



December 7, 2022

The Honorable Kim Ward
President Pro Tempore
Room 292 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3039

The Honorable Joe Pittman
Senate Majority Leader
Room 459 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3039

Dear President Pro Tempore Ward and Senate Majority Leader Pittman:

The Senate of Pennsylvania will be meeting at noon on January 3, the first Tuesday of January, to begin the 2023-24 legislative session. Upon swearing in the newly elected Senators, Members of the Senate will be asked to vote on several resolutions, including the Rules of the Senate of Pennsylvania.

Ahead of that vote, we are requesting the following changes to the Senate Rules:

Operating Rules:

- Require that all bills and resolutions receive a vote in committee.
- Require a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote for certain motions, including tabling.
- Ensure adequate public notice of Senate action by requiring the marked calendar to be released at least 24 hours before the start of session.
- Authorize Minority Chairs to call committee hearings.
- Empower Minority Chairs to add legislation to the committee voting agenda.
- Expand legislative requirements and action for bills on concurrence, including allowing amendments to be offered on the floor to bills on concurrence.
- Require action on bipartisan legislation and legislation that has received bipartisan support in the House.
- Ensure every amendment gets a vote and requires that all amendment votes, both in committee and on the floor, are recorded on the public-facing website of the legislature and in the Senate journal.
- Require Majority and Minority Party participation to conduct official business, including committee meeting quorum requirements
- Expand the camera view to the full Senate floor during session so the public can see who is on the floor and observe senators casting their votes.
- Mandate all committee hearings to be livestreamed, recorded, and archived to ensure meetings held in the Rules Committee Room are viewable by the public.
- Guarantee equitable representation on standing committees.

- Require makers of bills to stand for interrogation upon request.
- Require a publicly-available fiscal note for every bill prior to it receiving a floor vote.
- Expand the type of floor actions that are debatable, including the motion to table
- Require Committee Chairs to administer oaths for all testifiers at hearings.

Ethics Rules:

- Implement of a sexual harassment and misconduct policy to protect all individuals working within the State Capitol, including outside contractors, lobbyists, and visitors.

Finance Rules:

- Require all members' legislative expenses and all per diem payments to be publicly posted and in searchable format on the public-facing website of the legislature.

In order for our requested changes to be properly prepared and drafted into amendments by the Legislative Reference Bureau and presented in quadruplicate on the Floor, we request that the Senate Rules Resolution be filed with the Legislative Reference Bureau and assigned a printer number for introduction no later than Tuesday, December 27, 2022, which is one week in advance of Swearing In Day, Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these important changes that will help strengthen our democracy and ensure every member of the Senate can represent their constituents in the legislative process.

In service,



Senator Lindsey M. Williams
38th Senatorial District



Senator Katie J. Muth
44th Senatorial District

CC: All members of the Senate of Pennsylvania
CC: The Honorable Michael Gerdes, Secretary and Parliamentarian
CC: The Legislative Reference Bureau of Pennsylvania