Speaking: Senator who rises to speak must first address and be recognized by President. Senator cannot speak longer than one hour at any time without Senate consent. Senators must confine remarks to question under debate and avoid personalities. Senate Rule 16 (b)

Limits on speaking:
- Debating motion to make a special order. Senator can speak only once, not longer than 10 minutes. Senate Rule 4 (a):
- On third reading. Senator, other than sponsor or Senator moving question, can speak only twice on same subject; no Senator can speak longer than 10 minutes each time. Senate Rule 9 (d)

Voting — Conflict of Interest: Senator who has a personal interest in a bill or question shall disclose that fact to Senate and shall not vote on the bill or question. Senate Rule 17 (c)

Every Senator present must vote, unless excused by the Senate for special reasons or because of conflict of interest. Senator Rule 17 (d)

Votes Required for Passage

Senate Rule 17 (f):
- Measures may pass by a majority vote of a quorum, except:
- Measures that require 18 votes:
  - Passage on 2nd or 3rd reading of most legislative measures;
  - Motion to suspend, amend, or repeal Senate rules, if Senate gives 3 days' notice;
  - Confirmation of Governor's appointments;
  - Reconsideration of Senate action;
  - Recall from the House;
  - Adoption of Committee of the Whole report and adoption of amendment to report to show that bill or concurrent resolution passed;
  - Consent to offer 3rd reading amendment;
  - Passage of 3rd reading amendment; and
  - Motion to adjourn sine die.
- Measures that require 24 votes:
  - Passage on 3rd reading of concurrent resolution or bill to change number of district judges or judicial districts;
  - Override Governor's veto;
  - Motion to make a measure a special order;
  - Motion to suspend, amend, or repeal Senate rules if Senate doesn't give 3 days' notice. Only a majority vote is necessary to amend the rules if the body has previously adopted a resolution making the rules temporary.

Reconsideration. After Senate decides a question, Senator who voted on prevailing side may move to reconsider on the same day or either of the next 2 days of session or any Senator may give notice of intent to reconsider. Motion to reconsider requires 18 votes. If motion fails, another motion to reconsider is not in order except by unanimous vote. If there is a tie vote on a question, a Senator who votes "no" is deemed to have voted on the prevailing side. Senate Rule 18 (a) and (g)

Reconsideration — committee of reference. Senator voting on prevailing side on question in committee can make motion, or give notice, to reconsider at same meeting or next meeting, unless committee report has been signed and delivered to Secretary. Senate Rule 18 (e) and (f)

Motion to Adjourn or Recess

A motion to adjourn or recess is always in order; but if motion fails, it cannot be considered again unless a motion other than for a call of the Senate, to adjourn, or to recess, intervenes. Senate Rule 7 (a)

Confirmation of Appointments

Gubernatorial appointments that require Senate confirmation must be referred to at least one committee of reference. Senate Rule 36 (a)

The committee of reference considers an appointment in open session and without a public hearing, unless a majority of the present committee members decide otherwise. Senate Rule 36 (b)

Confirations may be placed on the consent calendar for approval by the full Senate. A confirmation is removed from the consent calendar upon the objection of any Senator. Senate Rule 36 (d) (1) (A), (d) (1) (B), and (d) (3)

Disagreement - Conference Committee

If the Senate and the House disagree on the language of a measure, the Senate may adhere to its position, recede from its position and concur with the House, or request a conference committee. Senate Rule 19 (a)

If the Senate requests a conference committee, the President appoints two majority members and the Minority Leader appoints one minority member. Senate Rule 19 (b)

Committees of Reference

Members appointed at beginning of first regular session after general election and at other times if necessary. Senate Rule 21 (a)

Party representation on committees proportional to representation in full Senate. Senate Rule 21 (a)

Committees meet at time and place specified in schedule of committee meetings adopted by Senate. Committee scheduled to meet upon adjournment convenes 15 minutes after adjournment or recess. Committee may meet at different time or place if chair publicly announces meeting at least 24 hours in advance and while Senate is in actual session. During last 2 weeks of session, chair must announce different time, place, or meeting day as much in advance as possible and while Senate is in session. Senate Rule 22 (a) (1) and (2)

Chair must announce cancellation of committee meeting while Senate is in actual session and before the meeting is scheduled to take place. Senate Rule 22 (a) (3)

Chair decides the order of business for each committee meeting, including measures to be heard. But, at least 7 days after a measure is delivered to the chair, upon request of a majority of committee members to hear the measure, which request is made at a regularly scheduled meeting, chair shall announce the request and schedule measure for next committee meeting. Senate Rule 22 (e) (1)

After final action on a measure, chair must report action to the Secretary within 5 legislative days.

- During last 10 days of session, chair must report action as soon as the chair deems possible; except that, upon the request of the Majority Leader or the President, the chair must submit the report within 24 hours of the request, and if not, the committee staff shall submit the report on the chair’s behalf.

- Measure considered PI’d if tie vote on motion that constitutes final action and committee deadline has passed without getting deadline extended.

- No further action may be taken on a bill that has been PI’d by a committee and delivered to the Secretary. Senate Rule 22 (f)

Chair and each committee member shall vote on every question before the committee unless chair or member has conflict of interest. Chair cannot vote twice to break a tie. Senate Rule 22 (i)