

Motions Summary
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1. Motion to Table: This motion is most often used in committee to dispose of bills, but that is not its primary purpose. Tabling a bill sets aside a bill in the form that it is in when the motion is adopted. A bill may be taken from the table in committee by motion during any executive session. Once a bill is taken from the table, a subsequent motion to amend, to pass, or to do not pass is in order on the bill.

A motion to table may also be made during floor action, but not during Committee of the Whole (second reading).

2. Motion to Reconsider: A motion to reconsider may be made in committee, on the floor, or during Committee of the Whole (second reading). Time restrictions for reconsideration of floor action and Committee of the Whole action are contained in the Rules of each chamber. A motion to reconsider may only be made when the matter to which it applies is still within the jurisdiction of the body in which the motion is made with one exception. A motion to recall legislation from the other chamber is treated as a motion to reconsider, but must be acquiesced in by the other chamber.

A motion to reconsider has the effect of canceling the action that is reconsidered. For example, a successful motion to reconsider a chambers action in passing HB 1 on third reading returns the bill to third reading. A motion to reconsider the passage of SB 1 on second reading returns the bill to second reading. Reconsideration of an amendment removes the amendment from the bill.

If the body wants to reconsider adoption of an amendment after the Committee of the Whole report that includes the bill has been adopted, then it is necessary to reconsider the adoption of the Committee of the Whole report before the reconsideration of the amendment. When it is necessary to reconsider more than one vote, a single motion may be used, but it must be artfully stated.

Debate on a motion to reconsider is limited to the motion itself, and the substance of the issue proposed to be reconsidered is not subject to debate under the motion. However, the purpose of the motion to reconsider may be explained.

3. Motion to Pass Consideration. This motion defers action on a bill in Committee of the Whole. It may only be applied to the main motion, such as do pass and not to a subsidiary motion such as to amend. The effect of the motion is to leave the bill in the Committee of the Whole and to allow it to be taken up at a later time.

4. Motion to Postpone to a Day Certain. This motion defers action on a bill until the specified legislative day. It may only be applied to the main motion. The time specified must fall within the legislative session. The effect of the motion is to schedule the postponed action for the specified time.

5. Motion to Postpone Indefinitely. This motion defers action on a bill without limitation. It may only be applied to the main motion. This motion rejects the main motion without having to vote on it. The effect of the motion is to kill a bill. Because the Senate Rules require a positive vote to dispose of a bill in the Committee of the Whole (second reading), this motion is used to finally dispose of bills that do not pass second reading. Reconsideration of an indefinite postponement motion is permitted. This action is unnecessary in the House because House Rules provide that if a motion fails, the obverse motion is considered to have passed by the same vote.

6. Motion to Take Bill From Committee and Place on Second Reading. (Blast motion) This motion takes a bill from a committee in which it is stalled and places it on second reading for consideration by the Committee of the Whole without the benefit of a committee report. The bill is taken from the committee exactly as it was referred to the committee. Any action taken by the committee is disregarded because a committee report has never been adopted by the body.

7. Motion to Rerefer. If a bill has been reported from committee with a do pass or be concurred in recommendation, a majority vote of the House is sufficient for rereferral. Therefore, in the House, any bill that has been on second reading or is eligible for second reading may be rereferred by majority vote. This motion removes a bill from its normal progression and refers it back to the committee to which it was originally assigned or to a different committee. In the House a 3/5 vote by the members present and voting is required if a bill has not been reported from a committee. In the Senate rereferral by majority vote must occur after the adoption of the Committee of the Whole (second reading) report but before moving to another order of business. A motion to rerefer after an intervening order of business necessitates a reconsideration motion or a suspension of the Senate Rules.

8. Motion to Call for the Previous Question. This motion ends debate and requires a vote on the question that was being debated. The House Rules require that at least one proponent and one opponent must have spoken before the motion is in order and the sponsor of the motion must be allowed to close. In the Senate, if there has been no debate when the motion is made, one-half hour is available for debate and then the sponsor may close before the vote.

9. Motion to Rise. This motion is used to change from the Committee of the Whole (second reading) to the floor session of the chamber for additional proceedings under another order of business. Adoption of the motion to rise has the effect of terminating or suspending debate on a pending matter in the Committee of the Whole.

10. Motion to Rise and Report. This motion is used to reflect the culmination of proceedings in the Committee of the Whole (second reading). The Committee of the Whole sends the measures it has been considering back to the full body for adoption of the second reading proceedings.

11. Motion to Rise and Report and Beg Leave to Sit Again. This motion is used to expedite the progress of legislation and usually occurs around legislative deadlines for action on designated types of bills. The motion allows the Committee of the Whole to send the measures it has been considering back to the full body for adoption of partial second reading proceedings

and to then reconvene as a Committee of the Whole for additional second reading proceedings.

12. Point of Order. This question puts to the presiding officer the question of whether there has been a breach of order or a violation of the rules. The presiding officer is required to rule on the question. The question may not be raised after the issue to which it relates has passed. It must be timely. The question may not be used to raise concerns with the constitutionality of a bill or an amendment. It is not within the authority of the chair to decide the constitutionality of a bill or an amendment. The presiding officer may submit the question to the body for a vote or the ruling of the presiding officer may be appealed to the body.

13. Point of Personal Privilege. This question must relate to the individual as a member of the body or relate to charges against the individual's character that would, if true, incapacitate the individual from membership. The point must be related to the individual in the individual's representative capacity. The point may not be used to defend another person. A public accusation against a member is not a question of personal privilege as long as the accusation, if true, would not incapacitate that person from membership. A matter of privilege arising out of a quarrel between members supersedes the consideration of the original question and must be dealt with by allowing the member to speak or by calling the member to order. When the question is dealt with, business resumes at the point where it was interrupted.

A matter or personal explanation does not constitute a point of personal privilege. It may be received only by permission of the chamber. This may be used to explain a matter personal to the member.