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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**SENATE RESOLUTION**

No. **165** Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY SCARNATI, CORMAN AND COSTA, JULY 7, 2017

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JULY 7, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Amending the Rules of the Senate, further providing for order of  
2 business, for committee officers and for resolutions; and  
3 providing for citations.

4 RESOLVED, That Rules 9, 15 and 29 of the Rules of the Senate  
5 of Pennsylvania be amended to read:

6 Rule 9. Order of Business.

7 (a) General rule.--The Order of Business to be observed in  
8 taking up business shall be as follows:

9 First Call to Order.

10 Second Prayer by the Chaplain and  
11 Pledge of Allegiance.

12 Third Reading of Communications.

13 Fourth Receiving reports of committees.

14 Fifth Asking of leaves of absence. No  
15 Senator shall absent himself  
16 without leave of the Senate,  
17 first obtained, unless prevented  
18 from attendance by sickness, or  
19 other sufficient cause.

1 Sixth Approval of Journals of  
2 preceding session days.  
3 Seventh Offering of original  
4 resolutions.  
5 Eighth Introduction of Guests.  
6 Ninth Consideration of the Calendar.  
7 Any bill or resolution on the  
8 Calendar not finally acted upon  
9 within 10 legislative days shall  
10 be removed from the Calendar and  
11 laid on the table, unless the  
12 Senate shall otherwise direct.  
13 Tenth Consideration of Executive  
14 Nominations.  
15 Eleventh Unfinished Business. Reports of  
16 Committees. Unanimous consent  
17 resolutions. [Congratulatory and  
18 condolence resolutions.]  
19 Twelfth First consideration of bills  
20 reported from committee, which,  
21 at this time, shall not be  
22 subject to amendment, debate or  
23 a vote thereon.  
24 Thirteenth Announcements by the Secretary-  
25 Parliamentarian.  
26 Fourteenth Introduction of Petitions and  
27 Remonstrances.  
28 Fifteenth Recess.

29 (b) Special order of business.--Any subject may, by a vote  
30 of a majority of the Members present, be made a special order;

1 and when the time so fixed for its consideration arrives, the  
2 presiding officer shall lay it before the Senate.

3 Rule 15. Committee officers.

4 (a) Chair-ex-officio.--The Chair of each standing committee  
5 shall be ex-officio a member of each subcommittee that may be  
6 established as part of the standing committee, with the right to  
7 attend meetings of the subcommittee and vote on any matter  
8 before the subcommittee.

9 (b) Calling committee to order.--The Chair or, if authorized  
10 by the Chair, the Vice Chair, shall call the committee to order  
11 at the hour provided by these Rules. Upon the appearance of a  
12 quorum, the committee shall proceed with the order of business.  
13 Any member of the committee may question the existence of a  
14 quorum.

15 (c) Chair control of the committee room.--The Chair or, if  
16 authorized by the Chair, the Vice Chair, shall preserve order  
17 and decorum and shall have general control of the committee  
18 room. In case of a disturbance or disorderly conduct in the  
19 committee room, the Chair or, if authorized by the Chair, the  
20 Vice Chair, may cause the same to be cleared. The use of cell  
21 phones and similar portable communication devices within any  
22 Senate committee room by individuals other than members of the  
23 Senate or their staffs is strictly prohibited.

24 (d) Chair's authority to sign documents and decide questions  
25 of order.--The Chair shall sign all notices, vouchers, subpoenas  
26 or reports required or permitted by these Rules. The Chair shall  
27 decide all questions of order relative to parliamentary  
28 procedure, subject to an appeal by any member of the committee.

29 (e) Vote of Chair, Vice Chair.--The Chair and Vice Chair  
30 shall vote on all matters before such committee; Provided, That

1 the name of the Chair shall be called last.

2 (f) Performance of duties by Vice Chair.--Upon the death of  
3 the Chair, the Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the office  
4 until and unless the President Pro Tempore shall appoint a  
5 successor. Upon and during disability, or incapacity of the  
6 Chair, the Vice Chair shall perform the Chair's duties.

7 (g) Chair's duty to report.--The Chair shall report any bill  
8 to the Floor of the Senate not later than the next occurring  
9 legislative day after the committee's vote to report it.

10 (h) Amendments.--Upon reporting the bill from committee, the  
11 Chair shall submit all amendments adopted in committee to the  
12 Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate for posting on the  
13 Internet website maintained by the Senate.

14 Rule 29. Resolutions.

15 (a) Introduction.--All resolutions, Senate and concurrent,  
16 shall be introduced by presenting five copies of the Resolution,  
17 with the sponsor identified, to the presiding officer.

18 (b) Consideration.--The following resolutions, after being  
19 read, shall be referred to an appropriate committee without  
20 debate unless by unanimous consent the Senate shall otherwise  
21 direct and, if favorably reported by the committee, shall lie  
22 over one day for consideration, after which the resolutions may  
23 be called up under the appropriate order of business:

24 (1) All Senate concurrent resolutions and House  
25 concurrent resolutions, excepting resolutions in reference to  
26 adjournment sine die, recesses and resolutions recalling  
27 bills from the Governor, which shall be regarded as  
28 privileged.

29 (2) Resolutions containing calls for information from  
30 the heads of departments or to alter the Rules.

1 (3) Resolutions giving rise to debate, except those that  
2 relate to the disposition of matters immediately before the  
3 Senate, those that relate to the business of the day on which  
4 they were offered, and those that relate to adjournment sine  
5 die or a recess.

6 (c) Printing in Senate History.--

7 (1) [Congratulatory resolutions and condolence  
8 resolutions shall be given to the Secretary-Parliamentarian  
9 and shall be considered under the order of unfinished  
10 business in the daily order of business.] (Reserved).

11 (2) All resolutions shall be adopted by a majority vote  
12 of the Senators present except as specifically provided for  
13 in these Rules.

14 (d) Joint Resolutions.--

15 (1) Joint resolutions shall be limited to constitutional  
16 amendments and shall be adopted by a vote of a majority of  
17 the Senators elected to the Senate.

18 (2) A Joint resolution when passed by both Houses shall  
19 not be transmitted to the Governor for approval or  
20 disapproval but shall be filed in the Office of the Secretary  
21 of the Commonwealth in accordance with Article XI, section 1  
22 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Rules be amended by adding a rule  
24 to read:

25 Rule 29.1. Citations.

26 (a) Preparation.--A member making a request that a Senate  
27 Citation be issued to a particular person or on a specified  
28 occasion shall provide the Legislative Reference Bureau with the  
29 facts necessary for the preparation of the citation on a  
30 suitable form.

1     (b) Filing.--The citation request shall be filed with the  
2 Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate and automatically  
3 referred to the President Pro Tempore, who may approve and sign  
4 the citation on behalf of the Senate.

5     (c) Issuance.--One original citation shall be issued by the  
6 Secretary-Parliamentarian of the Senate.