

**As Adopted by the House**

**128th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2009-2010**

**S. C. R. No. 3**

**Senator Niehaus**

**Cosponsors: Senators Faber, Wagoner, Seitz, Wilson, Patton, Cafaro, Gibbs,  
Miller, R., Smith Representatives Amstutz, Batchelder, Brown, Burke,  
Chandler, Combs, Domenick, Dyer, Fende, Garrison, Gerberry, Goyal, Hagan,  
Harris, Heard, Huffman, Lehner, Letson, Luckie, Mallory, Martin, Moran,  
Morgan, Patten, Pillich, Pryor, Sayre, Schneider, Stewart, Szollosi,  
Williams, S., Winburn, Yates**

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**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

To adopt Joint Rules of the Senate and House of 1  
Representatives for the 128th General Assembly. 2

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING):**

RESOLVED: That the following are the Joint Rules of the 3  
Senate and House of Representatives for the 128th General 4  
Assembly: 5

JOINT RULES 6

JOINT SESSIONS 7

Rule 1. (Convention: place and procedure.) Whenever the two 8  
branches of the General Assembly convene for any purpose required 9  
by the Constitution or laws of the state, such convention shall be 10  
held in the Hall of the House of Representatives, unless otherwise 11  
ordered by a joint resolution of the two branches, and the 12  
President of the Senate shall preside. During all such conventions 13  
each branch shall be held to be in session as a separate branch of 14

the General Assembly and to be governed by its own rules; and 15  
except in voting on questions unique to the convention, where each 16  
member is entitled to a separate vote, shall act as such and no 17  
question shall be considered as carried otherwise than by the 18  
concurrent action of both branches; provided, that either branch 19  
may, by a vote of a majority of all its members, dissolve from 20  
such convention by withdrawing therefrom; and such convention may, 21  
by the concurrent vote of the two branches, take a recess or 22  
adjourn to a time certain, but such recess or adjournment of the 23  
convention shall not be held to be an adjournment or recess of 24  
either branch nor to prevent either from proceeding with its usual 25  
business during such recess or adjournment of the convention. 26

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Rule 2. (Voting in convention.) In voting on all questions 28  
unique to a convention, a majority of the votes cast shall be 29  
necessary to a choice. 30

#### JOINT SELECT COMMITTEES 31

Rule 3. (Joint select committees: creation.) The President 32  
may initiate creation of a joint select committee of the Senate 33  
and House for the purpose of considering a Senate bill or a Senate 34  
joint or concurrent resolution. The Speaker may initiate creation 35  
of a joint select committee of the Senate and House for the 36  
purpose of considering a House bill or a House joint or concurrent 37  
resolution. A bill or joint or concurrent resolution shall not be 38  
referred to a joint select committee if its main feature is the 39  
appropriation of money or a proposal to alter or modify the 40  
state's existing tax structure. 41

To initiate creation of a joint select committee, the 42  
President shall cause to be read before the Senate or the Speaker 43  
shall cause to be read before the House a message creating the 44  
joint select committee. After the message is read, it shall lie 45  
over one calendar day before it is voted upon. If the message is 46

approved, it shall be transmitted to the second house. Upon 47  
receipt, the President or Speaker shall cause the message to be 48  
read before the second house. After the message is read in the 49  
second house, it shall lie over one calendar day before it is 50  
voted upon. If the message is approved in the second house, the 51  
joint select committee thereupon is created as specified in the 52  
message. The second house shall notify the first of its 53  
disposition of the message. The message shall be spread in full 54  
upon the Senate and House Journals. 55

The message is not amendable and shall be voted upon as a 56  
whole. Either house, by vote of a majority of the members elected 57  
thereto, may suspend the requirement that the message lie over one 58  
calendar day before it is voted upon in that house. 59

The message shall be provided to each member of the Senate 60  
and House at the time it is read therein. 61

The message shall specify the name of the joint select 62  
committee, the equal number of members the joint select committee 63  
is to have from each house, the number of members of the majority 64  
party and the number of members of the minority party the joint 65  
select committee is to have from each house, the purpose the joint 66  
select committee is to fulfill, and any special rules with respect 67  
to submission of its report. The bill or joint or concurrent 68  
resolution shall be attached to the message. 69

Reading of the message in the first house constitutes second 70  
consideration of the bill in that house; the reading of the 71  
message and second consideration of the bill shall be recorded in 72  
the journal of the first house. Reading of the message in the 73  
second house constitutes first consideration of the bill in that 74  
house; the reading of the message and first consideration of the 75  
bill shall be recorded in the journal of the second house. 76

Rule 4. (Joint select committees: members and officers.) A 77

joint select committee shall have an equal number of members from 78  
the Senate and House. The President shall appoint, and may remove 79  
and replace, the Senate members of a joint select committee. The 80  
Senate Minority Leader, in a manner to be determined by the Senate 81  
Minority Caucus, may recommend Senate minority party members for a 82  
joint select committee. The Speaker shall appoint, and may remove 83  
and replace, the House members of a joint select committee. The 84  
House Minority Leader, in a manner to be determined by the House 85  
Minority Caucus, may recommend House minority party members for a 86  
joint select committee. The President and Speaker shall appoint 87  
members from their respective houses as necessary to fill 88  
vacancies on a joint select committee. The appointment or removal 89  
of a member of a joint select committee shall be entered upon the 90  
journal of the house from which the member is appointed. 91

If a joint select committee is created to consider a Senate 92  
bill or joint or concurrent resolution referred by the Senate, the 93  
first-named Senate member is chairman and the first-named House 94  
member is vice-chairman of the joint select committee. If a joint 95  
select committee is created to consider a House bill or joint or 96  
concurrent resolution referred by the House, the first-named House 97  
member is chairman and the first-named Senate member is 98  
vice-chairman of the joint select committee. 99

In the absence of the chairman of a joint select committee, 100  
the vice-chairman of the joint select committee has the duties and 101  
authority of the chairman. 102

Rule 5. (Joint select committees: consideration and report 103  
by.) A joint select committee shall study and conduct hearings 104  
with respect to, and may amend or substitute, the bill or joint or 105  
concurrent resolution. The joint select committee may report the 106  
bill or joint or concurrent resolution. Bills or joint or 107  
concurrent resolutions that are reported shall be filed in 108  
sextuplicate with the clerk of the house where the bill or joint 109

or concurrent resolution originated. The original bill or joint or 110  
concurrent resolution shall accompany the report. The joint select 111  
committee shall indicate in the report the members who voted "yes" 112  
and "no" on the report. 113

The report shall be presented to the house where the bill or 114  
joint or concurrent resolution originated and shall be spread upon 115  
the journal. 116

If a bill reported by a joint select committee passes the 117  
house of origin, its subsequent introduction in the second house 118  
constitutes second consideration of the bill in that house. The 119  
introduction and second consideration of the bill shall be 120  
recorded in the journal of the second house. 121

A bill or joint or concurrent resolution reported by a joint 122  
select committee is not required to be referred to a Senate or 123  
House standing or select committee or subcommittee. 124

Rule 6. (Joint select committees: quorum; voting.) A majority 125  
of the Senate members and a majority of the House members of a 126  
joint select committee is a quorum. Each member of a joint select 127  
committee has one vote. A joint select committee may not take any 128  
action unless the action is agreed to by a majority of its members 129  
on the part of the Senate and by a majority of its members on the 130  
part of the House. However, except for reporting a bill or joint 131  
or concurrent resolution with a recommendation that it be 132  
indefinitely postponed or passed or adopted, a joint select 133  
committee, by vote of a majority of its members on the part of the 134  
Senate and a majority of its members on the part of the House, may 135  
choose to take any action upon agreement, not of separate 136  
majorities, but of a majority of all the members of the whole 137  
joint select committee. 138

A proxy vote in a joint select committee is invalid. A member 139  
of a joint select committee who is present shall vote unless 140

excused by the joint select committee. A member of a joint select 141  
committee is not entitled to vote except while actually present in 142  
a meeting of the joint select committee, unless the member has 143  
first actually been present in the meeting, and the vote is 144  
continued for members who, before the vote, were actually present 145  
in, but at the time of the vote are absent from, the meeting. 146  
Continuation of a vote may not extend later than midnight of the 147  
day on which the vote was continued. 148

Rule 7. (Joint select committees: subpoena power; power to 149  
administer oaths.) The chairman of a joint select committee, when 150  
authorized by the joint select committee and by the President and 151  
Speaker, may issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum in aid of 152  
the joint select committee's consideration of a bill or joint or 153  
concurrent resolution that has been referred to the joint select 154  
committee. Subpoenas may require witnesses in any part of the 155  
state to appear before the joint select committee at a time and 156  
place designated in the subpoena to testify. Subpoenas duces tecum 157  
may require witnesses or other persons in any part of the state to 158  
produce books, papers, records, and other tangible evidence before 159  
the joint select committee at a time and place designated in the 160  
subpoena duces tecum. A subpoena or subpoena duces tecum shall be 161  
issued, served, and returned, and have consequences, as provided 162  
in sections 101.41 to 101.45 of the Revised Code. 163

The chairman of a joint select committee may administer oaths 164  
to witnesses appearing before the joint select committee. 165

Rule 8. (Joint select committees: open meetings.) All 166  
meetings of a joint select committee shall be open to the public 167  
unless closed in accordance with Ohio Constitution, Article II, 168  
Section 13. 169

The chairman of a joint select committee, not later than two 170  
days before a meeting of the joint select committee, shall give 171  
due notice of the meeting. The notice shall identify the joint 172

select committee, identify the chairman, state the time and place 173  
at which the meeting will be held, and set forth an agenda showing 174  
the bill or joint or concurrent resolution that will be considered 175  
at the meeting. If an emergency requires consideration of a bill 176  
or joint or concurrent resolution at a meeting, and two days' 177  
advance notice of the meeting therefore is impractical, the 178  
chairman may schedule an emergency meeting of the joint select 179  
committee by giving twenty-four hours' advance notice of the 180  
emergency meeting to the news media that have requested such 181  
notification and the bill or joint or concurrent resolution then 182  
may be considered at the emergency meeting as the emergency 183  
requires. 184

A joint select committee shall not meet during a session of 185  
the Senate or House, except by special leave of that house. 186

Rule 9. (Joint select committees: records.) The chairman of a 187  
joint select committee shall maintain a record of evidence that is 188  
presented before, or obtained by, the joint select committee. 189

The joint select committee shall keep minutes of its 190  
proceedings and at each meeting except the first shall approve the 191  
minutes taken at the previous meeting, or, if the minutes require 192  
correction, shall correct and approve the minutes. The joint 193  
select committee shall maintain a record of its approved minutes, 194  
and promptly after approval shall file a copy of its minutes with 195  
the Clerk of the Senate and Clerk of the House. 196

When a joint select committee concludes its work, or upon 197  
sine die adjournment of the house of which the joint select 198  
committee's chairman is a member, the chairman shall deliver all 199  
the joint select committee's records to the Clerk of the Senate if 200  
the chairman is a member of the Senate or to the Clerk of the 201  
House if the chairman is a member of the House. 202

VETOES 203

Rule 10. (Question when bill is vetoed.) When under Ohio 204  
Constitution, Article II, Section 16, a message is transmitted to 205  
the house of origin by the Governor, expressing disapproval of any 206  
bill or item of an appropriation bill that has been passed by the 207  
General Assembly, the house of origin may reconsider and repass 208  
the bill or item. If the house of origin repasses the bill or 209  
item, it shall send the bill or item, together with the message of 210  
the Governor expressing disapproval, to the other house, which 211  
then may reconsider and repass the bill or item. A vetoed bill or 212  
item shall be repassed by not fewer than three-fifths of the 213  
members elected to each house, and in no case by a fewer number of 214  
votes than was constitutionally required upon its original 215  
passage. The question upon reconsidering a vetoed bill in either 216  
house shall be presented as follows: "Shall the bill (or item or 217  
items of an appropriation bill) be passed notwithstanding the 218  
objections of the Governor?" The vote shall be taken in either 219  
house by calling the yeas and nays and shall be recorded in the 220  
journal. 221

BILLS 222

Rule 11. (Form of bills introduced.) Bills introduced in 223  
either house shall be printed, shall bear the name of the author, 224  
and must in all respects, as to form, comply with the laws and the 225  
rules of both houses of the General Assembly. 226

Rule 12. (Content of title of bills.) Bills shall have noted 227  
in their titles a distinct reference to the subject or matter to 228  
which they relate and also, if they propose the amendment or 229  
repeal of any law, to the section proposed to be amended or 230  
repealed. 231

Rule 13. (Printing of bills and resolutions.) Bills and joint 232  
and concurrent resolutions, unless otherwise ordered by the house 233  
in which they are introduced or offered, shall be printed and 234  
available for distribution upon first consideration. 235



Rule 14. (Drafting of bills.) Bills shall be submitted for 236  
introduction with all material double-spaced. The Legislative 237  
Service Commission shall determine the size of the paper on which 238  
bills shall be printed and the manner in which all new language 239  
and punctuation to be amended or enacted into the Revised Code and 240  
all language and punctuation to be eliminated from an existing 241  
section of the Revised Code shall be formatted. 242

CONCURRENCE 243

Rule 15. (When notice of action on bills or resolutions shall 244  
be given to the other house.) When a bill or joint or concurrent 245  
resolution has been passed or adopted in either house, notice 246  
shall be forthwith given to the other house. When a bill or joint 247  
or concurrent resolution that has been passed or adopted in one 248  
house is rejected or lost in the other, or postponed indefinitely, 249  
notice thereof shall forthwith be given to the other house. 250

251

Rule 16. (Procedure when a bill or resolution is amended by 252  
the other house.) When a bill or joint or concurrent resolution 253  
has passed or been adopted in one house, and been amended, passed 254  
or adopted, and returned by the other, it shall lie over one 255  
calendar day, unless otherwise ordered by a majority of the 256  
members elected to the house to which it was returned. The 257  
amendment shall be printed in the journal of the house to which it 258  
was returned. The bill or joint or concurrent resolution shall be 259  
placed on the calendar. The calendar shall show on what page of 260  
the journal the amendment has been printed. 261

When taken up, the question shall be on the concurrence in 262  
the amendment of the other house and no motions shall be in order 263  
except (1) a motion to informally pass or (2) if the rules of the 264  
member's house authorize such a motion, a motion of a member to 265  
add or remove the member's name from the bill or joint or 266  
concurrent resolution. The same number of votes shall be required 267

to concur in the amendment as was required to pass or adopt the 268  
bill or joint or concurrent resolution in the house in which it 269  
originated; if the question be upon concurrence in an amendment to 270  
a bill which has passed the other house as an emergency measure, 271  
then a vote shall be taken first, upon the emergency features of 272  
the bill and second, upon concurrence in the amendment. The same 273  
number of votes shall be required on each vote as was required to 274  
pass the bill as an emergency measure. If such house refuses to 275  
concur in the amendment to the bill or joint or concurrent 276  
resolution, or if the house refuses to agree to the emergency 277  
features of the bill, notice shall be forthwith sent to the other 278  
house where the proceedings shall be either: 279

First, to insist upon its amendment and ask for a committee 280  
of conference; 281

Second, to recede from its amendment, which has the effect of 282  
passing the bill or adopting the joint or concurrent resolution in 283  
the form in which it passed or was adopted by the house in which 284  
it originated; or 285

Third, to adhere to its amendment, which precludes a 286  
committee of conference. 287

COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE 288

Rule 17. (Membership of committee; acceptance of report.) All 289  
committees of conference are joint committees that shall consist 290  
of three members of the Senate and three members of the House of 291  
Representatives unless committee membership is otherwise specially 292  
ordered by both houses. 293

If a committee of conference has under consideration a House 294  
bill or joint or concurrent resolution, the first-named House 295  
member shall be chair of the committee. If the committee has a 296  
Senate bill or joint or concurrent resolution under consideration, 297  
the first-named Senate member shall be chair. 298

A question in a committee of conference shall be decided by 299  
at least a majority of the members on the part of the Senate and a 300  
majority of the members on the part of the House. However, except 301  
for the question of agreeing to the committee's report, the 302  
committee, by vote of a majority of its members on the part of the 303  
Senate and a majority of its members on the part of the House, may 304  
choose to decide a question, not by separate majorities, but by a 305  
majority of all the members of the whole committee. 306

Rule 18. (Procedure when the committee disagrees.) Whenever 307  
any committee of conference cannot reach agreement, another 308  
committee may be appointed; and if either of the two houses 309  
disagrees to any report of a committee of conference, such house 310  
shall forthwith notify the other house of such disagreement, and 311  
upon request of that house another committee shall be appointed. 312

If the disagreeing house does not make such a request, the 313  
committee of conference whose report was refused may proceed to 314  
propose another report. 315

Rule 19. (What the report may include.) A committee of 316  
conference appointed to consider matters of difference between the 317  
two houses upon any bill or joint or concurrent resolution may 318  
consider and include in its report any amendments pertinent to the 319  
bill or joint or concurrent resolution, provided such amendments 320  
relate exclusively to the original matters of difference between 321  
the two houses. 322

Rule 20. (When the report of the committee is in order; 323  
consideration.) The report of a committee of conference cannot be 324  
laid on the table, referred to a committee, or indefinitely 325  
postponed, and must be voted upon as a whole. 326

Conference committee reports shall lie over at least one day 327  
after conference committee approval before the House or Senate may 328  
consider them, unless otherwise ordered by a majority vote of all 329

the members present in that house. 330

Rule 21. (Where the papers are to be filed.) When a committee 331  
of conference has met and come to an agreement, or where no 332  
agreement is reached, the bill or joint or concurrent resolution 333  
and papers adhering thereto shall remain in the house in which the 334  
bill or joint or concurrent resolution originated. 335

Rule 22. (Vote required by each house.) The yeas and nays 336  
shall be called upon agreeing to the report of the committee of 337  
conference, and except as otherwise provided in this rule, no such 338  
report shall be agreed to unless it receives the vote of a 339  
majority of the members elected to each house. 340

In the case of emergency bills, or bills to which an 341  
emergency clause was attached by the committee of conference, the 342  
report shall receive two votes of two-thirds of the members 343  
elected to each house. The question on the first such vote shall 344  
be: "Shall the emergency clause of the bill stand as part of the 345  
report?" The question on the second such vote shall be: "Shall the 346  
report of the committee of conference be agreed to as an emergency 347  
measure?" 348

In the case of joint resolutions proposing amendments to the 349  
Ohio Constitution, the report shall receive the votes of not fewer 350  
than three-fifths of the members elected to each house. The joint 351  
resolution shall be spread in full upon the journal of each house. 352

When the question of agreeing to the report of a committee of 353  
conference is taken up, no motions are in order except (1) a 354  
motion to informally pass or (2) if a rule of the member's house 355  
authorizes such a motion, a member's motion to add or remove the 356  
member's name from the bill or joint or concurrent resolution. 357

MESSAGES 358

Rule 23. (By and to whom delivered.) All messages sent from 359  
one house to the other shall be carried by an officer or employee 360

of the sending house, who shall take a receipt for the same from 361  
the message clerk of the receiving house to whom the officer or 362  
employee delivers the message. The message clerk shall deliver the 363  
message without delay to the clerk of the receiving house and take 364  
a receipt therefor from the receiving clerk or one of the 365  
receiving clerk's assistants authorized by the receiving clerk to 366  
receipt for messages. The receiving clerk shall deliver each 367  
message to the presiding officer of the receiving house, who 368  
shall, in the proper order of business, and within a reasonable 369  
time, lay it before the house. 370

ENGROSSMENT OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS 371

Rule 24. (Manner of engrossment of bills and resolutions.) 372  
All bills and resolutions, before they are passed or adopted by 373  
either house, shall be carefully engrossed in printing, and the 374  
engrossed copy shall be carefully compared with the original bill 375  
or resolution and with the journal showing the amendments agreed 376  
to. 377

Rule 25. (Printing.) When the Clerk of the Senate or Clerk of 378  
the House is required to print a bill, resolution, report, or 379  
other document belonging to or in the possession of the Senate or 380  
House, the Clerk may use a method of printing as contemplated by 381  
sections 101.51 to 101.524 of the Revised Code. 382

Rule 26. (Manner of engrossment when bill or resolution 383  
amended by the other house.) When a bill or joint or concurrent 384  
resolution has passed or been adopted in one house, and been 385  
amended in the other, the bill or joint or concurrent resolution, 386  
as amended, shall be fully engrossed, and both returned, with the 387  
engrossed bill or joint or concurrent resolution received from the 388  
other house, to the house in which it originated. In such 389  
engrossments, amendments shall be engrossed in printing. Whenever 390  
a bill or joint or concurrent resolution is passed or adopted in 391  
one house and sent to the other and a substitute therefor is 392

agreed to by such house, in the communications between the houses, 393  
such substitutes shall be designated and treated as an amendment 394  
to the original bill or resolution. 395

SIGNING OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS 396

Rule 27. (Who shall sign bills and joint resolutions; 397  
procedure when bill vetoed by Governor.) All bills and joint 398  
resolutions that have passed or been adopted in both houses shall 399  
be first signed by the presiding officer of the House of 400  
Representatives, and then by the presiding officer of the Senate, 401  
the latter delivering the same to the Clerk of the Senate, who 402  
shall deliver each bill so passed to the Governor, taking a 403  
receipt therefor, and each joint resolution to the Secretary of 404  
State, taking a receipt therefor. When any bill is vetoed by the 405  
Governor and subsequently enacted into law over such veto, in 406  
accordance with Ohio Constitution, Article II, Section 16, the 407  
enrolled copy shall be endorsed with the record of the proceedings 408  
in each house subsequent to the veto attested by the presiding 409  
officer of the House and the presiding officer of the Senate, and 410  
the presiding officer of the second house shall file it with the 411  
Secretary of State. 412

GENERAL PROCEDURE 413

Rule 28. (Floor privileges for the news media.) Whenever the 414  
two branches of the General Assembly are convened in joint 415  
convention, representatives of the press and representatives of 416  
radio and television stations and broadcasting networks shall be 417  
granted floor privileges in the same manner provided for by the 418  
Rules of the House of Representatives. 419

Rule 29. (Letters and simple resolutions.) When a member of 420  
the House of Representatives and a member of the Senate jointly 421  
request on behalf of the House and Senate letters or simple 422  
resolutions conveying messages of commendation, congratulation, 423  
recognition, or condolence to persons or organizations named in 424

such request, the Speaker of the House shall sign on behalf of the 425  
House and the President of the Senate shall sign on behalf of the 426  
Senate. 427

The Clerk of the Senate or Clerk of the House shall arrange 428  
for the transmittal of such message to persons or organizations 429  
designated in the request and shall keep a record of the 430  
distribution of such letters and resolutions, which record shall 431  
be open for inspection by any member of the General Assembly. 432

Rule 30. (Suspension of Joint Rules.) Except as otherwise 433  
explicitly provided in the Joint Rules, no joint rule may be 434  
suspended or altered except by joint resolution adopted by 435  
two-thirds vote of each house of the General Assembly. 436