliament should be drawn;

---

<sup>7</sup> SO20 Transitional Note: Resolution 20 August 1998, (Minutes page 211).

<sup>8</sup> SO21A Standing Order agreed to by resolution 23 August 1988.

<sup>9</sup> SO21A Standing Orders Committee Report No. 2, Eighth Assembly, adopted on 20 August 1998, (Minutes page 210 ) Standing Order 21A(2)(a) and (e) amended.

## *Standing Orders*

- (c) to report to the Legislative Assembly any alteration which the committee thinks desirable in the form of the public accounts or in the method of keeping them or in the method of receipt, control, issue or payment of public moneys;
  - (d) to inquire into and report to the Legislative Assembly on any question in connection with the public accounts of the Northern Territory—
    - (i) which is referred to it by a resolution of the Assembly; or
    - (ii) which is referred to it by the Administrator or a Minister; and
  - (e) to examine the reports of the Auditor-General tabled in the Legislative Assembly with the accounts of an Agency of the Northern Territory, including any documents annexed or appended to those reports, pursuant to the *Audit Act*.
- (3) The committee shall examine only those accounts of receipts and expenditure of the Northern Territory and reports of the Auditor-General for financial years commencing after 30 June 1986 provided that this shall not prevent the consideration by the committee of matters included in reports of the Auditor-General for the year ending 30 June 1986 which have or may have a continuing effect on the form of the public accounts, the method of receipt, control, issue or payment of public moneys.
- (4) Prior to determining whether to undertake an inquiry into any matter which may have arisen in connection with the public accounts of the Northern Territory, pursuant to paragraphs (2)(a) and (e), with the concurrence of the committee, the Chairman is empowered to write to the Chief Executive Officer of the relevant agency for a report on the matter.
- (5) The Committee shall take care not to inquire into any matters which are being examined by a Select Committee of the Assembly especially appointed to inquire into such matters and any question arising in connection therewith may be referred to the Assembly for determination.
- (6) The committee shall elect a Government Member as Chairman.
- (7) The Chairman of the Committee may, from time to time, appoint a member of the committee to be the Deputy Chairman of the Committee and the Member so appointed shall act as Chairman of the Committee at any time when there is no Chairman or when the Chairman is not present at a meeting of the committee.
- (8) In the event of an equality of voting, the Chairman, or the Deputy Chairman when acting as Chairman, shall have a casting vote.
- (9) The committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees and to refer to any such sub-committee any matter which the Committee is empowered to examine.
- (10) Three Members of the committee shall constitute a quorum of the committee and two Members of a sub-committee shall constitute a quorum of the sub-committee.

## *Standing Orders*

- (11) The committee or any sub-committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, to adjourn from place to place, to meet and transact business in public or private session and to sit during any adjournment of the Assembly.
- (12) The committee shall be empowered to print from day to day such papers and evidence as may be ordered by it and, unless otherwise ordered by the committee, a daily *Hansard* shall be published of such proceedings of the committee as take place in public.
- (13) The committee may proceed to the dispatch of business notwithstanding that all Members have not been appointed and notwithstanding any vacancy.
- (14) The committee shall report annually and shall have leave to report from time to time and to report its proceedings and evidence taken; and any Member of the committee shall have power to add a protest or dissent to any Report.
- (15) Unless otherwise ordered by the committee, all documents received by the committee during its inquiry shall remain in the custody of the Assembly: provided that, on the application of a department or person, any document, if not likely to be further required, may, in the Speaker's discretion, be returned to the department or person from whom it was obtained.
- (16) The committee shall be provided with all necessary staff, facilities and resources and shall be empowered, with the approval of the Speaker, to appoint persons with specialist knowledge for the purposes of the committee.

### **21B<sup>10</sup> LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

- (1) A committee to be known as the Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs shall be appointed at the commencement of each Assembly to inquire, report and make recommendations upon such constitutional and legal matters as may be referred to it by:
  - (a) the Attorney-General; or
  - (b) resolution of the Assembly.
- (2)<sup>11</sup> The committee shall consist of five members.
- (3) Any appointed alternate opposition member may participate in a meeting of the committee or sub-committee as if he or she were a full member provided only that two opposition alternate members shall vote at a deliberative meeting of a committee or sub-committee.
- (4) Any appointed alternate government member may participate in a meeting of the committee or sub-committee as if he or she were a full member provided only that

---

<sup>10</sup> SO21B New Standing Order, adopted 20 August 1998, (Minutes page 210).

<sup>11</sup> SO21B Amended and adopted new membership to 7 on 14 October 1998, (Minutes page 244).

## *Standing Orders*

three government members shall vote at a deliberative meeting of a committee or sub-committee.

- (5) In the event of an equality of voting, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- (6) The committee have power to appoint subcommittees and to refer to any such subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.
- (7) Three members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee and three members of a subcommittee constitute a quorum of the subcommittee.
- (8) The committee or any subcommittee have power to send for persons, papers and records, to adjourn from place to place, to meet and transact business in public or private session and to sit during any adjournment of the Assembly.
- (9) The committee shall be empowered to print from day to day such papers and evidence as may be ordered by it and, unless otherwise ordered by the committee, a daily Hansard shall be published of such proceedings of the committee as take place in public.
- (10) The committee have leave to report from time to time and any member of the committee has power to add a protest or dissent to any report.
- (11) Unless otherwise ordered by the committee, all documents received by the committee during its inquiry shall remain in the custody of the Assembly provided that, on the application of a department or person, any document, if not likely to be further required, may, in the Speaker's discretion, be returned to the department or person from whom it was obtained.
- (12) Members of the public and representatives of the news media may attend and report any public sessions of the committee, unless otherwise ordered by the committee.
- (13) The committee may authorise the televising of public hearings of the committee under such rules as the Speaker considers appropriate.
- (14) The committee shall be provided with all necessary staff, facilities and resources and shall be empowered, with the approval of the Speaker, to appoint persons with specialist knowledge for the purposes of the committee
- (15) The committee be empowered to consider the minutes of proceedings, evidence taken and records of similar committees established in the previous Assembly.
- (16) The foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing Orders.

*Standing Orders*

**22. QUORUM IN STANDING COMMITTEE<sup>12</sup>**

The quorum of a committee shall be a majority of the committee, unless otherwise ordered.

---

<sup>12</sup>*SO22 Amended and adopted 24 August 2005, (Minutes page 65) First Report of Standing Orders Committee 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly*

## *Standing Orders*

## **Chapter V**

### **ATTENDANCE, SEATING, LEAVE OF ABSENCE, MINUTES AND RECORDS**

#### **23. ATTENDANCE RECORDED**

The attendance of Members at each sitting of the Assembly shall be recorded in the Minutes of Proceedings.

#### **24. SEATING**

Any question with regard to the seats to be occupied by Members shall be determined by the Speaker.

#### **25. LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Leave of absence may be given by the Assembly to any Member, on motion without notice, stating the cause and period of absence; and such motion may be moved at any time provided that no other question is before the Chair.

#### **26. MEMBER EXCUSED FROM SERVICE**

A Member shall be excused from service in the Assembly, or on any committee, so long as he has leave of absence.

#### **27. LEAVE RECORDED**

The Clerk shall record in the Minutes of Proceedings the names of Members having leave of absence.

#### **28. LEAVE FORFEITED IF MEMBER ATTENDS ASSEMBLY**

Any Member having leave of absence shall forfeit the same if he attend the service of the Assembly before the expiration of such leave.

#### **29. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

All proceedings of the Assembly shall be recorded by the Clerk and such records shall constitute the Minutes of Proceedings of the Assembly and shall be signed by the Clerk.

#### **30. CUSTODY OF RECORDS AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS**

The custody of the Minutes of Proceedings, records, and all documents whatsoever laid before the Assembly shall be in the Clerk, who shall neither take, nor permit to be taken, any such Minutes of Proceedings, records, or documents from the precincts, without the leave of the Speaker: provided that, on the application of a department or person, any original document laid on the Table, if not likely to be further required by Members, may, in the Speaker's discretion, be returned to the department or person from whom it was obtained.



## Chapter VI

### SITTING AND ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY

#### 31. SITTING DAYS

Unless otherwise ordered, the Assembly shall sit meet each year in accordance with the program of sittings for that year agreed to by the Assembly, and unless otherwise ordered the Assembly shall meet on each day at 10.00am.<sup>13</sup>

#### 31A CHANGES TO DAYS AND/OR TIMES OF MEETING<sup>14</sup>

The Speaker or a Minister may initiate a change to the days and times of meeting in the following circumstances:

- (a) at any time a Minister may move without notice a motion to set the next meeting of the Assembly;
- (b) a Minister may move on notice a motion to set a future meeting or meetings of the Assembly;
- (c) when the Assembly is not sitting, the Speaker may set an alternative day or time for the next meeting and must notify each Member of any change.

#### 32. QUORUM AT TIME OF SITTING

The Chair shall be taken at the time appointed on every day fixed for the sitting of the Assembly; but if a quorum of Members is not present, and if within 5 minutes, the bells having been rung, a quorum is still not present, the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly to the next sitting day: provided that if the Speaker is satisfied there is likely to be a quorum within a reasonable time he shall announce that he will take the Chair at a stated time; but if at that time there be not a quorum the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly to the next sitting day.

*Note:* The Quorum of Assembly is 10 (See Section 64 of *Northern Territory Self-Government Act*).

#### 33. MEMBER NOT TO WITHDRAW

A Member shall not be permitted to withdraw from the Chamber within 5 minutes after the time appointed for the sitting of the Assembly unless a quorum be obtained.

#### 34. PRAYERS

Upon the Speaker taking the Chair each day, and a quorum of Members being present, he shall read the following prayers:

“Almighty God, we humbly beseech Thee to vouchsafe Thy blessing upon this Assembly. Direct and prosper our deliberations to the advancement of Thy glory, and the true welfare of the people of the Northern Territory.

“Our Father, which art in Heaven: Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us

---

<sup>13</sup> Amended, First Report Standing Orders Committee, 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly, adopted 26 November 2008 (Minutes page 111)

<sup>14</sup> Inserted, First Report Standing Orders Committee, 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly, adopted 26 November 2008 (Minutes page 111)

our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.”.

### **35. DIVISION INDICATING LACK OF QUORUM**

If it appears from the result of a division of the Assembly that a quorum of Members is not present, the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly till the next sitting day; and no decision of the Assembly shall be considered to have been arrived at by such a division: provided that if the Speaker is satisfied there is likely to be a quorum within a reasonable time he shall announce that he will take the Chair at a stated time; but, if at that time there be not a quorum, the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly to the next sitting day.<sup>15</sup>

### **36. NOTICE TAKEN OF LACK OF QUORUM<sup>16</sup>**

If any Member take notice that a quorum of Members is not present, the Speaker shall count the Assembly; and if a quorum be not present, the bells shall be rung. If a quorum is not obtained within 3 minutes, the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly until the next sitting day: provided that the Speaker is satisfied there is likely to be a quorum within a reasonable time he shall announce that he or she will take the Chair at a stated time; but, if at that time there be not a quorum, the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly to the next sitting day.

### **37. LACK OF QUORUM IN COMMITTEE<sup>17</sup>**

When the Speaker is informed by the Chairman of Committees, as a result of a division of the committee, or after counting the committee, that a quorum of Members is not present he or she shall order the bells to be rung and, if within 3 minutes a quorum be then present, the Speaker shall forthwith leave the Chair and the committee shall resume; but, if after the expiration of 3 minutes there be not a quorum, the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly to the next sitting day: provided that if the Speaker is satisfied there is likely to be a quorum within a reasonable time he or she shall announce that he or she will take the Chair at a stated time; if at that time a quorum be then present the Speaker shall forthwith leave the Chair and the committee shall resume; but, if there be not a quorum, the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly to the next sitting day.

### **38. COUNT-OUT**

If proceedings be interrupted by a count-out followed by an adjournment of the Assembly, such proceedings may, on motion after notice, be resumed at the point where they were so interrupted.

### **39. MEMBER NOT TO LEAVE<sup>18</sup>**

When the attention of the Speaker or of the Chairman has been called to the fact that there is not a quorum of Members present, no Member shall leave the Chamber until a quorum is present or 3 minutes have elapsed.

---

<sup>15</sup> *SO35 Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, adopted 20 March 1986 (Minutes page 289). Omitted: "Upon any such adjournment the resolution of the question upon which the discussion was held shall become an order of the day for the next sitting day."*

<sup>16</sup> *Amended SO 36 – 3 minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Report of Standing Orders Committee 9<sup>th</sup> Assembly, adopted 20 August 2003 (Minutes page 452)*

<sup>17</sup> *Amended SO 37 – 3 minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Report of Standing Orders Committee 9<sup>th</sup> Assembly, adopted 20 August 2003 (Minutes page 452)*

<sup>18</sup> *Amended SO 39 – 3 minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Report of Standing Orders Committee 9<sup>th</sup> Assembly, adopted 20 August 2003 (Minutes page 452)*

#### 40. DOORS UNLOCKED

The doors of the Chamber shall be unlocked whenever the Speaker or the Chairman is engaged in counting the Assembly or the committee.

#### 41. ADJOURNMENT OF ASSEMBLY

Except as provided by these Standing Orders the Assembly may be adjourned only by its own resolution.

#### 41A—ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY<sup>19</sup>

##### Automatic Adjournment of the Assembly—Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays

- (a) At 9.00 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays the Speaker shall propose the question—**that the Assembly do now adjourn**. This question shall be open to debate—maximum time for the whole debate should be one hour—and no amendment may be moved. If the Assembly is in committee at that time the Chairman shall leave the Chair and report to the Assembly and on such report being made the Speaker shall forthwith propose—**that the Assembly do now adjourn** and that question shall be open to debate. If this question is before the Assembly at the time set for the adjournment, 10.00 pm, the Speaker shall interrupt the debate and immediately adjourn the House until the time of its next meeting;

##### Adjournment—Wednesdays

- (b) At 9.00 p.m. on Wednesdays the Speaker shall propose the question—**that the Assembly do now adjourn**. This question shall be open to debate and no amendment may be moved. If the Assembly is in Committee at that time the Chairman shall leave the chair and report to the Assembly and on such report being made the Speaker shall forthwith propose **that the Assembly do now adjourn** and that question shall be open to debate.

- (c) The following qualifications apply:

##### *Division is completed*

- (i) If there is a division at the time set for the adjournment to be proposed in Standing Order 41A (a) and (b), that division, and any consequent division, shall be completed.

##### *Minister may require question to be put*

- (ii) If a Minister requires the question to be put immediately it is proposed under paragraph (a), the Speaker must put the question immediately and without debate.

##### *Minister may extend debate*

- (iii) Where the Speaker interrupts the adjournment debate under paragraph (a) a Minister may ask for the debate to be extended by 10 minutes to enable a

---

<sup>19</sup> Inserted, First Report of Standing Orders Committee, 11th Assembly, 26 November 2008 (Minutes page 111)

Minister or Ministers to speak in reply to matters raised during the debate. After 10 minutes, or if debate concludes earlier, the Speaker shall immediately adjourn the Assembly until the time set for the next meeting.

*Question Negatived*

- (iv) If the question is negatived the House shall resume proceedings from the point of interruption.

*Unfinished business*

- (v) If the business being debated is not disposed of when the adjournment of the Assembly is proposed, the business shall be listed on the Notice Paper for the next sitting.

**41B—LIMIT ON BUSINESS AFTER 9.00 P.M.<sup>20</sup>**

No new business may be taken after 9.00 p.m., unless by Order of the Assembly before 9.00 p.m.

**42. ADJOURNMENT MOTION**

A motion for the adjournment of the Assembly may be moved only by a Minister. No amendment may be moved to this motion.

**43. SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT**

A motion for the purpose of fixing the next sitting of the Assembly may be moved by a Minister at any time without notice.

---

<sup>20</sup> Inserted, First Report of Standing Orders Committee, 11th Assembly, 26 November 2008 (Minutes page 111)

## Chapter VII

### RULES OF DEBATE

#### **44. ORDER MAINTAINED BY CHAIR**

Order shall be maintained in the Assembly by the Speaker and in a committee by the Chairman; but disorder in a committee can be censured by the Assembly only on receiving a report.

#### **45. SPEAKER STANDING**

Whenever the Speaker rises during a debate, any Member speaking or offering to speak shall sit down and the Assembly shall be silent so that the Speaker may be heard without interruption.

#### **46. OBEISANCE**

Every Member shall make obeisance to the Chair when passing to or from his seat and on entering and leaving the Chamber.

#### **47. MOVEMENT RESTRICTED WHEN QUESTION BEING PUT**

When the Speaker is putting a question, no Member may walk out of or across the Chamber.

#### **48. RESTRICTED MOVEMENT**

No Member may pass between the Chair and any Member who is speaking.

#### **49. ADDRESSING THE SPEAKER**

Every Member desiring to speak shall rise and address himself to the Speaker.

#### **50. SPEAKING WHILE SEATED**

By the indulgence of the Speaker a Member unable conveniently to stand by reason of sickness or infirmity will be permitted to speak sitting.

#### **51. NO INTERRUPTION**

No Member may converse aloud or make any noise or disturbance which in the opinion of the Speaker is designed to interrupt or has the effect of interrupting a Member speaking.

#### **52. MEMBER CALLED TO SPEAK**

When two or more Members rise together to speak the Speaker shall call upon the Member who, in his opinion, first rose in his place; but it shall be in order to move that any Member who has risen "be now heard", or "do now speak", and such question shall be put forthwith and determined without amendment or debate.

#### **53. ONE SPEECH ONLY**

No Member may speak twice to a question before the Assembly, except in explanation or reply.

**54. EXPLANATION OF SPEECH**

A Member who has spoken to a question may again be heard to explain himself in regard to some material part of his speech which has been misquoted or misunderstood, but shall not introduce any new matter, nor interrupt any Member addressing the Chair, and no debatable matter may be brought forward nor may any debate arise upon such explanation.

**55. RIGHT OF REPLY**

A reply shall be allowed to a Member who has moved a substantive motion or the second or third reading of a bill, and the reply shall be confined to matters raised during the debate. No reply shall be allowed to a Member who has moved an amendment.

**56. REPLY CLOSES DEBATE**

In all cases the reply of the mover of the original question shall close the debate.

**57. PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

Having obtained leave from the Chair, a Member may explain matters of a personal nature, although there be no question before the Assembly, but such matters may not be debated.

**58. NO MEMBER TO SPEAK AFTER DECISION GIVEN**

No Member may speak to any question after the same has been put by the Speaker and the voices have been given in the affirmative or negative thereon.

**59. ALLUSION TO EARLIER DEBATE**

No Member shall allude to any debate of the same session unless such allusion be relevant to the matter under discussion.

**60. REFLECTION ON VOTE**

No Member shall reflect upon any vote of the Assembly except upon a motion that such vote be rescinded.

**61. USE OF QUEEN'S, QUEEN'S REPRESENTATIVE OR ADMINISTRATOR'S NAME**

No Member may use the name of Her Majesty, her representative in the Commonwealth, her representative in a State, or the Administrator of the Northern Territory disrespectfully in debate, nor for the purpose of influencing the Assembly in its deliberations.

**62. OFFENSIVE OR UNBECOMING WORDS**

(1) No Member shall use offensive or unbecoming words against the Assembly or any Member of the Assembly or against any House or Member of another Australian Parliament or against any member of the Judiciary, or against any Northern Territory statute unless for the purpose of moving for its repeal, nor shall a Member attribute directly or by innuendo to another Member unbecoming conduct or motives; and all offensive references to a Member's private affairs and all personal reflections on Members shall be deemed to be highly disorderly.

## *Standing Orders*

- (2) Whenever the Speaker rules that words used by any Member are highly disorderly, such words shall not be published in the Parliamentary Record.
- (3) The provisions of this Standing Order relating to unbecoming conduct shall not apply where a substantive motion on notice brings a charge of misconduct against a Member.

### **63. SPEAKER TO INTERVENE**

When any offensive or disorderly words are used, whether by a Member who is addressing the Chair or by a Member who is present, the Speaker shall intervene.

### **64. SPEAKER TO DETERMINE**

When the attention of the Speaker is drawn to words used, he shall determine whether or not they are offensive or highly disorderly.

### **65. MEMBER TO BE REFERRED TO BY ELECTORATE**

No Member may refer to any other Member by name, but only by the name of the electoral division he represents.

### **66. QUARRELS NOT PERMITTED**

The Assembly will interfere to prevent the prosecution of any personal quarrel between Members arising out of debates or proceedings of the Assembly or of any committee thereof, within the precincts.

### **67. DIGRESSION FROM SUBJECT**

No Member shall digress from the subject matter of any question under discussion: provided that—

- (a) this Standing Order shall not prevent discussion on the Address-in-Reply of any matter;
- (b) on a motion to adjourn the Assembly matters irrelevant thereto may be debated; and
- (c) on the motion for the second reading of an Appropriation Bill or Supply Bill, matters relating to public affairs may be debated.

### **68. ANTICIPATION OF SUBJECT**

No Member shall anticipate the discussion of any subject which appears on the Notice Paper: provided that in determining whether a discussion is or is not in order on the ground of anticipation, regard shall be had by the Speaker to the probability of the matter anticipated being brought before the Assembly within a reasonable time.

### **69. INTERRUPTION OF MEMBER**

No Member may interrupt another Member speaking unless —

- (a) to call attention to a question of order or privilege suddenly arising;
- (b) to call attention to the want of a quorum;
- (c) to call attention to the presence of strangers;
- (d) to move a closure motion; or

- (e) to move “that the business of the day be called on”.

## **70. MEMBER TO DISCONTINUE SPEECH**

The Speaker, after having called the attention of the Assembly to the conduct of a Member who persists in irrelevance or tedious repetition, either of his own arguments or of the arguments used by other Members in debate, may direct him to discontinue his speech: provided that such Member shall have the right to require that the question whether he be further heard be put and thereupon such question shall be put without amendment or debate.

## **71. NO DEBATE PERMITTED**

- (1) The following questions are not open to debate and, except as provided in this Order, shall be put without argument or opinion offered and without amendment —
- (a) question that a Member “be now heard” (S.O. 52); “be further heard” (S.O. 70); “be not further heard” (S.O. 79); <sup>21</sup>“be granted an extension of time” (S.O. 77);
  - (b) question “that the question be now put” (S.O. 78);
  - (c) question “that the business of the day be called on” (S.O. 94);
  - (d) question “that the ruling of the Chairman be dissented from” (S.O. 220);
  - (e) question “that a Member be suspended” (S.O.’s 240 and 242);
  - (f) question “that strangers be ordered to withdraw” (S.O. 249);
  - (g) question “that the debate be adjourned” (S.O. 72);
  - (h) question “that the Chairman do report progress” (S.O. 225); and
  - (j) question “that the Chairman do now leave the Chair” (S.O. 226).
- (2) A Member moving either of the motions “that the debate be adjourned”, or “that the Chairman do report progress” may briefly state his reasons for so moving and an opportunity to speak briefly in rebuttal may be given to one other Member.
- (3) Should any of these questions be negatived no similar proposal shall be received if the Speaker or the Chairman is of the opinion that it is an abuse of the orders or practice of the Assembly or is moved for the purpose of obstructing business.

## **72. MOVER OF ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE**

A Member who has not spoken to the question or who has the right of reply may move the adjournment of the debate, which question shall be put forthwith and determined without amendment or debate, subject to the provisions of Standing Order 71. If the question is resolved in the affirmative, the debate shall be adjourned. If no motion for the resumption of the debate is moved, the resumption of the debate shall be an order of the day for a later hour of the day and such order shall, unless otherwise ordered, be

---

<sup>21</sup> SO71 *Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, adopted 20 March 1996, (Minutes page 289). Omitted “be permitted to continue” and inserted “be granted an extension of time”.*

## *Standing Orders*

called on after the last order of the day listed on the Notice Paper for consideration that day.

### **73. ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE**

Upon a debate being adjourned a motion may be made to appoint a time for its resumption, and the debate thereupon shall be limited strictly to the choice of date. The debate may be adjourned either to a later hour of the same day, or to any other day.

### **74. ADJOURNMENT NOT TO BE MOVED BY MEMBER SPEAKING**

It is not competent for a Member to move, whilst speaking to a question, the adjournment of the debate; the Member may seek leave to continue his remarks and, if granted, the debate shall be thereby adjourned. If no motion for the resumption of the debate is moved, the resumption of the debate shall be an order of the day for a later hour of the day and such order shall, unless otherwise ordered, be called on after the last order of the day listed on the Notice Paper for consideration that day. The Member so granted leave shall have pre-audience on the resumption of the debate.

### **75. PRE-AUDIENCE**

The Member upon whose motion any debate is adjourned by the Assembly shall be entitled to pre-audience on the resumption of the debate.

### **76. IF MOTION BE NEGATIVED**

In the event of a motion for the adjournment of the debate upon any question being negatived, the Member who moved the motion for such adjournment may speak in debate on the original question at a later time during such debate.

### **77.<sup>22</sup> SPEECH TIME LIMITS**

The maximum period for which a Member may speak on any subject indicated in this Standing Order and the maximum period for any debate, shall not, unless otherwise ordered, exceed the period specified opposite to that subject in the following schedule:

#### In the Assembly

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Time</b>
Election of Speaker or appointment of Chairman— Each Member	5 minutes
Address-in-Reply— Each Member	30 minutes
Mover in reply	20 minutes
Ministerial Reports— Whole period for Reports	30 minutes
Minister making report	5 minutes
Opposition Member and one Independent Member	2 minutes
Minister in reply	1 minute

---

<sup>22</sup> 77 Amended by Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly, recommendations adopted 29 Nov 2005, (Minutes page 113)

## *Standing Orders*

Discussion of a definite matter of public importance—	
Whole debate	2 hours
Proposer	20 minutes
Member next speaking	20 minutes
Any other Member	15 minutes
Bills—second reading—	
Mover	45 minutes
Member next speaking	45 minutes
Any other Member	30 minutes
Mover in reply	30 minutes
Bills—third reading—	
Mover	10 minutes
Member next speaking	10 minutes
Any other Member	5 minutes
Mover in reply	10 minutes
Debates not otherwise provided for—	
Mover	30 minutes
Member next speaking	30 minutes
Any other Member	20 minutes
Mover in reply	20 minutes
Motion for adjournment of the Assembly to close the business of the day—	
Each Member	5 minutes <sup>23</sup>
<b>In committee</b>	
Each question before the Chair	
Member in charge of a Bill	No limitation
Other Members	Unlimited, each speech not to exceed 10 minutes

---

<sup>23</sup> Inserted, First Report of Standing Orders Committee, 11th Assembly, 26 November 2008 (Minutes page 111)

## *Standing Orders*

### **In the Assembly or in committee**

Extension of time—with consent of a majority of the Assembly or of the committee a Member may be allowed to continue a speech interrupted under the foregoing provisions of this Standing Order, on motion without debate for one period of debate (except a speech on a motion for the adjournment of the Assembly)	For one period not exceeding 10 minutes
--	---

#### **78. CLOSURE OF DEBATE**

After any question has been proposed from the Chair either in the Assembly or in committee, a motion may be made by a Member, rising in his place and without notice and whether any other Member is addressing the Chair or not, “that the question be now put” and such motion shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate. If the motion be lost the debate shall be resumed where it was interrupted and the time taken in deciding the question “that the question be now put” shall not be reckoned as part of the time allotted to the Member whose speech was interrupted.

#### **79. CLOSURE OF MEMBER**

A motion may be made that a Member who is speaking, except a Member giving a Notice of Motion or formally moving the terms of a motion allowed under the Standing Orders, “be not further heard”, and such question shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate.

#### **80. QUESTION OF ORDER**

Any Member may at any time raise a question of order which shall, until disposed of, suspend the consideration and decision of every other question.

#### **81. MEMBER TO RESUME SEAT AND SPEAKER TO RULE**

Upon a question of order being raised, the Member called to order shall resume his seat and, after the question of order has been stated to the Speaker by the Member rising to the question of order, the Speaker shall give his ruling thereon.

#### **82.<sup>24</sup> DISSENT FROM RULING**

If any objection is taken to any ruling of the Speaker, such objection must be taken at once and a motion of dissent, to be submitted in writing, moved, which, if seconded, shall be proposed to the Assembly and debate thereon shall proceed forthwith.

---

<sup>24</sup> SO82 That the words “or decision” be omitted after “ruling” from Standing Order 82. Standing Orders Committee Report No. 2, Eighth Assembly, adopted on 20 August 1998, (Minutes page 210).

## *Standing Orders*

## **Chapter VIII<sup>25</sup>**

### **PRIVILEGE**

#### **83. PRIVILEGE MOTIONS**

A matter of privilege, unless suddenly arising in relation to proceedings before the Assembly, shall not be brought before the Assembly except in accordance with the following procedures:

- (1) A Member intending to raise a matter of privilege shall notify the Speaker, in writing, of the matter.
- (2) The Speaker shall consider the matter and determine, as soon as practicable, whether a motion relating to the matter should have precedence of other business, having regard to the criteria set out in any relevant resolution of the Assembly.
- (3) The Speaker's decision shall be communicated to the Member and, if the Speaker thinks it appropriate or determines that a motion relating to the matter should have precedence, to the Assembly.
- (4) A Member shall not take any action in relation to, or refer to, in the Assembly, a matter which is under consideration by the Speaker in accordance with this Standing Order.
- (5) Where the Speaker determines that a motion relating to a matter should be given precedence of other business, the Member may, at any time when there is no other business before the Assembly, give notice of a motion to refer the matter to the Committee of Privileges and that motion shall take precedence of all other business on the day for which the notice is given.
- (6) A determination by the Speaker that a motion relating to a matter should not have precedence of other business does not prevent a Member, in accordance with other procedures, taking action in relation to, or referring to, that matter in the Assembly, subject to the rules of the Assembly.
- (7) Where notice of a motion is given under paragraph (5) and the Assembly is not expected to meet within the period of one week occurring immediately after the day on which the notice is given, the motion may be moved on that day.

---

<sup>25</sup> *Standing Orders Committee Report No. 2, Seventh Assembly, adopted on 23 May 1996, Chapter VIII replaced.*

**84. MOTIONS CONCERNING CONTEMPTS**

A motion to:

- (a) determine that a person has committed a contempt; or
- (b) impose a penalty upon a person for a contempt,

shall not be moved unless notice of the motion has been given not less than seven days before the day for moving the motion.

**85. PRIVILEGE IN COMMITTEE**

When a matter of privilege is raised in a Committee of the Whole the Chairman shall leave the Chair and report to the Assembly.

**86. – 88.<sup>26</sup>**

---

<sup>26</sup> *Standing Orders 86-88 repealed as a result of Standing Orders Committee Report No. 2, Seventh Assembly, adopted on 23 May 1996.*

## **Chapter IX**

### **BUSINESS**

#### **89. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**

Any motion connected with the conduct of the business of the Assembly may be moved by a Minister at any time without notice.

#### **90.<sup>27</sup> ROUTINE**

The Assembly shall proceed each day with its ordinary business in the following routine:–

- (1) Prayers
- (2) Petitions
- (3) Ministerial Reports
- (4) Government Business – Notices and Orders of the Day
- (5) At 2 p.m. Notices
- (6) Questions
- (7) Government Business – Notices and Orders of the Day
- (8) Papers
- (9) Ministerial Statements
- (10) Discussion pursuant to Standing Order 94 (Matter of Public Importance)
- (11) Adjournment.

#### **91. PRECEDENCE TO BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY**

The following business shall be placed on the Notice Paper as “Business of the Assembly” and shall take precedence of government and general business for the day on which it is set down for consideration:

- (a) a motion touching the qualification of a Member;
- (b) a motion to disallow, disapprove, or declare void and of no effect any instrument of a legislative or administrative character made under the authority of any Act which provides for the instrument to be subject to disallowance or disapproval by the Assembly, or subject to a resolution of the Assembly declaring the instrument, or part thereof, to be void and of no effect;
- (c) an order of the day for the presentation of a report from a standing or sessional committee; and
- (d) a motion or order of the day for the appointment of standing or sessional committees.

---

<sup>27</sup> 90 Amended by Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly, recommendations adopted 29 Nov 2005, (Minutes page 113)

## 92. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, PAPERS, MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Notwithstanding Standing Order 90, reports of standing or select committees, papers and ministerial statements may be presented at any time when other business is not before the Assembly.

## 93. ORDER AND PRECEDENCE OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

In this Order “government business” means any business introduced by a Minister.

The Chief Minister, or another Minister acting on his behalf, may arrange the order of government business notices and orders of the day on the Notice Paper as he thinks fit; and, unless otherwise ordered, government business shall, on each sitting day, have precedence of general business except that, on sitting days nominated by the Chief Minister or another Minister acting on his behalf, being not less than one in every 12 sitting days, precedence will be given to general business.

## 94.<sup>28</sup> DISCUSSION OF A MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

- (1) A Member may propose to the Speaker that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the Assembly for discussion. The Member proposing the matter shall present to the Speaker at least two hours before the time fixed for the sitting of the Assembly, and on the day for presentation, a written statement of the matter proposed to be discussed and if the Speaker determines that it is within the competence of the Assembly and is otherwise in order he shall communicate the matter to a Minister and to the Leader of the Opposition as soon as practicable. After “Ministerial Statements” the Speaker will read the matter proposed to be discussed to the Assembly. The proposed discussion must be supported by **four** Members, including the proposer, rising in their places as an indication of approval. The Speaker shall then call upon the Member who proposed the matter to speak.
- (2) At any time during the discussion, a motion may be made by a Member “**that discussion be concluded**” and such motion shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate and, if agreed to, the Business of the Day shall be proceeded with immediately. A motion under Standing Order 78 (closure) or Standing Order 72 (adjournment) will not be in order.
- (3) In the event of more than one matter being presented for the same day, priority shall be given to the matter which, in the opinion of the Speaker, is the most urgent and important and no other proposed matter shall be read to the Assembly on that day.

## 95. PRECEDENCE TO CENSURE OR WANT OF CONFIDENCE

A motion of which notice has been given or an amendment which expresses a censure of or want of confidence in the government, if accepted by a Minister as a censure or want of confidence motion or amendment, shall be moved forthwith and until it is disposed of by the Assembly, shall take precedence of all other business.

---

<sup>28</sup> 94 Amended by Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly, recommendations adopted 29 Nov 2005, (Minutes page 113)

## 96. LEAVE

Leave of the Assembly or committee must be granted without any dissentient voice.

### 96A.<sup>29</sup> MINISTERIAL REPORTS

That,

- (1) On each sitting day after Petitions, Ministers may make reports on matters relating to the government of the Northern Territory and relating to policy, decisions or actions, proposed decisions, actions or matters of public interest.
- (2) Each Minister making a report shall speak for no more than 5 minutes.
- (3) A Member of the opposition **and one independent member** may **each** comment for no more than 2 minutes on a ministerial report. No other Member may speak, except that the Minister who made the statement may reply to the matters raised. The Minister's reply shall not exceed 1 minute.
- (4) The period for reports shall extend for no more than 30 minutes each sitting day.
- (5) At the conclusion of Reports or after 30 minutes, whichever is first occurring, the Speaker shall put the question that Ministerial Reports be noted, which question shall be put without further debate or amendment.

### 96B.<sup>30</sup> PROGRAMMING OF QUESTIONS

That,

- (1) Unless otherwise ordered and notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing Orders, at 2.00 p.m. on each sitting day the Speaker shall interrupt the business before the Assembly in order that questions can be called on, provided that:
  - (a) if a division is in progress at the time so fixed, the division shall be completed and the result announced; and
  - (b) the Speaker shall fix the time for the resumption of debate of any business under discussion and not disposed of at the time of the interruption.

---

<sup>29</sup> 96A Inserted by Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly, recommendations adopted 29 Nov 2005, (Minutes page 113)

<sup>30</sup> 96B Inserted by Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly, recommendations adopted 29 Nov 2005, (Minutes page 113)

## **Chapter X**

### **PETITIONS**

#### **97. PETITIONS**

Petitions may be presented to the Assembly by any Member: provided that —

- (a) every petition shall be respectful, decorous and temperate in its language, and shall not contain irrelevant statements;
- (b) every petition shall be fairly written, typewritten, printed or reproduced by mechanical (or other) process, without interlineation or erasure;
- (c) every petition shall contain a prayer at the end thereof;
- (d) every petition shall be in the English language, or be accompanied by a translation certified to be correct by the Member who lodges it;
- (e) every petition shall be signed by at least one person on the sheet on which the petition is inscribed;
- (f) every petition shall be signed by the parties whose names are appended thereto, by their own hand, and by no one else, except in the case of incapacity or sickness. Persons unable to write shall affix their marks in the presence of a witness, who shall as such affix his signature;
- (g) every signature shall be written upon the petition or upon sheets containing the prayer of the petition, and not pasted upon or otherwise transferred thereto;
- (h) no letters, affidavits or other documents may be attached to any petition;
- (j) a petition for presentation to the Assembly can be lodged with the Clerk only by a Member, but a Member cannot lodge a petition from himself;
- (k) every Member lodging a petition with the Clerk for presentation to the Assembly shall affix his name at the beginning thereof; and
- (m) every petition shall be lodged with the Clerk at least 2 hours prior to the time of the meeting of the Assembly on the day on which it is proposed to present it; and when presented the petition must bear the Clerk's certificate that it is in conformity with the Standing Orders.

#### **98. MOTION ON PETITION**

Where any petition has been presented in accordance with Standing Order 97, any Member may move that the petition be read and, in moving shall confine himself to a brief statement of the persons from whom the petition comes, of the number of signatures attached to the petition, of the material allegations contained in the petition, and of the purport of the prayer of the petition. If the motion is carried, the Clerk shall read the petition.

### **<sup>31</sup>99. ACTION ON PETITION**

On presentation of a petition, no debate upon or relating to it shall be allowed. But it shall be laid upon the Table of the Assembly and a Member may move, without notice, a motion to refer the petition to a standing, select or other committee of the Assembly and he may also move “that the petition be printed”.

### **100. TERMS REFERRED TO MINISTER**

A copy of the terms of every petition lodged with the Clerk and received by the Assembly shall be referred by the Clerk to the Minister responsible for the administration of the matter which is the subject of the petition.

### **100A.<sup>32</sup> RESPONSE**

A Minister shall respond to a petition referred to him pursuant to Standing Order 100 within 12 sitting days of it being forwarded to him. The response will be lodged with the Clerk for presentation to the Assembly, such response being announced at the end of the time for presentation of petitions. There is no requirement for response by a Minister to a petition which is in similar terms to a petition previously presented to the Assembly and which has been responded to.

---

<sup>31</sup> SO99 Amended by Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, Fourth Assembly adopted 20 March 1986, (Minutes page 289).

<sup>32</sup> SO100A. New Standing Order be adopted, Standing Orders Committee Report No. 2, Eighth Assembly, adopted on 20 August 1998, (Minutes page 210).



## **Chapter XI**

### **NOTICES OF MOTION**

#### **101. NOTICES GIVEN**

A notice of motion may be given by a Member stating its terms to the Assembly when notices are called for, and delivering to the Clerk a copy of the motion signed by himself and showing the day proposed for moving the motion.

#### **102. GIVEN BY PROXY**

A Member, in the absence of another Member and at his request, may give a notice of motion for that other Member and shall put the name of such Member and his own signature on the notice.

#### **103. AMENDMENT**

After a notice of motion has been given, the terms thereof may be altered by the Member notifying the Assembly and delivering to the Clerk an amended notice, either on the same day or any day prior to that for proceeding with the motion, or he may withdraw the same by notifying the Assembly.

#### **104. ORDER ON NOTICE PAPER**

Notices shall be entered by the Clerk on the Notice Paper in the order in which they were delivered at the Table. A Member, except a Minister, may not give 2 notices consecutively if another Member has any notice to give.

#### **105. DIVIDING INTO PARTS**

If a notice of motion is given which contains matters not relevant to each other, the Speaker may instruct the Clerk to divide such notice into 2 or more notices.

#### **106. NOT TO OFFEND AGAINST STANDING ORDERS**

Any notice of motion containing unbecoming expressions, or which offends against any Standing Order, shall be amended by the Speaker before it appears upon the Notice Paper and, if necessary, the Speaker may determine that any such notice shall not be placed upon the Notice Paper.

#### **107. CHANGE OF DAY FOR MOVING**

A Member who has given notice of a motion may change the day proposed for moving the motion to a day subsequent to that first named by notifying the Clerk in writing prior to the calling on of the motion. The change of day shall be reported to the Assembly by the Clerk at the first convenient opportunity.

#### **108. EFFECT OF NOTICE**

With the exception of a notice of a motion given and accepted by a Minister pursuant to Standing Order 95, no notice or contingent notice shall have effect for the day on which it is given.

## *Standing Orders*

## **Chapter XII**

### **QUESTIONS SEEKING INFORMATION**

#### **109. TO MINISTERS**

Questions may be put to a Minister relating to public affairs, to proceedings pending in the Assembly, or to any matter of administration for which he is responsible.

#### **110. TO OTHER MEMBERS**

Questions may be put to a Member, not being a Minister, relating to any bill, motion, or other public matter connected with the business of the Assembly, of which the Member has charge.

#### **111. TO CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE**

Questions may be put to the chairman of a committee relating to the activities of that committee: provided that —

- (a) unless leave of the Assembly is granted for them to be asked at question time, such questions may be asked only as written questions;
- (b) they shall not attempt to interfere with the committee's work or anticipate its report; and
- (c) the chairman shall answer such questions only on the basis that he answers on behalf of the committee and not of himself.

#### **112. GENERAL RULES**

The following rules shall apply to questions —

- (1) Questions cannot be debated.
- (2) Questions should not contain —
  - (a) statements of facts or names of persons unless they are strictly necessary to render the question intelligible and can be authenticated;
  - (b) arguments;
  - (c) inferences;
  - (d) imputations;
  - (e) epithets;
  - (f) ironical expressions; or
  - (g) hypothetical matter.
- (3) Questions should not ask Ministers —
  - (a) for an expression of opinion;
  - (b) to announce new policy of the government, but may seek an explanation regarding the policy of the government and its application; or

(c) for a legal opinion.

(4) Questions should not refer to proceedings in committee not reported to the Assembly.

### **113. ANSWERS**

An answer shall be relevant to the question.

### **114. REPEATING QUESTIONS**

A question fully answered cannot be renewed.

### **115. POWER OF SPEAKER**

The Speaker may direct that the language of a question be changed if it seems to him unbecoming or not in conformity with the Standing Orders.

### **116. WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

A written question shall be given by a Member delivering the same to the Clerk within such time as, in the opinion of the Speaker, will enable the question to be fairly printed. The Question shall be fairly written and signed by the Member.

### **117. QUESTION PAPER**

The Clerk shall place written questions on the Question Paper in the order in which they were delivered to him.

### **118. REPLIES**

The reply to a written question on the Question Paper shall be given by delivering the same to the Clerk. A copy thereof shall be supplied to the Member who has asked the question, and the question and reply shall be printed in the Question Paper and in the Parliamentary Record.

### **119. QUESTION TIME**

When questions are called on during the routine of business, questions may be asked of Ministers and other Members in conformity with the Standing Orders. At the discretion of the Speaker supplementary questions may be asked to elucidate an answer.

### **119A<sup>33</sup> ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ASKED ON PREVIOUS DAYS**

When Question Time has concluded, following the request of a Minister 'That all further Questions be placed on the Question Paper', Ministers may answer or give supplementary answers to questions asked on previous days at Question Time or during the debate on the motion for the Adjournment of the Assembly but the total time taken for the giving of such answers shall not exceed 10 minutes.

### **120. QUESTIONS TO SPEAKER**

A question may be put to the Speaker at question time relating to any matter of administration for which he is responsible.

---

<sup>33</sup> SO119A Adopted as Sessional Order on 26 November 1997, (Minutes page 20) and adopted as Standing Order on 1<sup>st</sup> sitting day of 1999. Motion adopted from Sixth Report of the Standing Orders Committee, agreed to 20 August 1992.

**121. IMPROPER QUESTIONS**

Questions shall not be asked which reflect on or are critical of the character or conduct of those persons whose conduct may be challenged only on a substantive motion, and questions critical of the character or conduct of other persons must be asked in writing.

## *Standing Orders*

## **Chapter XIII**

### **MOTIONS**

#### **122. BY NOTICE ONLY**

No Member may, except by leave of the Assembly or unless it be otherwise provided in Standing Orders, move any motion except in pursuance of a notice appearing on the Notice Paper.

#### **123. ORDER OF PRECEDENCE**

Motions shall have precedence of each other according to the order in which they appear on the Notice Paper. A motion may be postponed by motion without notice by the Member who gave notice of the motion, or a Member acting on his behalf and at his request.

#### **124. NOT DEALT WITH**

If, at the adjournment of the Assembly, any motions on the Notice Paper have not been called on, such motions shall be set down on the Notice Paper for the next sitting day.

#### **125. THANKS OR CONDOLENCE**

Precedence will be ordinarily given by courtesy to a motion for a vote of thanks of the Assembly or of condolence.

#### **126. LAPSE OF NOTICE**

If a Member is not in his place when the notice of motion given by him is called on, it shall be withdrawn from the Notice Paper unless another Member, at his request, either moves the motion or thereupon proposes that the motion be later moved.

#### **127. MEMBER FAILING TO RISE**

If a Member, when the notice of motion given by him is called on, fails to rise and move the motion, it shall be withdrawn from the Notice Paper unless he thereupon proposes fixing a future time for moving the motion.

#### **128. POSSESSION OF MOTION**

When a motion has been moved, a question thereupon shall be proposed to the Assembly by the Speaker and the motion shall be deemed to be in possession of the Assembly and cannot be withdrawn without leave.

#### **129. ANTICIPATION OF BUSINESS**

A matter on the Notice Paper must not be anticipated by another matter unless that matter is a more effective form of proceeding: provided that, in determining whether the matter proposed is or is not in order on the ground of anticipation, regard shall be had by the Speaker to the probability of the matter anticipated being brought before the Assembly within a reasonable time.

**130. REPEATING MOTIONS**

A motion which has been superseded, or which, by leave, has been withdrawn may be moved again during the same session.

**131. QUESTION PUT**

As soon as the debate upon a question has been concluded, the Speaker shall put the question to the Assembly, but, on the request of a Member, the Speaker may order a complicated question to be divided into parts.

**132. DECISION**

A question being put shall be resolved in the affirmative or negative by the majority of voices “Aye” or “No”.

**133. OPINION STATED**

The Speaker shall state whether in his opinion the “Ayes” or “Noes” have it; and if his opinion be challenged the question shall be decided by a division.

**134. NO REPEAT**

Except by leave of the Assembly or, subject to Standing Order 198, by leave of a Committee of the Whole, no question or amendment may be proposed which is the same in substance as any question which, during the same session and within the previous 12 months, has been resolved in the affirmative or negative, unless the order, resolution or vote on such question or amendment has been rescinded: provided that this Standing Order shall not operate to prevent any proposal for the disallowance of or disapproval of an instrument of a legislative or administrative character substantially the same in effect as one previously disallowed or disapproved during the same session.

**135. RESCISSION OF VOTE, ORDER OR RESOLUTION**

An order, resolution or other vote of the Assembly may be read and rescinded; but no such order, resolution or other vote may be rescinded during the same session, unless 7 days’ notice be given: provided that —

- (a) to correct irregularities or mistakes one day’s notice shall be sufficient, or the rescission may be made at once by leave of the Assembly; and
- (b) if 12 months have elapsed since the order, resolution or other vote was made or taken, one day’s notice shall be sufficient.

## **Chapter XIV**

### **AMENDMENTS**

#### **136. DIFFERENT FORMS OF AMENDING**

A question having been proposed may be amended —

- (a) by omitting certain words only;
- (b) by omitting certain words in order to insert or add other words; or
- (c) by inserting or adding words.

#### **137. IN WRITING ONLY**

An amendment to any motion before the Assembly must, for purposes of record, be in writing and be signed by the mover.

#### **138. RELEVANT**

Every amendment must be relevant to the question which it is proposed to amend.

#### **139. FORM OF QUESTION**

When the proposed amendment is to omit certain words, the Speaker shall put the question “that the words proposed to be omitted, be omitted”.

#### **140. OMIT WORDS TO INSERT OR ADD WORDS**

When the proposed amendment is to omit words in order to insert or add other words, the Speaker shall put the question “that the words proposed to be omitted, be omitted”, which, if resolved in the negative, shall dispose of the amendment; but if in the affirmative, another question shall be put “that the words proposed to be inserted (or added) be inserted (or added)”.

#### **141. INSERT OR ADD WORDS**

When the proposed amendment is to insert or add certain words, the Speaker shall put the question “that the words proposed to be inserted (or added) be inserted (or added)”.

When amendments have been made, the main question shall be put as amended.

#### **142. ALTERNATIVE QUESTION**

If no Member objects, the Speaker may put the question “that the amendment be agreed to” in place of the question or questions stated in Standing Orders 139, 140 and 141.

#### **143. INCONSISTENT AMENDMENTS**

No amendment shall be moved which is inconsistent with a previous decision on the question.

#### **144. ORDER OF MOVING**

## *Standing Orders*

No amendment may be moved to any part of a question after a later part has been amended, or after a question has been proposed on an amendment thereto, unless the proposed amendment has, by leave, been withdrawn.

### **145. DECISIONS STAND**

No amendment may be moved to any words which the Assembly has resolved shall not be omitted, or which have been inserted in, or added to, a question, except it be for the addition of other words thereto.

### **146. ORDER OF DISPOSAL**

An amendment proposed shall be disposed of before another amendment to the original question can be moved.

### **147. WITHDRAWAL**

A proposed amendment may, by leave, be withdrawn.

### **148. AMENDMENTS TO AMENDMENTS**

Amendments may be moved to a proposed amendment as if such proposed amendment were an original question.

### **149. ORDER OF AMENDMENTS**

When it is moved to omit words in the main question in order to insert or add other words, no amendment to the words proposed to be inserted or added can be entertained until the question “that the words proposed to be omitted, be omitted” has been determined.

### **150. MAIN QUESTION AS AMENDED**

When amendments have been made, the main question shall be put as amended.

### **151. ORIGINAL QUESTION**

When amendments have been moved but not made, the question shall be put as originally proposed.

## **Chapter XV**

### **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

#### **152. DEFINITION**

An order of the day is a bill or other matter which the Assembly has ordered to be taken into consideration on a particular day.

#### **153. PRECEDENCE AND POSTPONEMENT**

Orders of the day shall have precedence of each other according to the order in which they appear on the Notice Paper. An order of the day may be postponed on motion without notice moved by the Member in charge thereof, or, in his absence, by another Member at his request.

#### **154. NOT CALLED ON**

If, at the adjournment of the Assembly, any orders of the day on the Notice Paper have not been called on, such orders of the day shall be set down on the Notice Paper for the next sitting day.

#### **155. DISCHARGE**

An order of the day may be discharged by resolution of the Assembly.

## *Standing Orders*

## **Chapter XVI**

### **DIVISIONS**

#### **156. CALLING A DIVISION**

Whenever the Speaker states, on putting a question, that the “Ayes” or the “Noes” (as the case may be) have it, his opinion may be challenged by Members calling for a division.

#### **157. SUPPORT NEEDED**

A division shall not be proceeded with unless more than one Member has called for a division. If one Member only calls for a division, that Member may inform the Speaker that he wishes his dissent to be recorded in the Minutes of Proceedings and in the Parliamentary Record and his dissent shall be so recorded.

[Note: In the calling of a Division by the Chief Minister or Leader of the Opposition it is the practice of the Assembly that these offices command sufficient support required for the purposes of calling a Division pursuant to Standing Orders.]

#### **158. WITHDRAWN BY LEAVE**

At any time before the Clerks begin to count the Members voting in a division, a call for a division may be withdrawn, by leave, and the division shall not be proceeded with. The decision of the Speaker which was challenged shall stand.

#### **159. VOTE NOT TO CHANGE**

Every Member shall vote in a division in accordance with his voice either “Aye” or “No”, and his vote shall be so recorded.

#### **160. MEMBER TO REMAIN**

A Member calling for a division shall not leave the Chamber and shall vote with those who, in the opinion of the Speaker, were in the minority when his decision on the voices was given.

#### **161.<sup>34</sup> BELLS RUNG**

- (1) Before a division is taken, the Clerk shall ring the division bells and the doors shall not be closed until after the lapse of three<sup>35</sup> minutes.
- (2) When successive Divisions are taken and there is no intervening debate after the first Division, the Bells for the ensuing Division shall be rung for one minute only.

#### **162. DOORS LOCKED**

The doors shall be closed and locked after the lapse of three<sup>36</sup> minutes, and then no Member may enter or leave the Chamber until after the division.

---

<sup>34</sup> SO161 Amended as Sessional Order on 26 November 1997, (Minutes page 20) and adopted on 1<sup>st</sup> sitting day of 1999.

<sup>35</sup> SO161 Standing Orders Committee Report No. 1, Seventh Assembly, adopted September 1994, (Minutes page 82).

<sup>36</sup> SO162 Standing Orders Committee Report No. 1, Seventh Assembly, adopted September 1994, (Minutes page 82).

**163. ASSEMBLY DIVIDES**

When the doors have been locked and all Members are in their places, the Speaker shall state the question to the Assembly, and then direct the “Ayes” to proceed to the right of the Chair and the “Noes” to the left.

**164. MEMBERS TO VOTE**

The Members supporting the call for a division and every other member in the Chamber, when the question is stated, shall vote, except the Speaker, or the Chairman of Committees in the Chair of a Committee of the Whole, for whom voting shall be optional. <sup>37</sup>Members having accordingly taken sides, the Chair shall appoint a Teller for each side.

**165. COUNT**

The Clerks at the Table shall count the Members voting and record the vote of each Member present.

**166. RESULT**

The Speaker shall declare the result of the division to the Assembly.

**167. ONLY ONE MEMBER ON A SIDE**

If there should be only one Member on a side in a division, the Speaker, without completing the division, shall forthwith declare the decision of the Assembly. In such event, the one Member concerned may inform the Speaker that he wishes his dissent to be recorded in the Minutes of Proceedings and in the Parliamentary Record and his dissent shall be so recorded.

**168. QUESTION OF ORDER**

While the Assembly is dividing Members may speak to a question of order arising out of or during the division.

**169. RECORD**

Lists of divisions shall be recorded in the Minutes of Proceedings and in the Parliamentary Record.

**170. CONFUSION OR ERROR**

In the case of confusion or error concerning the numbers reported, unless the same can be otherwise corrected, the Assembly shall proceed to another division on the question.

**171. RECORD CORRECTED**

If a complaint be made to the Assembly that a division has been inaccurately reported, the Speaker may cause the record to be corrected.

---

<sup>37</sup> *SO164 Standing Orders Committee Report No. 1, Seventh Assembly, adopted September 1994, (Minutes page 82).*

**172. CASTING VOTE**

Any reasons stated by the Speaker for his casting vote shall be entered in the Minutes of Proceedings and in the Parliamentary Record.



## Chapter XVII

### BILLS

#### 173. INTRODUCTION

- (1) Before introducing a bill a Member shall give to the Assembly notice of his intention.
- (2) A notice of intention to introduce a bill shall specify the short title and the serial number of the bill and the day for presentation and shall be signed by the Member.
- (3) A Member shall give such a notice by stating its terms to the Assembly and delivering a copy to the Clerk at the appropriate time.
- (4) Except by leave of the Speaker, a Member shall not give notice of intention to introduce a bill which has not been printed.
- (5) A Member who has given such a notice may alter its terms by notifying the Assembly and delivering to the Clerk an amended notice, either on the same day or on any day prior to that for introducing a bill, or he may withdraw the notice by notifying the Assembly.
- (6) On the calling on of the notice a Member shall present to the Assembly a printed copy of the bill signed by him.
- (7) The Standing Orders shall, to the necessary extent, be applied and read as if a notice of intention to present a bill were a notice of motion.

#### 174. TITLE AND CONTENTS

The title of a bill shall agree with the notice of intention and no clause may be included which does not come within the title.

#### 175. FIRST READING

On the presentation of a bill by a Member it shall be read a first time without question being put.

#### 176. TITLE ONLY READ

On every order for the reading of a bill the long title only shall be read.

#### 177. SECOND READING

When a bill has been read a first time, the Member in charge of the bill may move —

- (a) “that the bill be now read a second time”; or
- (b) “that the second reading of the bill be made an order of the day for a later hour (or day)”.

#### <sup>38</sup>177A. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In the case of a Bill presented by a Member other than an Appropriation Bill, an Explanatory Statement signed by the Member and including an explanation

---

<sup>38</sup> SO177A Inserted by Fourth Report of Standing Orders Committee, 9<sup>th</sup> Assembly, adopted 5 May 2005 (Minutes page 821)

## *Standing Orders*

of the reasons for the Bill and a brief explanation of each clause of the Bill shall be presented to the Assembly at the conclusion of the Member's second reading speech.

### **178. TIME LIMIT ON PASSAGE**

The question "that the bill be now read a second time" shall not be determined by the Assembly before the lapse of one month from the day on which the bill was read a first time except in the case of a bill declared by the Speaker to be an urgent bill pursuant to Standing Order 179.

### **179. URGENT BILLS**

The Speaker may, on the application of the Chief Minister, or a Minister acting on his behalf, declare a bill to be an urgent bill if he is satisfied that the delay of one month provided by Standing Order 178 could result in hardship being caused.

### **180. DEFEAT OF A BILL**

An amendment may be moved to the question "that the bill be now read a second time", in the form "omit 'now' and add at the end 'this day 6 months' ", which if carried shall finally dispose of the bill. No amendment may be moved to this amendment.

### **181. REASONED AMENDMENT**

No other amendment may be moved to the question "that the bill be now read a second time" except in the form of an amendment relevant to the bill, which does not anticipate an amendment which may be moved in committee: provided that an amendment relating to public affairs may be moved to the question for the second reading of an Appropriation Bill or a Supply Bill.

### **182. SECOND READING *PRO FORMA***

When it is the intention of the Member in charge of a bill to move that the bill be referred to a select committee, the second reading may be moved *pro forma*, and in such case there shall be no speech by the mover and no debate: provided that notice of intention to move *pro forma* must be given either at the time of fixing the date for the second reading, or not less than two clear sitting days before the date fixed for the second reading, and such notice shall be placed on the Notice Paper.

### **183. AFTER SECOND READING**

Immediately after the second reading —

- (a) a motion "that the bill be referred to a select committee" may be moved;
- (b) an instruction of which notice has been given may be moved; and
- (c) it may be proposed "that leave be granted for the motion that the bill be now read a third time' to be moved forthwith";

but otherwise the Assembly shall, without further question being proposed, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole: provided that a motion may be moved by a Minister or the Member in charge of the bill, "that the committee stage be later taken".

### **184. RESUMED CONSIDERATION**

Except as otherwise provided by Standing Order 185, when a bill has been referred to a select committee and the report of the select committee has been presented,

consideration of the bill in the Committee of the Whole shall be an order of the day for a later hour.

**185. DEBATE ON MOTION FOR COMMITTAL AFTER *PRO FORMA*  
SECOND READING**

Where the second reading of any bill has been taken *pro forma*; on the first occasion for consideration of the bill in Committee of the Whole the question shall be proposed “that the bill be now committed”, and such motion shall be open to debate as though it were a motion for the second reading.

**186. REFERRAL**

A bill shall not be referred to a select or standing committee except in pursuance of Standing Order 183.

***IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE***

**187. LONG TITLE**

In the committee the title and preamble stand postponed without question proposed and the clauses shall be considered in their order, a question being proposed by the Chairman on each clause, “that the clause stand as printed”. The words of enactment at the head of the bill shall not be put to the committee.

**188. ORDER OF CONSIDERATION**

- (1) Except as provided hereinafter, the following order shall be observed in considering a bill and its title:
  - (a) clauses, as printed and new clauses, in their numerical order;
  - (b) schedules, as printed and new schedules in their numerical order;
  - (c) postponed clauses (not having been postponed until after certain other clauses);
  - (d) preamble; and
  - (e) title.
- (2)<sup>39</sup> In reconsidering a bill or in consideration of a bill upon recommitment, the same order shall be followed.
- (3) In considering an Appropriation or Supply Bill, any schedule expressing the services for which the appropriation is to be made shall be considered before the clauses and, unless the committee otherwise orders, that schedule shall be considered by proposed expenditures in the order in which they are shown.
- (4) In considering a bill to impose taxation, any schedule shall be considered before the clauses.

---

<sup>39</sup> *SO188 Amended by Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, Fourth Assembly, adopted 20 March 1986, (Minutes page 289).*

**189. AMENDMENTS**

Any amendment may be moved to any part of a bill provided the same is within the title or relevant to the subject matter of the bill and is otherwise in conformity with the Standing Orders.

**190. AMENDMENTS IN WRITING**

Except by leave of the Chairman, no amendment may be proposed unless —

- (a) it is in writing and signed by the mover; and
- (b) copies of it are immediately available for circulation to Members.

**191. DISCUSSION CONFINED TO QUESTION**

The discussion shall be confined to the clause or amendment before the committee.

**192. POSTPONEMENT OF CLAUSES**

A clause or a clause which has been amended may be postponed.

**193. CLAUSE AS AMENDED**

If a clause is amended, a further question shall be proposed “that the clause stand as amended”.

**194. NO REPETITION**

No amendment or new clause or schedule shall be at any time moved which is substantially the same as one already negatived by the committee, or which is inconsistent with one that has been already agreed to by the committee, unless a recommittal of the bill has intervened.

**195. AMENDMENT OF TITLE**

If any amendment has been made to the bill necessitating an amendment of the original title, such title shall be amended and a question proposed, “that the title, as amended, be the title of the bill”, and amendments of the title shall be specially reported to the Assembly.

**196. REPORT**

When the bill has been fully considered, the question shall be put forthwith “that the bill (or the bill, as amended,) be reported” which being agreed to, the Chairman shall leave the Chair and report the bill forthwith and the Speaker shall propose the question “that the report be adopted”.

**197. NO NOTICE UNTIL REPORTED**

No notice may be taken of any proceedings of a Committee of the Whole, or of a select committee on a bill, until such proceedings have been reported.

**198. RECOMMITTAL**

A motion for the recommitment of a bill for the reconsideration of —

- (a) the whole bill;
- (b) a particular clause or clauses;
- (c) a particular schedule or schedules;
- (d) the preamble; or.
- (e) the title,

may be moved —

- (f) as a motion superseding the question “that the report be adopted”; or
- (g) as a motion superseding the question “that the bill be now read a third time”.

**199. ADOPTION OF REPORT AND THIRD READING**

When the report is finally adopted, it may be moved that the third reading of the bill be later taken or, on motion being made, the question shall be proposed “that the bill be now read a third time”.

**200. DEFEAT**

The only amendment which may be moved to the question “that the bill be now read a third time” is to omit “now” and add “this day 6 months”, which if carried shall finally dispose of the bill.

**201. DISPOSAL**

After the third reading no further question shall be put, and the bill shall thereupon be a proposed law with the title agreed to in the consideration of the bill.

**202. SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS**

Amendments falling within any of the following classes of amendments may be made, by the Clerk acting with the authority of the Speaker, to proposed laws, before they are presented for assent –

- (a) amendments of a formal nature necessary or desirable to any of the long title, the short title, and the method of citation;
- (b) amendments correcting clerical, grammatical or typographical errors and other amendments of a verbal or formal nature; and
- (c) amendments to the citation of an Act.

**203. RESTORATION OF LAPSED BILLS**

- (1) Any bill which lapses by reason of a prorogation may be proceeded with in the next ensuing session, at the stage it had reached in the preceding session, if a general election has not taken place between such 2 sessions, by resolution of the Assembly restoring it to the Notice Paper.
- (2) Any bill so restored to the Notice Paper shall be proceeded with in the Assembly as if its passage had not been interrupted by prorogation and, if passed to be a proposed law, shall be presented to the Administrator for his assent, in the normal manner.

## *Standing Orders*

- (3) Should a motion for restoration to the Notice Paper be not agreed to by the Assembly, the bill may be re-introduced and proceeded with in the ordinary manner.

### **204. PRESENTATION**

After a bill has been passed to be a proposed law it shall be certified by the Clerk as a true copy and shall be presented to the Administrator for his assent.

## **Chapter XVIII**

### **PROPOSED LAWS RETURNED**

#### **205. CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE**

Whenever a proposed law is returned pursuant to section 7(3) or 8(2) of the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act* together with amendments recommended by either the Administrator or the Governor-General, such amendments shall be printed, unless the Assembly otherwise orders, and a time fixed for taking the same into consideration in a Committee of the Whole.

#### **206. AMENDMENTS**

The amendments recommended by either the Administrator or the Governor-General shall be agreed to either with or without amendments, or disagreed to, or consideration thereof postponed, or the proposed law ordered to be laid aside.

#### **207. RELEVANCE**

No amendment may be moved to an amendment recommended by either the Administrator or the Governor-General that is not relevant thereto; nor may an amendment be moved to the proposed law unless the same be relevant to, or consequential upon, either the acceptance or the rejection of an amendment recommended by either the Administrator or the Governor-General.

#### **208. REPORT**

Upon completion by the committee of its consideration of amendments recommended by either the Administrator or the Governor-General, the Chairman shall report accordingly.

#### **209. DISPOSAL**

Upon adoption of the report, the proposed law or the proposed law as amended together with any alterations rendered necessary to be made in the proposed law in consequence of amendment shall be fairly printed and certified by the Clerk as a true copy and shall be presented to the Administrator for his assent.

## *Standing Orders*

## **Chapter XIX**

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ASSEMBLY**

#### **210. QUORUM**

The quorum in a Committee of the Whole shall consist of the same number of Members as is requisite to form a quorum of the Assembly.

#### **211. APPOINTMENT**

Except as otherwise provided in these Standing Orders, a Committee of the Whole shall be appointed by resolution that the Assembly resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole either immediately or at a future time.

#### **212. ORDER OF THE DAY**

Whenever an order of the day is read for the Assembly to resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, the Speaker shall leave the Chair without putting any question, and the Assembly shall thereupon resolve itself into a committee unless a motion for an instruction or other relevant motion, of which notice has been given, is moved.

#### **213. CHAIRMAN PRESIDES**

As soon as the Speaker has left the Chair, the Chairman shall take the Chair of the committee at the Table.

#### **214. PROGRESS REPORTED**

When a matter has been partly considered in committee and the Chairman has been directed to report progress and ask leave to sit again, and the Assembly has ordered that the committee shall sit again at a later hour or on a particular day, the Speaker, when the order for the committee has been read, shall forthwith leave the Chair and the Assembly shall again resolve itself into such committee.

#### **215. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

A committee shall consider such matters only as shall have been referred to it by the Assembly.

#### **216. QUESTIONS DECIDED BY MAJORITY**

Every question in committee shall be decided in the same manner as in the Assembly itself.

#### **217. NO CONTRADICTORY MOTIONS**

A motion contradictory to a previous decision of the committee shall not be entertained in the same committee.

#### **218.<sup>40</sup> DIVISIONS**

---

<sup>40</sup> SO218 Amended by Second Report of Standing Orders Committee, Fourth Assembly, adopted 20 March 1986, (Minutes page 289) - gave casting vote to Chairman of Committees.

## *Standing Orders*

Divisions shall be taken and decided in committee in the same manner as in the Assembly itself and the Chairman shall be entitled to a deliberative vote, which vote shall be optional, and shall also, where there is an equality of votes on any question, have a casting vote.

### **219. RULES OF BUSINESS**

Except as provided by these Standing Orders, the same rules for regulating the conduct of business shall be observed in committee as in the Assembly itself, the Chairman of Committees being invested with the same authority as the Speaker for the preservation of order, but disorder in a committee may only be censured by the Assembly on receiving a report.

### **220. DISSENT FROM RULING**

If any objection is taken to a ruling of the Chairman, such objection shall be stated at once and a motion of dissent, to be submitted in writing, moved, which shall be forthwith decided by the committee without debate. The proceedings shall then be resumed where they were interrupted.

### **221. DISORDER**

If any sudden disorder shall arise in committee the Speaker may resume the Chair in the Assembly.

### **222. NO QUORUM ON DIVISION**

If it appears upon a division in committee, that a quorum of Members is not present, the Chairman shall leave the Chair of the committee, and shall inform the Speaker thereof, but make no further report. No decision of the committee shall be considered to have been arrived at by such division.

### **223. NOTICE OF QUORUM**

If any Member shall take notice that a quorum of Members is not present, the Chairman shall count the committee, and if, the bells having been rung, a quorum be not present within three minutes he shall inform the Speaker thereof, but shall make no further report. If a quorum be present, the committee shall proceed with the business where it was so interrupted.

### **224. DIRECTION TO REPORT**

When all matters referred to a committee have been considered the Chairman shall be directed to report the same to the Assembly.

### **225. REPORTING PROGRESS**

A motion may be moved during the proceedings of a committee “that the Chairman do report progress and ask leave to sit again”, and such question shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate. On the Chairman reporting to the Assembly and the Assembly having adopted the report, a motion may be moved to fix a time for the Assembly to resolve itself again into the committee: otherwise further consideration in the Committee of the Whole becomes an order of the day for a later hour.

**226. MOTION THAT CHAIRMAN LEAVE THE CHAIR**

A motion “that the Chairman do now leave the Chair”, which question shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate, will, if carried, supersede the proceedings of a committee; but the committee may, on motion after notice, be revived and the proceedings shall be resumed at the point where they were interrupted.

**227. DILATORY MOTIONS: LIMIT AS TO**

Motions “that the question be now put”, “that the Chairman do report progress and ask leave to sit again”, and “that the Chairman do now leave the Chair”, should not be repeated within 15 minutes of any of these motions having been negatived: provided that the Member in charge of a bill or the Member who has moved the motion under consideration, or a Minister, may at any time move to report progress and ask leave to sit again.

**228. RESOLUTIONS REPORTED**

The resolutions reported from a committee may be taken into consideration forthwith and may be agreed to or disagreed to by the Assembly, or recommitted to a committee, or the further consideration thereof postponed.

## *Standing Orders*

## **Chapter XX**

### **FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

#### **229. APPROPRIATION PROPOSAL TO BE RECOMMENDED**

No proposal for the appropriation of any public moneys shall be made unless the purpose of the appropriation has in the same session been recommended to the Assembly by message of the Administrator. No amendment of such proposal shall be moved which would increase, or extend the objects and purposes or alter the destination of, the appropriation so recommended unless a further message is received.

#### **230. SUPPLY BILLS, APPROPRIATION BILLS AND TAXATION PROPOSALS**

An Appropriation or Supply Bill or a bill or proposal dealing with taxation may be presented to the Assembly by a Minister without notice.

#### **231. TAXATION PROPOSALS BY MINISTER ONLY**

A proposal for the imposition, or for the increase, or alleviation, of a tax or duty, or for the alteration of the incidence of such a charge, shall not be made except by a Minister. No Member, other than a Minister, may move an amendment to increase, or extend the incidence of, the charge defined in that proposal unless the charge so increased or the incidence of the charge so increased shall not exceed that already existing by virtue of any law of the Territory.

## *Standing Orders*

## **Chapter XXI**

### **MESSAGES FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR**

#### **232. ANNOUNCED TO ASSEMBLY**

A message from the Administrator shall be announced to the Assembly by the Speaker, but not during debate or so as to interrupt a member whilst he is speaking.

#### **233. FINANCIAL PROPOSALS TO BE RECOMMENDED**

Subject to the provisions of Standing Order 234, a message from the Administrator recommending an appropriation of revenue or moneys for the purpose of a bill shall be announced before the bill to which it relates is presented.

#### **234. WHEN ANNOUNCED FOR AMENDMENT**

Any message from the Administrator recommending an appropriation of revenue or moneys for the purposes of an amendment to be moved to a bill shall be announced before the amendment is moved.

## *Standing Orders*

## **Chapter XXII**

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO COMMITTEES**

#### **235. EFFECT OF**

An instruction empowers a committee to consider matters not otherwise referred to it.

#### **236. LIMITATION**

No instruction may be given to a committee to do that which it is already empowered to do.

#### **237. INSTRUCTION TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

An instruction may be given to a Committee of the Whole on a bill to amend an Act to consider amendments which are not relevant to the subject matter of the bill but are relevant to the subject matter of the Act it is proposed to amend: provided that such motion shall be passed by at least 10 affirmative votes.

#### **238. TIMING**

An instruction to a select committee extending or restricting the order of reference may be moved, after notice, on any day prior to the report of the committee.

## *Standing Orders*

## Chapter XXIII

### DISORDER

#### 239. NAMING OF MEMBER

If any Member has –

- (a) persistently and wilfully obstructed the business of the Assembly
- (b) been guilty of disorderly conduct;
- (c) used objectionable or disorderly words, which he has refused to withdraw;
- (d) persistently and wilfully refused to conform to any Standing Order; or
- (e) persistently and wilfully disregarded the authority of the Chair, he may be named by the Speaker, or, if any of the above-named offences has been committed by a Member in committee, by the Chairman.

#### 240.<sup>41</sup> SUSPENSION OF MEMBER

- (1) If the offence has been committed in the Assembly, the Speaker shall forthwith put the question, on a motion being made, no amendment, adjournment or debate allowed, ‘That the Member named be suspended from the service of the Assembly.’.
- (2) If the offence has been committed in Committee, the Chairman shall forthwith suspend the proceedings and report the circumstances to the Assembly; and the Speaker shall forthwith, on a motion being made, put the same question, without amendment, adjournment or debate, as if the offence had been committed in the Assembly itself.

#### 240A<sup>42</sup> WITHDRAWAL FROM CHAMBER

- (1) If the Speaker considers the conduct of a Member is disorderly, the Speaker, instead of calling on the provisions of Standing Order 240 or 242, may order the Member to withdraw from the Assembly for one hour, which order shall not be open to debate or dissent.
- (2) If a Member fails to leave the Chamber immediately when ordered to do so by the Speaker, the Speaker may name the Member and shall forthwith put the question, on a motion being moved, no amendment, adjournment or debate being allowed, ‘That the Member be suspended from the service of the Assembly.’.
- (3) Where a Member is directed to withdraw from the Assembly by the Speaker, the Member may attend for the purpose of voting in any division or being counted when attention has been drawn to the lack of quorum, but shall withdraw when the vote has been declared or a quorum formed.

#### 241.<sup>43</sup> PERIODS OF SUSPENSION

---

<sup>41</sup> SO240 Amended as Sessional Order on 26 November 1997, (Minutes page 23) and adopted as new Standing Order on 1<sup>st</sup> sitting day of 1999 (16 February 1999.)

<sup>42</sup> SO240A Amended as Sessional Order on 26 November 1997, (Minutes page 23) and adopted as new Standing Order on 1<sup>st</sup> sitting day of 1999 (16 February 1999).

## *Standing Orders*

- (1) If any Member be suspended under Standing Order 240 or Standing Order 240A, his suspension on the first occasion shall be for 24 hours; on the second occasion during the same year for 2 sitting days excluding the day of suspension; and on the third or any subsequent occasion during the same year for 3 sitting days excluding the day of suspension.
- (2) For the purposes of this Standing Order: 'year' means a year commencing on 1 January and ending on 31 December; and a sitting day shall not exceed a period of 24 hours.
- (3) For the purposes of this Standing Order, any suspension in a previous session of the Assembly or any order to withdraw pursuant to Standing Order 240A shall be disregarded.
- (4) Should any period of suspension prevent a Member from attending the Legislative Assembly for three or more consecutive sitting days, for the purposes of section 21(2)(c) of the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act*, the Member shall be deemed to have been granted the permission of the Assembly to absent himself.”.

### **242. GROSS DISORDER**

When the conduct of a Member is of such a disorderly nature that the procedure in Standing Order 241 would be inadequate to ensure the urgent protection of the dignity of the Assembly, the Speaker or the Chairman shall order the Member to withdraw immediately from the Chamber. When the Member has withdrawn, he shall forthwith be named by the Speaker or the Chairman, as the case may be, and the proceedings shall then be as provided in Standing Orders 240 and 241, except that the question for the suspension of the Member shall be put by the Speaker without a motion being necessary.

If the question for the suspension of the Member is resolved in the negative, he may forthwith return to the Chamber.

### **243. EFFECT OF SUSPENSION**

A Member who has been suspended from the service of the Assembly shall be excluded from the Chamber and all galleries thereof and from attendance at all meetings of Assembly committees.

---

<sup>43</sup> SO241 Amended as Sessional Order on 26 November 1997, (*Minutes page 23*) and adopted as new Standing Order on 1<sup>st</sup> sitting day of 1999 (16 February 1999).

**244. GRAVE DISORDER**

In the case of grave disorder arising in the Assembly, the Speaker may adjourn the Assembly without question put, or suspend any sitting for a time to be named by him.

**245. WILFUL DISOBEDIENCE**

A Member who wilfully disobeys any order of the Assembly may be ordered to attend to answer for his conduct and, if he fails to attend, or if his explanation be deemed unsatisfactory, the Assembly may direct the Serjeant-at-Arms or another officer of the Assembly to take such Member into custody.

**246. ARREST OF STRANGER**

The Serjeant-at-Arms or another officer of the Assembly may take or deliver into custody any stranger whom he may see, or who may be reported to him to be, in any part of the Chamber appropriated to the Members of the Assembly; and also any stranger who, having been admitted into any other part of the Assembly or gallery, misconducts himself, or does not withdraw when strangers are directed to withdraw, while the Assembly or any Committee of the Whole is sitting.

**247. DEALING WITH ARRESTED PERSONS**

When any Member or other person has been taken into the custody of the Serjeant-at-Arms or another officer, such arrest shall be reported to the Assembly by the Speaker without delay; and the Assembly shall fix the time for such Member or other person to be brought to the Bar, to be dealt with by the Assembly.



## **Chapter XXIV**

### **STRANGERS**

#### **248. SEATING IN GALLERIES**

Only the Speaker shall have the privilege of admitting strangers into the Speaker's gallery. Provided seating is available, every Member may admit a minimum of two strangers to the public gallery each day, by written order to the Serjeant-at-Arms. The Speaker may also admit distinguished strangers to a seat on the floor of the Chamber.

#### **249. STRANGERS TO WITHDRAW**

If at any sitting of the Assembly, or in committee, any Member takes notice that strangers are present, the Speaker or the Chairman, as the case may be, shall forthwith put the question "that strangers be ordered to withdraw", which shall be decided without debate: provided that the Speaker or the Chairman may, whenever he thinks fit, order the withdrawal of strangers.

#### **250. CHAMBER RESTRICTED**

On any day when the Assembly or a Committee of the Whole is sitting no Member shall bring any stranger into the Chamber.

## *Standing Orders*

## **Chapter XXV**

### **PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS**

#### **251. MAY BE ORDERED**

Papers may be ordered to be laid before the Assembly and the Clerk shall communicate to the Minister concerned all orders for papers made by the Assembly; and such papers when received shall be laid on the Table by the Clerk.

#### **252. FORM OF ADDRESS**

Motions for the production of documents or correspondence addressed to the Administrator, or for any information emanating from His Honour, shall be in the form “That an Address be presented to His Honour”, to that effect.

#### **253. PRESENTATION**

Papers may be presented by the Speaker or pursuant to statute or by command of the Administrator or by leave of the Assembly. Papers may be presented in the Assembly or may instead be delivered to the Clerk who shall cause them be recorded in the Minutes of Proceedings. Papers so delivered to the Clerk shall be deemed to have been presented to the Assembly on the day on which they are recorded in the Minutes of Proceedings.

#### **254. PUBLIC DOCUMENTS**

Unless otherwise ordered all papers and documents presented to the Assembly shall be considered public and the publication of such documents shall be deemed to have been authorized by the Assembly. Papers not ordered to be printed may be inspected at the offices of the Assembly by Members and, with permission of the Speaker, by other persons, and copies thereof or extracts there from may be made.

#### **255. DOCUMENTS RELATING TO PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

A document relating to public affairs quoted from by a Minister, unless stated by the Minister to be of a confidential nature, or such as should more properly be obtained by Address, shall, if required by any Member, be laid on the Table.

#### **256. DOCUMENT QUOTED MAY BE ORDERED TO BE TABLED**

A document quoted from by a Member not being a Minister may be ordered by the Assembly to be laid upon the Table; such order may be made without notice immediately upon the conclusion of the speech of the Member who has quoted there from.

**257. MOTIONS**

On any paper being presented to the Assembly as provided in this Chapter a Member may move without notice either or both of the motions –

- (1) that the paper be printed;
- (2) that the Assembly take note of the paper;

provided that, if the motions are not moved at the time of the presentation of the paper, they may be moved, on notice, on a subsequent day.

## **Chapter XXVI**

### **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

#### **258. WHEN MADE**

A Minister may make a statement on government policy, or on a government decision, or on government action or on proposed government action at any time when there is no question before the Assembly: provided that copies of the statement are available for distribution to Members when the Minister commences his statement.

#### **259. MOTIONS**

When any statement has been made to the Assembly pursuant to Standing Order 258, a Member may move, without notice, either or both of the motions:

- (1) that the statement be printed;
- (2) that the Assembly take note of the statement;

provided that, if the motions are not moved at the conclusion of the statement, either or both may be moved, on notice, on a subsequent day.

## *Standing Orders*

## Chapter XXVII

### COMMITTEES

44

#### **260—APPOINTMENT**

All committees, be they Standing, Select or Sessional, shall be appointed on motion, and shall, unless otherwise ordered, consist of the mover and other Members to be nominated; but if there be more nominations than places available on a committee, Members shall be appointed by ballot.

#### **261—DAY FOR REPORT**

For every committee other than a Standing Committee, a day shall be fixed for the reporting of its proceedings to the Assembly, by which day the final report of the committee shall be presented by the Member chairing the committee, unless further time be moved and granted; but the Assembly may at any time prior to such day receive the final report of the committee.

#### **262—DISCHARGE**

- (a) Members may be discharged from attending a committee, and other Members appointed, either by nomination or ballot, after notice has been given.
- (b) Special arrangements are required for a change in membership when the Assembly is not sitting and is not expected to meet for at least two weeks. The relevant Whip or Independent member must nominate any appointment or discharge of a Member of a committee in writing to the Speaker. The change in membership shall take effect from the time the Speaker receives the written nomination. At the next sitting, the Speaker shall report the change to the Assembly and the Assembly shall resolve the membership of the committee.

#### **263—SPEAKER AND DEPUTY SPEAKER ON COMMITTEES**

The Speaker and Deputy Speaker shall only be appointed to a committee if a Standing or other order requires the appointment, or if the office holder consents.

#### **264—MEMBER WITH PECUNIARY INTEREST NOT TO SIT ON INQUIRY**

No Member may sit on a committee if that Member has a particular direct pecuniary interest in a matter under inquiry by the committee. If the eligibility of a Member to sit on a committee is challenged, the committee may report the matter to the Assembly for resolution.

#### **265—QUORUM**

Subject to Standing Order 270A, in all committees, a majority of the committee shall form a quorum, unless otherwise ordered; and, if at any time a quorum be not present, the Member chairing shall suspend the proceedings of the committee until a quorum be present, or shall adjourn the committee.

---

<sup>44</sup> Revised as result of adoption on 23 February 2006 of 3<sup>rd</sup> Report of the Standing Orders Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly - Assembly Committees Chapter

**266—MEETING LAPSES**

If a quorum be not present within 15 minutes from the time appointed for the meeting of a committee, any Member present may retire after recording their name with the Secretary attending the committee who shall convene a meeting for another time.

**267— MEETINGS**

Notice of first and subsequent meetings shall be given by the Secretary attending the committee:

- (a) pursuant to resolution of the committee;
- (b) on instruction of the Member chairing the committee; or upon a request by a quorum of Members of the committee.

**268—ELECTION OF MEMBER CHAIRING**

- (a) Every committee, at its first meeting, before the commencement of business, shall elect one of its number to be the Member chairing the committee, provided that a Member chairing has not been appointed pursuant to the committee's Terms of Reference.
- (b) The Member chairing shall have two votes: a deliberative and a casting vote.

**269—RECORDS OF PROCEEDINGS AND DOCUMENTS**

- (a) The Secretary shall record the proceedings of the committee or subcommittee in the Minutes of Proceedings. The minutes shall be confirmed by the committee or subcommittee and then signed by the Member chairing.
- (b) Documents presented to the committee or subcommittee shall be recorded in the Minutes of Proceedings.

**270A— PROCEEDINGS AND SITTINGS OF COMMITTEE**

- (a) A committee or subcommittee may conduct proceedings using any means approved by the Assembly and in the following manner:
  - (i) in private meeting;
  - (ii) by hearing witnesses, either in public or in private; and
  - (iii) in the form of any other meeting, discussion or inspection conducted under the practice of committees of the Assembly.
- (b) A committee may resolve to conduct proceedings using audio-visual or audio links with members of the committee or witnesses not present in one place. If audio-visual or audio link is used, committee members and witnesses must be able to speak to and hear each other at the same time regardless of location.
- (c) A committee or subcommittee may conduct proceedings at any time or place as it sees fit, except whilst the Assembly is sitting.
- (d) A committee or subcommittee shall not meet during sittings of the Assembly except by order of the Assembly.

**270B—POWER TO CALL FOR WITNESSES AND DOCUMENTS**

- (a) A committee or subcommittee may call for witnesses to attend and for documents to be produced.
- (b) The Member chairing a committee or subcommittee shall direct the Secretary of the committee or subcommittee to invite or summon witnesses and to request or require documents to be produced as determined by the committee or subcommittee.

**270C—POWER TO MAKE USE OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEES**

A committee or subcommittee may consider and make use of the evidence and records of similar committees appointed during previous Assemblies.

**271—EXAMINATION OF WITNESSES**

- (a) The examination of witnesses before a committee shall be conducted by the Members of the committee in accordance with procedures agreed to by the committee and subject to the rules of the Assembly.
- (b) The examination of witnesses shall be recorded in a transcript of evidence.

**272—STRANGERS ADMITTED**

When a committee is examining witnesses, strangers may be admitted but shall withdraw if requested by the Member chairing the committee or any Member of the committee and shall always withdraw when the committee is deliberating

**273—MEMBERS ADMITTED**

A Member of the Assembly, although not a member of a committee, may participate in its public sessions and question witnesses, unless the committee orders otherwise, but shall not vote and shall always withdraw when the committee is deliberating or taking evidence *in camera*.

**274—PUBLICATION OF EVIDENCE**

- (a) A committee or subcommittee may authorise publication of evidence given before it or documents presented to it.
- (b) A committee's or subcommittee's evidence, documents, proceedings and reports may not be disclosed or published to a person (other than a Member of the committee or a parliamentary employee assigned to the committee) unless they have been:
  - (i) reported to the Assembly; or
  - (ii) authorised by the Assembly, the committee or the subcommittee.
- (c) A committee may resolve to:
  - (i) publish media releases, discussion papers or other documents or preliminary findings; or

## *Standing Orders*

- (ii) divulge evidence, documents, proceedings or reports on a confidential basis to persons for comment.
- (d) A committee may resolve to authorise a Member of the committee to give public briefings on matters related to an inquiry. An authorised Member may not disclose evidence, documents, proceedings or reports which have not been authorised for publication. The committee shall determine the limits of the authorisation.
- (e) Evidence taken by, documents presented to, minutes of proceedings and reports of a committee that have not been reported to the Assembly shall not, unless authorised by the Assembly or the committee, be disclosed or published by any Member of such committee or by any other person.

### **275—POWER TO REPORT FROM TIME TO TIME**

By leave of the Assembly, a committee may present to the Assembly, from time to time, progress reports of its proceedings with or without the evidence received.

### **276—DRAFT REPORT CONSIDERED**

- (a) The Member chairing a committee shall prepare a draft report and present it to the committee at a meeting convened for report consideration.
- (b) The report may be considered at once if copies have been circulated in advance to each member of the committee. The report shall be considered paragraph by paragraph. When consideration of the chapters of the report is completed, the appendices shall be considered in order.
- (c) After the draft report has been considered, the whole or any paragraph may be reconsidered and amended.
- (d) A Member objecting to any portion of the report may vote against it or move an amendment when the particular paragraph or appendix is under consideration.
- (e) A Member protesting about the report or dissenting from all or part of it may add a protest or dissenting report from the main report.

### **277—ALTERNATIVE DRAFT**

If any Member, other than the Member chairing the committee, submits a draft report to the committee, the committee shall first decide upon with which report it will proceed.

### **278— ADOPTION OF REPORT**

When a committee has settled consideration of a draft report or reports, it shall resolve to adopt a report or the report.

### **279—ENDORSEMENT OF REPORT AND PAPERS**

- (a) Every report of a committee shall be signed by the Member chairing the committee;
- (b) any papers laid before the committee shall be endorsed by the Secretary of the committee;

*Standing Orders*

- (c) any protest or dissenting report shall be signed by the member or members protesting or dissenting.

**280—PRESENTATION AND TABLING OF REPORT**

- (a) The report of a committee shall be presented to and tabled in the Assembly by the Member chairing the committee, who may make a Tabling Statement.
- (b) Special arrangements are required for times when the Assembly is not sitting and a committee has completed a report of an inquiry. The committee may send the report to the Speaker or Deputy Speaker if the Speaker is unavailable. When the Speaker or Deputy Speaker receives the report:
  - (i) the report may be published; and
  - (ii) the Speaker or Deputy Speaker may give directions for the printing and circulation of the report.

The Member chairing the committee must then present the report to the Assembly as soon as possible.

**281—ACTION ON REPORT**

Upon presentation of a report, the Member chairing the committee or a Member nominated by the Member chairing the committee shall move without notice “that the report be printed” and may move “that the report be noted” or “that the report be adopted”.

## *Standing Orders*

## **Chapter XXVIII**

### **WITNESSES**

#### **284. SUMMONS**

Witnesses, not being Members, shall be ordered to attend before the Assembly, or a Committee of the Whole, or before a select committee, by summons under the hand of the Clerk of the Assembly.

#### **285. NON-ATTENDANCE**

If a witness fails or refuses to attend or to give evidence, the Assembly, on being acquainted therewith, shall deal with the matter.

#### **286. MEMBER ORDERED TO ATTEND**

When the attendance of a Member is ordered by the Assembly for examination by the Assembly or a Committee of the Whole, he shall be summoned by the Speaker to attend in his place.

#### **287. ASSEMBLY TO BE INFORMED**

If a select committee desires the attendance of a Member as a witness, the Chairman shall, in writing, request him to attend; but should he refuse to attend, or to give evidence or information as a witness to the committee, the committee shall acquaint the Assembly therewith, and not again summon such Member to attend the committee.

#### **288. MEMBERS CHARGED**

Upon any committee receiving information that charges a Member of the Assembly, the committee shall not proceed with the examination of the witness on that particular detail but shall report the matter to the Assembly at the first opportunity.

#### **289. WITNESS IN CUSTODY**

When a witness is in the custody of the keeper of any prison, such keeper may be ordered to bring the witness in safe custody for examination, and from time to time as often as his attendance is thought necessary, and the Speaker may issue his warrant accordingly.

#### **290. PROTECTION OF WITNESSES**

All witnesses examined before the Assembly, or any committee thereof, are entitled to the protection of the Assembly in respect of anything that may be said by them in their evidence.

#### **291. BEFORE ASSEMBLY**

A witness before the Assembly or a Committee of the Whole shall be examined at the Bar unless the Assembly or the committee otherwise orders.

**292. EXAMINATION BEFORE ASSEMBLY**

When a witness appears before the Assembly he shall be examined by the Speaker, and any questions addressed by Members are taken to be put through the Speaker.

**293. EXAMINATION BY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

In a Committee of the Whole, any Member may put questions directly to a witness.

**294. WITNESS TO WITHDRAW**

If any question be objected to, or other matter arise, a witness shall withdraw while the same is under discussion.

**295. MEMBER EXAMINED**

A Member of the Assembly shall be examined in his place.

**296. RESTRICTION ON OFFICERS**

No officer of the Assembly or person employed to record or transcribe evidence before the Assembly or any committee thereof may give evidence elsewhere in respect of any proceedings or examination of any witness without special leave of the Assembly.

## **Chapter XXIX**

### **BALLOTING**

#### **297. AS REQUIRED**

A ballot shall be taken whenever the Assembly thinks fit.

#### **298. BELLS**

Before the Assembly proceeds to any ballot, the bells shall be rung as for a division.

#### **299. PROCEDURE**

Unless otherwise expressly provided, a ballot shall be taken in the following manner –

Each Member present shall give to the Clerk a list of names of such Members as he may think fit and proper to be chosen at the ballot; and if any list contains a greater or lesser number of names than are to be chosen it shall be void and rejected. And when all the lists are collected, the Clerks at the Table shall ascertain and report to the Speaker the names of the Members having the greatest number of votes, which Members shall be declared to be chosen. In the event of an equality of votes, the names of the Members concerned shall be submitted to a further ballot. In the event of there still being an equality of votes, the Speaker shall give his casting vote and the member for whom he gives his casting vote shall be duly appointed.



## **Chapter XXX**

### **ADDRESSES TO QUEEN OR ADMINISTRATOR**

#### **300. HOW MOVED**

Whenever it be deemed proper to present an Address to Her Majesty, to the Governor-General or to the Administrator, the same shall be moved, except in cases of urgency, after notice in the usual manner.

#### **301. ADDRESS TO ROYAL FAMILY**

Addresses of congratulation or condolence to members of the Royal Family may be moved by a Minister without notice.

#### **302. ADDRESSES TO QUEEN SENT TO ADMINISTRATOR BY SPEAKER**

Addresses to Her Majesty, to the Governor-General or to members of the Royal Family shall be transmitted to the Administrator by the Speaker, who shall request His Honour to cause the same to be forwarded for presentation.

#### **303. PRESENTATION OF ADDRESS TO ADMINISTRATOR**

Addresses to the Administrator shall be presented by the Speaker, unless the Assembly otherwise orders.

#### **304. WHEN PRESENTED BY WHOLE ASSEMBLY**

When an Address is ordered to be presented by the whole Assembly, the Speaker, with Members of the Assembly, shall proceed to such place as the Administrator may appoint and, being admitted to the Administrator's presence, the Speaker shall read the Address to the Administrator, the Members who moved and seconded such Address being on the Speaker's left hand.

#### **305. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPLY**

The Administrator's reply to any Address presented by the whole Assembly shall be reported by the Speaker.



## **Chapter XXXI**

### **STANDING ORDERS**

#### **306. SUSPENSION**

In cases of necessity, any Standing or Sessional Order or order of the Assembly may be suspended on motion moved without notice: provided that such motion is carried by an absolute majority of the whole number of Members.

#### **307. MOTION ON NOTICE**

When a motion for the suspension of any Standing or Sessional Order or order of the Assembly appears on the Notice Paper, such motion may be carried by a majority of votes.

#### **308. LIMITATION**

A suspension of Standing Orders is limited in its operation to the particular purpose for which suspension has been sought.

#### **309. TO CONTINUE IN FORCE**

The whole of these Standing Orders shall continue in force until altered, amended, or repealed.



## INDEX

(Numbers indicated are those of Standing Orders)

### **Absence —**

Chairman of Committees, 10  
Clerk, 15  
Deputy Clerk, 15  
Members, 25, 26, 27, 28  
Speaker, 9, 10  
Speaker and Chairman, 10, 12

### **Absolute majority, 306**

### **Acting Administrator, references apply to, 5**

### **Acting Chairman of Committees, 12**

### **Acting Speaker, 9, 10**

### **Acts** *See* "Proposed Laws"

### **Addresses —**

Administrator, to, 300  
Administrator's reply, 4, 305  
Administrator's Speech, in reply to –  
    business before motion for, 3(m), 3(n), 3(p)  
    motion for, 3(q)  
    presentation, 4  
    reported, 4  
    seconded, 3(q)  
Governor-General, to, 300  
motions for, 300, 301  
Papers or documents, 252  
presentation by whole Assembly, 304  
presentation, 302, 303, 304  
Queen, to, 300  
reply reported, 305  
Royal Family, to, 301  
transmission through Administrator, 302

### **Adjournment —**

Assembly, of, 10, 32, 35, 36-38, 41, 41A, 42, 43  
debate, of, 71, 72, 73, 74  
grave disorder in case of, 244  
special, 43

### **Administrator —**

Address-in-Reply, to speech, 4  
addresses –  
    presented to, 302, 303, 304  
    reply reported, 4, 305  
addresses to Governor-General, 300, 302  
addresses to Royal Family, 300, 301  
amendments to proposed law, recommended by, 205, 206, 207, 208  
assent to proposed laws, 204, 209  
attendance in Chamber, 3(c), 3(g), 3(h), 6  
declares causes of calling Assembly together, 3(c), 3(g), 3(j)  
Deputy of 3(b), 3(c)  
messages from, 229, 232, 233, 234  
notice calling Assembly together, 3(a), 6  
opening speech, 3(j)  
papers presented by command of, 253

### **Administrator (cont) —**

presentation of–  
    proposed laws for assent, 204  
    Speaker, 3(g)  
references to –  
    in debate, 61  
    to apply to Acting Administrator, 5

### **Affirmation of Members, 3(d)**

### **Amendments —**

admissible, 136, 189  
alternative question on, 142  
amendments to, 144, 148, 149  
appropriation and taxing Bills, to, 229, 231  
censure, 95  
charge, increasing a, 231  
Clerk with authority of Speaker, by, 202  
Committee, in, 189  
copies to be available, 190  
earlier part of question, to, 144  
form of, 136  
form of question to, 139, 140, 141, 142  
inadmissible, 42, 71, 134, 143, 144, 145, 229, 231  
inconsistent, 143  
infringing financial initiative, 229, 231  
kinds of, 136  
long title, 195  
money bills, 229, 231  
moving of, 136, 144, 149  
new clauses, 188  
order of moving, 144, 149  
question put when made, 150  
question when not made, 151  
questions, to, 139, 140, 141, 142  
reasoned, 181  
relevancy of, 138, 181, 189  
same question, 134  
second reading, 180, 181  
signed, to be, 137, 190  
six months, 180, 200  
subsequent, to proposed laws, 202  
taxing Bills, 231  
third reading, 200  
withdrawal of, 147  
words already agreed to, 145  
writing, in, 137, 190

### **Anticipation —**

business, of, 68, 129  
Speaker to determine, 68, 129

### **Appointments —**

Chairman of Committees, 8(1), 8(2)  
Committee of Privileges, 18  
House Committee, 19  
Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
    Committee, 21B  
Legal and Constitutional Affairs, 21B  
Privileges, Committee of, 18

## **Appointments (cont)**

Public Accounts Committee, 21A  
Publications Committee, 20  
select committees, 91(d), 260  
standing committees, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 91  
Standing Orders Committee, 17  
Subordinate Legislation and Publications  
Committee, 20

**Appropriation** Bills, 67, 181, 188, 229,  
230, 233, 234

## **Arrest** —

Member, 245, 247  
strangers, 246, 247

## **Assembly** —

definitions, 2  
Business of, 91  
new, meeting of, 3  
new session, commencement of, 6  
opening of, 3

## **Attendance of Members** —

daily, 23  
excluded from, 243  
leave of absence, 25  
ordered for examination, 245, 286  
public sessions of select committee, 273  
recorded in Minutes, 23  
select committee witness, 287  
wilful disobedience, 245

## **Ballot** —

as required, 297  
Chairman of Committees, appointment, 8  
procedure for, 297, 298, 299  
Speaker, election, 7

## **Bar** —

persons in custody brought to, 247  
witnesses at, 291

## **Bells rung** —

ballot, before, 7, 8, 298  
division, 161  
quorum, lack of, 32, 36, 37

## **Bills** —

amendments —  
Administrator, recommended by, 205, 206,  
207, 208  
appropriation, to 181, 229  
Clerk, with authority of Speaker, by, 202  
Committee *See* "Bills – Committee  
stage" Governor-General, recommended  
by, 205, 206, 207, 208  
recommended by Administrator or  
Governor-General, 205, 206, 207, 208  
second reading, 180, 181  
subsequent to passing, 202  
taxation, to, 231  
third reading, 200  
verbal or formal, 202  
application for urgency, 179  
appropriation, 67, 181, 188, 229, 230, 233, 234  
appropriation, message for, 229, 232, 233, 234  
assent, 204, 209

## **Bills (cont)** —

charge, for imposition of, 231  
clauses, 174, 187, 188, 191, 192, 193, 194  
Clerk's certificate, 204, 209  
clauses, 174, 187, 188, 191, 192, 193, 194  
committal, 183, 185  
committee stage —  
amendments—  
admissible, 189  
appropriation, to, 229  
discussion on, 191  
inadmissible, 194 *And see* 134, 144, 145  
inconsistent, 194  
question after, 193  
relevancy of, 189, 191  
same in substance, 194 *And see* 134  
tax proposals, 231  
title, 189, 195  
committee stage —  
instructions, 183, 235, 236, 237  
new clauses, 188  
order of consideration, 188  
proceedings not noticed, 197  
question on clauses, 187  
report, 196, 197  
schedules, 188  
title and preamble, 187, 188, 195  
declaration of urgency, 178, 179  
explanatory statement, 177A  
financial, 229, 230, 231  
first reading, 175  
instruction, 183, 235, 236, 237  
intervals between stages, 175, 177, 178, 182,  
183, 184, 199, 225  
lapsed, 203  
leave of Speaker to bring in, 173  
message recommending appropriation, 229,  
233, 234  
money, 67, 229, 230, 233, 234  
money clauses, amendments, 229, 234  
notice of intention, 173, 174, 230  
passing of, after third reading, 201  
postponed clauses, 188, 192  
preamble, 187, 188  
presentation —  
assent, for, 202, 204  
bill, of, 173  
notice, of, 173  
printing, 173(4), 209  
proposed law returned, 205  
prorogation, restoration to Notice Paper, 203  
reading of, 175, 176, 177, 182, 199  
reasoned amendment, 181  
recommittal, 188 (2), 198  
relevancy of —  
amendment, 189  
discussion, 191  
report, 196, 197, 199  
restored after prorogation, 203  
schedules, 188

## **Bills (cont) —**

- second reading –
  - amendment to, 180, 181
  - day fixed for, 177
  - irrelevant debate, 67
  - moving of, 177
  - pro forma*, 182
  - proceedings following, 183
  - reply allowed, 55
  - time limit on passage, 178
- select committee on, 182, 183, 184, 186
- serial number, 173(2)
- six months amendment, 180,200
- stages, intervals between, 175, 177, 178, 182, 183, 184, 199,225
- supply 181, 229, 230,234
- taxation, 230,231
- third reading –
  - amendment to, 200
  - leave to move forthwith, 183
  - question for, 199
  - reply allowed, 55
  - time for moving, 199
  - time limits, 178, 179
  - title, 173(2), 174, 176, 187, 188, 195, 198, 202
- urgent, 178, 179

**Breach of privilege** *See* “Privilege”

**Budget debate** *See* “Bills — Appropriation”

## **Buildings –**

- House Committee advises on, 19

## **Business –**

- Address-in-Reply to Administrator’s Speech,
  - before, 3(m)l 3(n)
- adjournment at end of, 42
- anticipation of 68, 129
- arrangement of items of, 89,90,91, 92, 93, 94, 95
- Assembly, of the, 91
- conduct of –
  - business, 89
  - Committee of the Whole, in, 219
  - general rule, 1
- formal before –
  - Address-in-Reply adopted, 3(m)
  - Administrator’s Speech reported, 3(p)
- general –
  - precedence, 93
- general rule, 1
- government –
  - order, 90,93
  - precedence, 93
- ministerial reports, 27
- motion to call on, 94
- new business after 9pm, 41B
- obstruction of, 71(3)
- order of, 90

## **Business (cont) —**

- precedence or priority to –
  - Business of the Assembly, 91
  - censure motion, 95
  - condolence motion, 125
  - leave of absence motion, 25
  - notices of motion, 123, 124
  - orders of the day, 153, 154
  - privilege matter, 83, 86
  - question of order, 80
  - thanks motion, 125
  - want of confidence motion, 95
- programming of questions, 98
- routine of, 90
- time limits for certain, 77

## **Call —**

- Speaker to decide, 52

## **Casting vote —**

- Chairman of Committees, 218
- Chairman of a committee, 268
- Speaker, 8(2) (k), 172, 299

## **Causes of calling Assembly —**

- Administrator declares, 3(j)
- Deputy to inform Assembly, 3(c)

## **Censure —**

- accepted by Minister, 95
- amendment by, 95
- motion of, 95
- precedence to, 95

## **Certificate, Clerk’s —**

- Bills, 204, 209
- petitions, 97 (m)

## **Chairman do now leave Chair,** motion, 226

## **Chairman of Committees/ Deputy Speaker -**

- absence, 10
- absence of Speaker, 9
- appointment, 8
- ballot for appointment, 8(2) (g), (h), (j), (k), (n), (p)
- call Deputy to take Chair, 13
- casting vote, 218
- Chair of Committees –
  - left by, 85, 196, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 240
  - taken or resumed by, 213, 214
- committees of the whole –
  - disorder in, 221
  - duties in, 187, 196, 213
- Deputy Chairmen, 12, 13
- Deputy Speaker, 9
- “Do now leave Chair” motion, 226
- Members –
  - naming of, 239
  - orders to discontinue speech, 70
  - orders to withdraw, 242
- order, maintains, , 44, 219
- quorum, want of, action by, 37, 39, 40, 222, 223
- reports to Assembly, 224, 225, 240

## **Chairman of Committees (cont)**

rulings –  
dissent from, 220  
division, during, 168  
objection to, 220  
same question, may disallow, 134  
committees, member of, 263  
strangers, withdrawal, 249  
vote optional in division, 164  
vacancy in office of, 8(1)

**Chairman of a committee** – *See*  
“Committees”

## **Chamber** –

definition, 2

doors –

closed, 162  
locked, 162, 163  
unlocked, 161

Members –

movements in, 45, 46, 47, 48, 81, 162  
places in, 24  
seating, 2, 24  
to remain in, 33, 39, 160, 162

strangers in, 246, 248, 249, 250

*And see* “Galleries”

**Charges upon the people**, 231

## **Chief Minister** —

application for urgency, 179

definition of, 2

nominates general business day, 93

order of government business, 93

## **Clerk Assistant**, 15

## **Clerk of the Assembly** —

absence of, 15

Chairman, acts as, 3(f), 7, 10

committees, meeting 267, 284

custody of records, 30

duties in regard to –

absence of Speaker, 9, 10  
absence of Speaker and Chairman, 10  
appointment, Chairman of Committees, 8(h)  
ballots, 299  
bills, 202, 204, 209  
Deputy of Administrator’s commission, 3(b)  
divisions, 158, 165  
election of Speaker, 7  
Minutes of Proceedings, 29  
motions, notices of, 101, 103, 104, 105, 107  
notice calling Assembly together, 31a), 6  
papers, 25 1, 253  
petitions, 97, 98,  
questions, written, 116, 117, 118  
record Members’ attendance, 23  
Speaker, 9, 10, 14  
vacancy in office of Speaker, 14  
witnesses, summoning of, 284  
writs, 3(d)

vacancy in office of, 16

## **Closure** —

debate, of-

by motion, 78

by reply, 56

election –

Chairman, 8

Speaker, 7

interruption of debate, 69

member, of, 79

question, of, 78

## **Commission** —

Deputy of Administrator, of, read, 3(b)

## **Committee of Privileges** —

appointment of, 18

breach referred to, 83, 84

matters referred to, 18

membership of 18

sit during adjournment, 18

terms of reference, 18

Committee of the Whole Assembly

appointment, 211

Assembly resolves itself into, 212, 214

bills, consideration of, *See* “Bills”

business –

after quorum formed, 223

conduct of, 219

interrupted, Speaker resumes Chair, 221,  
222, 223

recommitted, 228

resumed, 38, 226

superseded, 226

Chair taken by Chairman, 213, 214

Chairman, *See* “Chairman of Committees”

contradictory motions, 217

count out, 38

decisions of, 216, 222

disorder in, 44, 219, 221, 239, 242, 244

divisions in, 218

instructions to, 235, 236, 237

interruption of, 226

matters considered, 215

motions –

“Chairman leave Chair”, 226

contradictory, 217

progress, to report, 225

order in, 44, 219

procedure in, 219

progress, report of, 214, 225

questions of order in divisions, 168

questions in, 216

quorum, 37, 210, 222, 223

report of matters considered, 224

resolutions of, 228

revived, may be when interrupted, 226

ruling of Chairman, objection to, 220

Speaker resumes Chair, 221

vote of Chairman, 218

## **Committees —**

See “Committee of Privileges”, “Committee of the Whole Assembly”, “Committees, Select”, “Committees, Standing”, “House Committee”, “Public Accounts Committee”, “Standing Orders Committee” and “Subordinate Legislation and Publications Committee”

Adoption of report, 278

adjournment, 265, 270A, 270B, 270C

appointment, 260

bills, on See “Bills”

Chairman, 265, 268, 271, 272, 276, 277, 279, 280, 281,

Chairman of Committees on, 263

Clerk of the Assembly, 267, 284

clerk of committee, 266, 279

dissenting report, 276

divisions, 269

evidence –

authorised publication of, 274

by officers elsewhere, 296

disclosure of, 274

publication of, 274

premature publication, 274

protection of witnesses, 290

instructions to, 238

meetings and sittings, 267, 270A, 270B, 270C

members –

appointment, 260, 262

attendance of other members, 273

charge against, 288

discharge of, 262

leave of absence, 26

names recorded, 266, 269

pecuniary interest, 264

presence of, 273

publication of, 274

minutes, 266, 269

papers, 270A, 270B, 270C, 279

petitions, reference to, 99

power, send for persons, papers, etc, 270A, 270B

proceedings, premature publication of, 274

protest or dissent, 276

quorum, 265, 266

record of proceedings, 269

reports –

adoption of report, 278

alternative draft, 277

chairman’s signature, 279

consideration, 276

discussion of, 276, 281

dissenting, 276

draft –

alternative, 277

consideration, 276

preparation of, 276

protest or dissent, 276

evidence, report, with or without, 274, 275

premature publication, 274

presentation, 92, 261, 275, 280, 281

## **Committees (contd)—**

reports - (cont)

progress, with or without evidence, 275

protest or dissent, 276

Speaker on, 263

strangers, admission of, 272

video conferencing, 270A

witnesses See “Witnesses”

## **Committees, Standing —**

House Committee, 19

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, 21B

Privileges Committee, 18

Public Accounts Committee, 21A

Standing Orders Committee, 17

Subordinate Legislation and Publications Committee, 20

**Communications** See “Messages”

## **Condolence —**

precedence to motion of, 125

**Contempt** See “Privilege”

**Count of the Assembly** See

“Divisions”

and “Quorums”

## **Count-out —**

Assembly adjourned, 32, 35, 36, 37, 38

resumption of proceedings after, 35, 38, 223

## **Custody —**

Members and strangers taken into, 245, 246, 247

Minutes of Proceedings, records etc of, 30

witness in, 289

**Days and hours of meeting, 31**

## **Debate —**

abuse of orders or forms of, 71

addressed to Mr Speaker, 49

adjournment, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76

Administrator, references to, 61

allusion to former debate, 59

anticipation, 68

call of Chair, 52, 74, 75

closure of, 7(f), 56, 69, 78

committee, in, 77, 219

conclusion of, question put, 58

count out, interrupted by, 38

curtailment of, 77

discussion of matter of public importance, 94

disorderly words, 63, 64

documents quoted from, 255, 256

explanation –

personal, 57

speech, of, 53, 54

extension of time for speech, 77

Governor-General, references to, 61

imputations, 62

interruption of, 69

irrelevance, 67, 70

Judiciary, references to, 62

limitation of, time limits, 77

## **Debate (contd) —**

matters not open to, 71

Members –

- address Speaker, 49
- “be further heard” motion, 70
- “be now heard” motion, 52
- closure of, 78, 79
- “do now speak” motion, 52
- not speaking, behaviour of, 51
- passing between Chair and Member speaking 48
- references to, 65
- rising together, 52
- speaking while seated, 50
- unable to stand, 50

misrepresentation, 53, 54

misunderstood, 53, 54

obstructing business, 71

offensive words, 62, 63, 64

order –

- abuse of order or forms, 71
- committee, in, 219
- division, in, 168
- Member may raise question of at any time, 80
- Member rising to speak to, 81
- question of -
  - committee, in, 219, 220
  - division, in, 168
  - Member called resumes seat, 81
  - Member may be interrupted to raise, 69
- precedence to, 80
- Speaker gives ruling, 81

order, in, rules, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 51

order maintained, Speaker and Chairman, 44

personal explanation, 53, 54, 57

personal reflections, 62

petitions, no reference to, 99

point of order, 69

previous debates, references to, 59

privilege matter, 69, 83, 87

progress, motion to report, 225

quarrels, 66

Queen, references to, 61

Queen’s representatives, references to, 61

question of order, 69

questions seeking information, not to be debated, 112

references to –

- debates on proceedings, 59
- Members, 65

reflections on –

- Members, 63
- vote of Assembly, 60

relevancy –

- adjournment of Assembly motions, 67
- appropriation bills, 67
- Chairman, appointment, 8(d)
- explanation of words, 54
- persistent irrelevance, 70
- previous debate, 59
- reply, of mover of substantive motion, 55

## **Debate (cont) —**

relevancy – (**cont**)

- Speaker, election, 7(d)
- subject-matter under discussion, 67
- supply bills, 67
- repetition, tedious, 70
- reply, right of, 53, 55, 56
- resumption of, 38, 74, 75
- rules of, 44-82

rulings–

- Chairman, 220
- Speaker, 81, 82

Speaker, duties of *See* “Speaker”

speaking twice, 53

statutes, references to, 62

subject matter, 67, 68

tedious repetition, 70

time limits, 77

vote of Assembly, reflections on, 60

**Deputy Chairmen of Committees,**  
12, 13

**Deputy Clerk,** 15, 16

**Deputy Speaker,** 2, 9, 11, 13

**Disallowance of instrument,** 91

**Discharge of orders,** 155

**Discussion of matter of public importance,** 94

**Disobedience to orders of Assembly,** 245

**Disorder —**

- committee of the whole, in, 219, 221, 239
- galleries, in, 246
- grave, in Assembly, 244
- Member, by, 239, 242

**Dissent —**

from rulings –

- Chairman, 220
- Speaker, 82

to report of a Committee, 276

recorded, 157, 167, 276

**Distinguished visitors,** 248

**Divisions —**

bells rung, 161

call for, 133, 156

call of more than one Member required, 157, 167

casting vote –

- Chairman of Committees, 218
- chairman, of a committee, 268
- Speaker, 172

Chairman’s vote optional, 164, 218

Clerk’s count, 158, 165

committee of whole, in, 218

committees, select in, *See* “Select Committees”  
under this heading

confusion in numbers, in, 170

dissent of one Member, 157, 167

doors locked, 162, 163

errors in, 170, 171

## **Divisions (contd) —**

### **Members –**

- calling for, 156, 157, 160, 164
  - counted, 159, 165
  - divide, 163
  - names taken, 165, 169, 171
  - one only on a side, 157, 167
  - to remain in Chamber and vote, 160, 162
  - vote of 159, 160, 164
- mistakes in, 170, 171
- question decided by, 156
- question of order during, 168
- question stated, 163
- quorum, want of, 35, 222
- recorded in Minutes of Proceedings and Parliamentary Record, 169
- required, 157, 167
- result declared, 166
- Select and Standing Committees, in, 269
- Speaker –
- casting vote, 172
  - correct record in case of error, in, 171
  - opinion challenged, 156, 171
  - vote optional, 164
- successive divisions, 161
- voice, voting in accordance with, 159, 160
- voting optional for Speaker and Chairman, 164, 218

### **Documents** *See* “Papers and Documents”

### **Doors of Chamber**, 40, 161, 162

### **Election —**

- Acting Speaker, of, 10
- General, first meeting after, 3
- Speaker, 3(e), 7
- vacancy in office of Speaker, for, 14
- writs for, tabled, 3(d)

### **Electorate —**

- Member to be referred to by name of, 65

### **Evidence —**

- non-attendance of witness to give, 285
- not reported, 274
- premature publication, 274
- refusal of Member to attend or to give, 287
- restriction on officer or employee, 296

### **Explanations —**

- conduct of Member, 245
- explanatory statements, 177A
- personal, 54, 57
- words, of, 53, 54

### **Explanatory Statement** 177A

### **Extension of time for speeches**, 77

### **Financial procedures**, 229, 230, 231, 233, 234

### **First meeting —**

- after General Election, 3
- after prorogation, 6

### **Forfeiture, of leave of absence**, 28

### **Formal business**, 3(m)

## **Furnishings —**

- House Committee advises on, 19

### **Galleries —**

- admission to, 248
- Members may admit to, 248
- misconduct in, 246
- Speaker’s, 248
- withdrawal ordered from, 246, 249

### **Gardens —**

- House Committee advises on, 19

### **General business —**

- precedence to, 93

### **General election —**

- first meeting after, 3
- writs for, tabled, 3(d)

### **General rule for conduct of business**, 1

### **Government business —**

- order, 93
- precedence, 91, 93

### **Governor-General —**

- addresses to, 300,302
- addresses to Royal Family, 302
- amendments to proposed law, recommended by, 205, 206, 207, 208
- references to, in debate, 61

### **Grave disorder**, 244

Hansard *See* “Parliamentary Record”

### **Hours of meeting**, 31

### **House Committee —**

- appointment of, 19
- membership, 19

### **House of Representatives, practice**, 1

### **Instructions to committees**, 183, 235,236, 237, 238

### **Interruption of Member speaking**, 51, 69

### **Irrelevance in debate**, 67, 70

### **Judiciary, references to**, 62

### **Leave of absence**, 25, 26, 27,28

### **Leave of Assembly or committee**, 74, 96

### **Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee**, 21B

### **Legislation** *See* “Subordinate Legislation and Publications Committee”

### **Legislative Assembly —**

- definition of, 2

### **Library —**

- House Committee advises on, 19

### **Limitation of debate or speeches**, 7(e), 8(e), 77

### **Mace**, 7(r)

### **Matter of public importance**, 90, 94

## **Meeting of Assembly —**

after prorogation, 6  
daily sitting, 31  
motion to fix, 43  
new Assembly, of, 3  
times of 31

## **Members —**

absence, leave of, 25, 26, 27, 28  
addressing Speaker, 49  
affirmation by, 3(d)  
arrest of, 245, 247  
attendance –  
    ordered by Assembly, 245  
    record of, 23, 27  
called to speak, 52  
calling for division, 156, 160, 164  
charges against, before committee, 288  
closure of, 79  
committees, admission to, 273  
custody, taken into, 245, 247  
debate, conduct in and manner and right of *See*  
    “Debate”  
disobedience, wilful, 239, 245  
disorderly conduct, 239  
divisions, rights and obligations during, 156,  
    157, 158, 159, 160, 162, 163, 164, 167, 168,  
    169  
examined in place, 295  
grossly disorderly conduct, 242  
leave of absence, 25  
naming of, 239  
oath, 3(d)  
obstructing business, 239  
offensive references to, 62  
ordered to attend to answer for conduct, 245  
pecuniary interest, 264  
quarrels between not permitted, 66  
referred to by name of electoral division, 65  
seats in Chamber, 24  
select committee, admission to, 273  
selection by ballot, 260, 262, 299  
Serjeant-at-Arms, taken into custody by, 245,  
    247  
strangers, admission of, 248, 25(1)  
suspension of, 240, 240A, 241, 242, 243  
sworn in, 3(d)  
withdrawal from Assembly, 242  
witnesses, as, 286, 287, 295

## **Messages —**

Administrator, from, 232, 233, 234  
amendment, 229, 234  
announcement of, 232, 234  
appropriation, recommending, 229, 233, 234  
financial proposals to be recommended by, 233

## **Ministerial reports, 97**

**Ministerial statements, 90, 92, 258,**  
    259

## **Ministers —**

Chief Minister, definition of, 2  
definition of, 2  
documents quoted from, 255  
questions to, 109, 112, 119  
terms of petition referred to, 100

**Minutes of Proceedings, 23, 27,**  
    29,30, 157, 167, 169, 172

**Misrepresentation of speech, 54**

**Money bills, 229, 230, 233, 234**

## **Motions —**

absence, for leave of, 25  
absence of Member in charge of, 126  
addresses, for, 252  
adjournment of Assembly, 41, 42, 43  
adjournment of debate, 72, 73  
anticipation of other business, 129  
bills, for introduction and passage *See* “Bills”  
business, to obstruct, 71(3)  
business of the day, to call on 71(1)(c), 94  
called on and not moved, 127  
censure, 95  
“Chairman do now leave Chair”, 71(1)(j), 226,  
    227  
closure –  
    Chairman, appointment, 8(2)(f)  
    debate, of, 78  
    member, of, 79  
    Speaker, election, 7(f)  
condolence, of, 125  
contradictory, 194, 217  
debate on, not allowed, 71  
dissent from rulings –  
    Chairman, 220  
    Speaker, 82  
formal, 3(m)  
leave, by, 122  
leave of absence, for, 25  
meeting of Assembly, for next, 43  
member failing to move, 127  
member giving notice, absent, 126  
ministerial statements –  
    print, 259  
    take note of, 259  
moving of –  
    second time, 130  
    without argument or opinion offered, 71  
not called on, 124, 154  
not moved, 127  
notices of –  
    alteration, 103  
    amendment by Speaker, 106  
    anticipation of other business, 29  
    change of day for moving, 107  
    division of, 105  
    giving of, 90, 101, 102, 104  
    government business, order of, 93  
    irregular, 106  
    lapse of, 126

## **Motions (cont) —**

notices of – (cont)

- not required, when, 122
- operation of, 122
- order on Notice Paper, 104
- postponement of, 107
- signatures required, 101, 102
- terms of, reported to Assembly, 101
- time for dealing with, 90
- unbecoming or offensive, 106
- withdrawal of, 103, 108, 126, 127, 128
- writing, to be in, 101, 102

papers –

- print or take note of, 257
- production of, 251, 256

postponement of, 123, 126, 127

precedence of, 123, 124, 125

petitions, on, 98, 99

privilege, matter of 84, 86

procedural, debate not allowed, 71

progress reporting, 225

qualification of member, touching, 91

question concerning, 110

question from Chair, on, 128

requiring notice, 122

same question, 134

seconded, 3(q), 7(a), 8(2) (a)

substantive, reply allowed, 55

supersedes, 130, 190

suspension of-

- Member, 240, 241, 240A, 242
- standing and other orders, 306, 307

thanks, of, 125

want of confidence, 95

withdrawal of, 126, 127, 128

without notice, 122

writing, to be in, 101, 102

**Naming of Member**, 239, 242

## **Newspapers —**

complaint of breach of privilege founded on, 87

## **Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act**, 2

## **Notice Paper —**

government business on, arranged by Minister, 93

notice of motion –

- amendment of, 103, 106
- not called on, 124,
- order of, on, 104
- publication on, 122
- withdrawal from, 126

orders of the day –

- not called on, 154
- precedence of, 153

restoration to, of lapsed bill, 203

## **Notice of rescission of resolution or vote**, 135

Notices of motion *See* “Motions – notices of”

## **Oaths, taken by Members**, 3(d)

## **Obeisance to Chair**, 46

## **Objection to ruling of -**

Chairman, 220

Speaker, 82

## **Objectionable words**, 62, 63, 64, 239

## **Obstruction of business —**

certain proposals, 71

Member, by, 239

## **Offence, against Legislative Assembly (Powers and Privileges) Act** 88

## **Offensive words**, 62, 63, 64

## **Officers of Assembly**

*See* “Clerk of the Assembly”, “Clerk Assistant”, “Deputy Clerk”, “Serjeant-at-Arms” and “Witnesses”

## **Opening of —**

Assembly, 3

new session, 6

## **Order See “Debate – Order”**

## **Orders of the Day —**

anticipation of discussion of 68, 129

committee consideration, for, 212, 214

definition, 152

discharge of, 155

government business, order of, 93

not called on, 154

postponement, 153

precedence, 153

time for dealing with, 90

## **Orders of the Assembly —**

disobedience to, 245

suspension of, 306, 307, 308

## **Papers and Documents —**

copies and extracts, 254

custody, 30

inspection of, 254

motion for production of, 251, 252, 256

motion to take note of, 257

ordered by Assembly, 251, 256

presentation of, 90, 92, 253

printing of, 257

public, 254

Public Accounts Committee, 21A

quoted from, 255, 256

recorded in Minutes of Proceedings, 253

return to departments, 30

select committee, report signed, 279

Subordinate Legislation and Publications Committee, reference to, 20

## **Parliamentary Record**, 62, 118, 157, 167, 169, 172

## **Personal —**

explanation, 53, 54, 57

pecuniary interest, in committee inquiry, 264

reflections, 62

## **Petition —**

Clerk's certificate, 97(k)  
general rules, 97-100  
presentation, time for, 90  
reference –  
    by Clerk to Minister responsible, 100  
    to Select or Standing Committee, 99  
    to Subordinate legislation and Publications  
    Committee, 20(5)  
response, 100A  
time for Lodgement, 97(m)

## **Places of Members, 24**

## **Postponement of —**

amendments recommended by Administrator or  
Governor-General, 206  
clauses, 188, 192  
consideration of resolutions from Committee of  
the Whole, 228  
motion, 123, 126, 127  
notice of motion, 107  
Order of the Day, 153  
title and preamble of Bill, 187

## **Practice of House of Representatives, 1**

## **Prayers, 34**

## **Precincts —**

House Committee advises on, 19

## **Privilege —**

apparent breach of, 83  
complaint of breach of, reference to Committee,  
18, 83, 84  
matters –  
    precedence to, 83  
    raising of, 69, 83, 84, 85

## **Privileges Committee**

## **See “Committee of Privileges”**

## **Proceedings, resumption of after count-out, 38**

## **Progress, report of, 225**

## **Proposed Laws, 201, 202, 205-219**

## **Prorogation, resumption of, proceedings on lapsed bills, 203**

## **Public importance, matter**

procedure, 94  
time for discussion of, 90  
Speech time limits, 77

## **Public Accounts Committee, 21A**

## **Publications Committee, 20**

## **Qualifications of Member—**

motion touching, 91

## **Quarrels, 66**

## **Queen, Her Majesty The —**

addresses to, 300, 302  
references to, 61

## **Questions from the Chair—**

amendments *See* Amendments”  
“Be now put” (closure), 7(f), 8(f), 71, 78  
Clerk puts, 7(f), 10  
complicated, division of, 131  
debate not allowed, 71  
decided –  
    by division, 133, 218  
    by voices, 132, 216  
    in Committee, 216, 218  
    when debate concluded, 131  
divided upon, 133, 156  
negatived, if numbers equal, 218  
proposed to Assembly, 128  
put –  
    forthwith, 71  
    when debate concluded, 131  
same question, 134

## **Questions seeking information —**

alteration of, 115  
answers to, 113, 114, 119A  
Chairman of committee, to, 111  
form and content, rules, 112, 121  
inadmissible, 112, 114, 121  
Members to, other than Ministers, 110  
Ministers, to, 109, 112  
Parliamentary Record, printed in, 118  
persons regarding, 121  
programming of Questions, 98  
Questions asked on previous days, 119A  
Question Paper, question and answer printed in,  
116, 117, 118  
renewal of, 114  
replies to, 118  
Speaker, addressed to, 120  
time for, 90, 119, 120  
written, 116  
written answers, 118

## **Quorum — (10 Members)**

Committee –  
    division, in, 37, 222  
debate interrupted by want of, 36, 37, 38  
doors unlocked, bells rung, 40  
Member speaking interrupted, 69  
Members not to leave Chamber, 39  
noticed by member, 223  
required –  
    Assembly, 32, 35, 36  
    committee of the whole, 210  
    election Acting Speaker, 10  
    select committee, 265, 266  
    standing committee, 22  
want of-  
    Assembly –  
    division, in 35  
    noticed by Member, 36  
    Speaker, action by, 35, 36  
    time of meeting, at, 32  
Speaker, action by, 37

## **Reasoned amendment *See* “Bills – Second Reading –amendment”**

## **Reasons —**

casting vote of Speaker, 172

## **Recommittal of Bill, 198**

## **Records —**

custody in Clerk, 30

Minutes of Proceedings etc., 27, 29, 30, 253

## **Relevancy of —**

amendments, 138

amendments in bills, 181, 189

appointment of Chairman, 8(d)

clauses of bills, 174

committee instructions, 236, 237

debate, 54, 55, 59, 67, 70, 191

election of Speaker, 7(d)

notices of motions, parts of, 105

petitions, statements in, 97(a)

## **Reply —**

Administrator's, on Address-in-reply, 4

closes debate, 56

right of, 53, 55, 56

## **Report of —**

bill from committee, 195, 196, 197

Committee of the Whole, 224

disorder in committee, 44, 219, 240

division, error in, 170, 171

progress, 225

select committee, 91, 92, 261, 275, 276, 280, 281

standing committee, presentation, 92

want of quorum in committee, 222, 223

## **Rescission of resolution, 135**

## **Resolutions —**

Committee of the Whole, from, 228

rescission of, 135

## **Royal Family, Address to, 301, 302**

## **Rulings of —**

Chairman, 220

Speaker, 81, 82

## **Same question, 134**

## **Schedules See "Bills"**

## **Seats —**

distinguished strangers, for, 248

Members –

Chamber, in, 24

to resume, 45

## **Second reading of bills See "Bills"**

## **Second speech, 53**

## **Select committee See**

### **"Committees – Select"**

## **Serjeant-at-Arms —**

admits strangers to Public Gallery, 248

takes into custody –

Member, 245, 247

stranger, 246, 247

## **Speaker (contd) —**

## **Session, new, opening of, 6**

## **Sessional orders, suspension of, 306, 307**

## **Sitting and Adjournment of Assembly —**

adjournment –

absence of Speaker and Chairman, 10

by resolution, 41, 41A, 42, 67

grave disorder, 244

want of quorum, 32, 35, 36, 37

days and hours of meeting, 31, 31A

definition, 2

next meeting, motion to fix, 43

suspended –

appointment of Chairman, 8(m)

election of Speaker, 3(e), 7(n)

grave disorder, 244

## **Speaker —**

absence of, 9, 10

Acting Speaker, 9, 10

Address-in-Reply presented by, 4

addresses presented by, 302, 303, 304

adjourns Assembly, 32, 35, 36, 37, 244

Administrator –

presentation to, 3(g)

presents Address-in-Reply, 4

reports reply, 4, 305

reports speech, 3(p)

arrests, reports, 247

calls Members to speak, 52

casting vote, 8(2)(k), 172

Chair –

left by, 212, 213, 214

resumed by, 196, 221, 222, 240

committees, member of, 17, 19, 263

Deputy Chairmen nominated by, 12

Deputy Speaker, 8, 9, 11

determines question on –

anticipation, 68

matter of public importance, 94

obstructive motions, 71

offensive or disorderly words, 63, 64

privilege, 83(2)

divisions, duties, 133, 156, 160, 163, 164, 166, 167, 171, 172

election of-

new Assembly, 3(e)

procedure, 3(f), 7

vacancy, 10, 14

heard without interruption, 45

intervenes in debate, 62

Member –

discontinue speech, directs, to, 70

names, 239, 242

orders withdrawal, 242

summons to attend, 286

Minutes of Proceedings, etc., removal of, 30

notices of motions, 105, 106

order maintained by, 44

papers presented by, 253, 254

Prayers read by, 34

## **Speaker (contd) —**

Privilege, consideration of motion by Member, precedence of business, 83, 84

question –

- decision on, announces, 133
- proposed by, 128
- put by, 131, 240, 242
- stated by, 163

questions seeking information –

- alteration, 115
- supplementary, 119

quorum, want of, action by, 32, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40

relief to, 11, 12, 13

ruling of –

- after question of order, 81
- in division, 168
- objection to, 82

seats of members, 24

sitting suspended by, 32, 35, 36, 37, 244

strangers –

- admits, 248
- orders withdrawal of, 249

vacancy in office of, 14

warrant for witness, 289

witnesses, 286, 292

## **Speeches —**

contents of and rules *See* “Debates”

time limits, 77

time not reckoned, 78

## **Standing Orders —**

duration, 309

House of Representatives practice, 1

suspension of, 306, 307, 308

## **Standing Orders Committee, 17**

## **Statute —**

papers, 253

references to, 62, 63

## **Strangers –**

admission of, 248, 250

arrest of 246, 247

Chamber, in, 248, 249, 250

misconduct in galleries, 246

select committees, at, 272

taken into custody, 246, 247

withdrawal of, 249

## **Subordinate Legislation and Publications Committee, 20**

## **Supply Bills, 67, 181, 188, 229, 230**

## **Suspension of-**

Members, 71, 240, 240A, 241, 242, 243

sitting, 3(g), 7(n), 8(2)(m), 32, 35, 36, 37, 244

standing, sessional and other orders, 306, 307, 308

## **Taxation proposals, 230, 231**

## **Thanks, vote of, 125**

## **Tedious repetition, 70**

## **Third reading of bills *See* “Bills”**

## **Time —**

extension of, for speeches, 77

limits –

- appointment of Chairman, 8(2)(e)
- bills, passage of, 178
- debates and speeches, 77
- discussion of matter of public importance, 77
- election of Speaker, 7(e)

meeting of Assembly, for, 31

not reckoned, 78

## **Titles of Bills *See* “Bills”**

## **Urgency –**

application for, 179

declaration of, 179

## **Vacancy in office of –**

Chairman, 8(1)

Clerk, 16

Speaker, 14

## **Visitors *See* “Strangers”**

## **Vote of Assembly –**

condolence, 125

reflection on, 60

rescission or, 135

same, 134

thanks, of, 125

## **Votes —**

casting –

- Chairman, 218
- Chairman of a committee, 268
- Speaker, 8(2)(k), 172

*And see* “Ballot” and “Divisions”

## **Want of confidence motion, 95**

## **Warrant of Speaker, 289**

## **Withdrawal of-**

amendments, 144, 147

Member from –

- Assembly, 242
- select committee, 273

motions, 126, 128, 130

notices of motions, 103, 126

strangers, 246, 249, 272

witness, 294

## **Witnesses —**

bar, examined at, 291, 292, 293

charges against Members, 288

evidence, premature publication of, 274

examination of, 271, 291, 292, 293, 295

Members or officers as, 286, 296

prison, in, 289

protection of, 290

recusant, 285

- refusal of Member to attend when summoned, 287

summons of, 284, 286

withdrawal of, 294

## **Writs or copy writs —**

tabling of, 3(d)

=====