

STANDING ORDERS 78-89

PUBLIC BILLS

Introduction of Bills

78. Every Bill is introduced upon motion for leave, specifying the title of the Bill; or upon motion to appoint a committee to prepare and bring it in.

(1951 SO 54)

Legislation referred to Committees

79. (1) The Government House Leader may direct the Law Clerk to refer to one of the Standing Committees established under Standing Order 65(1) (a), (b) and (c), a draft public Bill which the Government propose to introduce into the House at some later time.

(2) The Standing Committee to which the draft Public Bill is referred under Standing Order 79(1) shall review that draft Public Bill, taking evidence from witnesses in either private or public hearings as its Members may deem desirable, but may sit outside St. John's only with prior leave of the House.

(3) The Standing Committee to which a draft Public Bill is referred shall report to the House with respect to the Bill by the later of the tenth sitting day after the receipt by its Chair of the Bill or the day set by the Government House Leader for commencement of the Second Reading debate on the proposed legislation.

(SO 54.1 added 1993)

*Bills referred to
Committee after
Second Reading*

80. (1) Subject to Standing Order 80 (4), a Bill which has been read a second time may be referred to the appropriate Committee, as determined by Standing Order 80(3), upon that Committee's request. The Committee shall review the Bill, taking evidence from witnesses in either private or public hearings as its Members may deem desirable, and shall report to the House with respect to the Bill within 10 sitting days after the day the Bill receives Second Reading.

(2) The House shall give no further consideration to a Bill referred under Standing Order 80(1) until the Committee has made its report with respect thereto, unless the House otherwise orders, by means of a motion of which due notice has been given, which motion may be spoken to by one Member of the Opposition, and shall be replied to by a Minister, for not more than 10 minutes each, which motion may be put to the House at any time after the Bill has been read for the second time.

(3) A Bill referred under Standing Order 80(1) shall be sent to the Standing Order 65 Standing Committee which deals with the Bill's subject matter, unless the House orders it sent to a Select Committee, by means of a motion of which due notice has been given, which motion shall not be debatable.

(4) Notwithstanding Standing Order 79 and Standing Order 80(1) to (3), financial measures shall be dealt with in accordance with the hitherto established procedure, or such new procedure as may be established by the House from time to time.

(SO 54.2 added 1993)

Imperfect Bills

81. No Bill may be introduced either in blank or in an imperfect shape.

(1951 SO 55)

*Motion for
First Reading*

82. When any Bill is presented by a Member, in pursuance of an order of the House, the question, "That this Bill be now read a first time," shall be decided without debate or amendment.

(1951 SO 56)

Bills printed

83. All Bills shall be printed before the Second Reading.

(1951 SO 57)

Urgent cases

84. Every Bill shall receive three several readings on different days, previously to being passed. On urgent or extraordinary occasions, a Bill may by leave of the House be read twice or thrice, or advanced two or more stages in one day.

(1951 SO 58)

Dates of Readings

85. When a Bill is read in the House, the Clerk shall certify upon it the readings and the time thereof. After it has passed, the Clerk shall certify the same, with the date at the foot of the Bill.

(1951 SO 59)

Read twice before committal

86. Every Public Bill shall be read twice in the House before committal or amendment.

(1951 SO 60)

Third Reading

87. When a Bill has been read a third time and passed, the Third Reading and passing may be declared rescinded by majority vote and the Bill then recommitted, but if a Bill has received Royal Assent, it can only be amended by bringing in another Bill for that purpose.

(SO 60A added 1953)

Bills in Committee

88. In proceedings in Committee of the Whole House upon Bills, the preamble is first postponed, and then every clause considered, preamble and title to be last considered.

(1951 SO 61)

Bills reported from Committee

89. All amendments made in committee are reported by the Chairperson of the House, which shall receive the same forthwith. But when a Bill is reported without amendment, it is forthwith ordered to be read a third time at such time as may be appointed by the House.

(1951 SO 62)