

# **Rules Committee Report**

Proposed Amendments to the  
Permanent Rules of the  
Nebraska Unicameral Legislature

Senator Robert Clements, Chairman  
January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# AGENDA

## **RULES COMMITTEE Executive Session**

10:15am, Friday, January 15th, 2021  
Hearing Room 1524

<b>Proposal Number</b>	<b>Senator</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Rule/Source Number</b>
14	M. Hansen	Caucus Votes	All caucus members vote for Executive Board positions.	Rule 1, Sec 1. Rule 3, Sec 2.
19	Hilgers	Roll Call Request	Introducer of motion controls order of rollcall vote.	Rule 7, Sec 2.
1	Albrecht	Pledge of Allegiance	Add Pledge of Allegiance following Opening Prayer.	Rule 7 (A), Sec 1.

## 2021 Rules Committee- Executive Session

10:15 am, Friday, January 15, 2021

### Vote Tally

<b>Proposa l Number</b>	<b>Introduce r</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Erdma n</b>	<b>M. Hanse n</b>	<b>J. Cavanaug h</b>	<b>Deboe r</b>	<b>Clement s</b>
14	M. Hansen	Caucus Votes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
19	Hilgers	Roll Call Request	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
1	Albrecht	Pledge of Allegianc e	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

## Proposed Rule Change #14

Sen. Matt Hansen Dist. 26

### RULE 1

**Section 1. Officers to be Elected.** (a) At the commencement of each regular session in odd-numbered years the Legislature shall nominate from the floor and elect by secret ballot the following officers:

Speaker

Chairperson of Committee on Committees

Chairperson of Executive Board

Vice Chairperson of Executive Board

6 Members of Executive Board (See footnote)

Before the ballot is taken each person so nominated may make a public statement to the Legislature indicating what the Legislature may expect from him or her in the area of the responsibility of such office. The officers so elected shall hold such office for a period of two years.

*The Legislature elects two from Legislative Districts 2, 3, 15, 16, 19, 21 through 29, 45, and 46; two from Legislative Districts 4 through 14, 18, 20, 31, 39, and 49; and two from Legislative Districts 1, 17, 30, 32 through 38, 40 through 44, 47, and 48. Speaker is member of Board; Chairperson of Appropriations is nonvoting member. RRS 50-401.01. These six members of the Executive Board shall be filled by a majority vote of all members of the respective caucus from which the positions represent, subject to approval of the Legislature.*

(b) In the event a vacancy occurs on the Executive Board, the following shall apply:

(i) The Vice Chairperson shall serve as acting Chairperson upon the resignation or death of the Chairperson until the commencing of the next regular session of the Legislature, at which time the Legislature shall nominate from the floor and elect by secret ballot a Chairperson of the Executive Board for the balance of the original term.

(ii) Upon the resignation or death of the Speaker, during the interim, said position shall remain vacant until the next regular session or special session the Legislature convenes, at which time a Speaker shall be nominated from the floor

and elected by secret ballot for the balance of the original term. Upon the resignation or death of the Speaker during the session, a Speaker shall immediately be nominated from the floor and elected by secret ballot for the balance of the term.

(iii) In the event there is a vacancy of the Vice Chairperson of the Executive Board during the interim, said vacancy shall be filled pursuant to Rule 3, Section 8(c) until the commencing of the next regular session of the Legislature at which time the Legislature shall nominate from the floor and elect by secret ballot a Vice Chairperson of the Executive Board for the balance of the original term.

(iv) During session, a vacancy among the remaining six members of the Executive Board shall be filled by a majority vote of all members of the respective caucus from which the vacancy occurred, subject to approval of the Legislature. The individual so selected shall serve for the balance of the original term. During the interim, a vacancy among the remaining six members of the Executive Board shall be filled by a majority vote of all members of the respective caucus from which the vacancy occurred, subject to approval of the Executive Board. The individual so selected shall serve for the balance of the original term

### **RULE 3**

**Sec. 2. Appointment of Committees.** (a) At the commencement of each biennium, the Legislature shall elect a Committee on Committees to consist of thirteen members, one at large who shall be chairperson, and four from Districts Number 2, 3, 15, 16, 19, 21 through 29, 45, and 46; four from Districts Number 4 through 14, 18, 20, 31, 39, and 49; and four from Districts Number 1, 17, 30, 32 through 38, 40 through 44, 47, and 48. These twelve members of the Committee on Committees shall be filled by a majority vote of all members of the respective caucus from which the positions represent, subject to approval of the Legislature.

(b) Immediately following chairmanship and Committee on Committees membership elections, the committee shall meet and, by a majority vote of all its members, submit to the Legislature a preliminary report of appointments to the remaining standing and select committees, each with the number of members as hereinafter set forth, unless otherwise provided for by rule or by statute. On the following day the Committee on Committees shall meet and, by a majority vote of all its members, submit to the Legislature a final report for its approval, appointments to the standing and select committees, each with a number of members as hereinafter set forth, unless otherwise provided for by rule or by

statute. Once the final report is presented to the Legislature, no amendments shall be considered. If the Legislature, by majority of the elected members, fails to adopt the final report of the Committee on Committees, such report shall be returned to the committee for further action.

(c) The membership of all standing and select committees shall be appointed at the beginning of each session beginning in odd-numbered years and shall continue until the regular session in the next subsequent odd-numbered year.

(d) During session, all vacancies on standing or select committees created by the death or resignation of a member shall be filled by a majority vote of all members of the Committee on Committees unless otherwise provided for by rule or statute. A vacancy within the Committee on Committees shall be filled by a meeting of the caucus established pursuant to Rule 3, Section 2(a).

During the interim, all vacancies on standing or select committees created by the death or resignation of a member shall inbe filled by a majority vote of all members of the Executive Board.

## Proposed Rule Change #19

Sen. Mike Hilgers Dist. 21

### **RULE 7**

**Sec. 2. Voting, Electric Roll Call.** (d) Whenever the "ayes" and "nays" are taken by machine vote, no member shall be permitted to vote after the decision is announced by the presiding officer or the Clerk. Votes not registered on the electric roll call system shall not be counted for or against a proposition. In announcing such vote, the Clerk shall announce the ayes, the nays, those present and not voting, those absent and not voting, and those excused and not voting, and on any action to advance or amend bills, these totals shall be set forth in the Journal. Voice votes shall be accepted on roll call or record votes. All roll call votes of the comprised membership shall be taken in alphabetical order starting with the first name that begins with the letter "A" or the letter closest to "A," except that any member may request a roll call vote in reverse alphabetical order. ~~unless the~~ The introducer of the motion or amendment under consideration ~~objects~~ may object to the form of the roll call. A roll call in reverse alphabetical order shall start with the member's name that begins with "Z" or the letter closest to "Z."

## **Proposed Rule Change #1**

Sen. Joni Albrecht Dist. 17

### **(Proposed Committee Amendment to Proposed Rule Change #1 - Rule 7 (A) Section 1.)**

1. Strike original Proposed Rule Change #1 and insert the following:

## **RULE 7 - PROCEEDINGS AND MOTIONS**

### **(A) Order of Business**

**Section 1. Meeting Time, Restrictions.** (a) The Legislature shall meet annually at 10:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday after the first Monday in January of each year and thereafter on each legislative day at 9:00 a.m., unless otherwise ordered by a majority vote of its members present and voting thereon. The Legislature shall remain in session until it shall adjourn sine die, but in no event shall it remain in session for longer than ninety (90) legislative days in odd-numbered years or sixty (60) legislative days in even-numbered years. This limitation may be suspended by a four-fifths vote of the elected senators. Each day the Legislature convenes shall be considered a legislative day.

*Const. Art. III, Sec. 10.*

(b) The order of business of the Legislature shall be as follows, except as otherwise provided by the Speaker.

- a. Prayer by the Chaplain
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- ~~b. c.~~ c. Roll call
- ~~e. d.~~ d. Call for correction of the Journal
- ~~d. e.~~ e. Petitions and memorials
- ~~e. f.~~ f. Notice of committee hearings and reports
- ~~f. g.~~ g. Bills on Final Reading
- ~~g. h.~~ h. Resolutions
- ~~h. i.~~ i. Introduction of bills and reading by title
- ~~i. j.~~ j. Consideration of bills on Select File

~~j.~~ k. Motions to reconsider

~~k.~~ l. Motions to advance bills from committee

~~l.~~ m. Other pending motions

~~m.~~ n. Unfinished business, including messages on President's desk

~~n.~~ o. Consideration of bills on General File

~~o.~~ p. Miscellaneous business

(c) Messages from the Governor may be received at any stage of the proceedings.

(d) Upon call for the introduction of bills, any member or any standing or special committee may introduce one or more bills.

*Introduction of bills. Rule 6, Section 1.*