

Proposed Joint Rule:

2.06 In all cases of disagreement between the Senate and House on amendments adopted by either house to a bill, memorial or resolution passed by the other house, a Conference Committee consisting of not less than three members nor more than five members from each house may be requested by either house. The other house shall appoint a similar committee.

The manner of procedure shall be as follows: The house of origin passes a bill and transmits it to the other body. If the other body adopts an amendment to the bill and passes it as amended, it shall return the bill with a record of its actions to the house of origin. If the house of origin refuses to concur in the amendment, it shall ask for a Conference Committee, appoint such a committee on its part, and transmit the bill with a record of its action to the other house. If the other house adheres to its amendment, it shall appoint a like committee and return the bill to the house of origin.

All Conference Committees shall be open to the public. All Conference Committees shall provide an opportunity for public testimony. As much as practical, meetings of Conference Committees shall be announced as far in advance as possible, with the intent to provide a 24-hour notice, and actions taken shall be agreed upon in an open meeting. At an agreed upon hour the Conference Committee shall meet. The members from each house shall state to the members from the other house, orally or in writing, the reason for their respective positions. The members shall confer thereon. A conference committee may not meet between the hours of midnight and 7:00 a.m., except that a committee may extend a meeting for up to one hour past midnight by a vote of two-thirds of the members appointed to the committee by each house. The chair shall rotate between the Senate and the House of Representatives at least every calendar day, Sundays and holidays excepted. Conference Committees shall provide public notice of an agreement, and shall schedule a public adoption meeting at least 12 hours prior to adoption of a Conference Committee report. The conferees shall report to their respective houses the agreement they have reached, or, if none, the fact of a disagreement.

If an agreement is reported, the house of origin shall act first upon the report. A Conference Committee report must be limited to provisions that are germane to the bill and amendments that were referred to the Conference Committee. A provision is not germane if it relates to a substantially different subject or is intended to accomplish a substantially different purpose from that of the bill and amendment that were referred to the Conference Committee.

A Conference Committee report may not appropriate a larger sum of money than the larger of the bill or the amendments that were referred to the Conference Committee unless the additional appropriation is authorized by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Majority Leader of the Senate.

A Conference Committee report may not delegate rulemaking to a department or agency of state government or exempt a department