FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT™
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SPEAKER of the HOUSE/PRESIDENT of the SENTE MANUAL of the YMCA TEXAS YOUTH LEGISLATURE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE / PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE MANUAL

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GENERAL NOTES FOR PRESIDING OFFICERS

Dress Code Information

The presiding officer must always enforce dress code. Motions to amend dress code (or schedule or to impeach any officer) are always out of order. All delegates are required to wear business attire. This means Coat and Tie for males and Dress, Skirt and Blouse or Suit for females – Pants and a sweater is not considered a suit. No Denim of any kind is to be allowed.

Bill Disposition Announcement Samples

House Bill ____ has passed in the Senate and been forwarded to Governor _____ for consideration.

House Bill ____ has passed in the Senate. Since the Governor cannot veto a bill after 4PM on Saturday, it will become law with or without the Governor's signature.

The Governor has vetoed Senate Bill _____. The Senate has successfully voted to override the veto. There is a motion on the Podium to override the veto. The clerk will now read that motion.

House Bill ____ has been signed into law by Governor _____.

Addressing Members of the Legislature

Though it has always been correct and common practice to use the term "gentleman" when referring to a male member and "lady" when referring to a female member, over the past few years it has become common practice to use the term "gentlelady" when referring to a female member. It should be noted that "gentlelady" is not a word. The terms "gentleman", "gentlewoman" and "lady" all refer to the same prominence or stature in society. Therefore, it is appropriate to refer to male members as "gentlemen" and female members as "ladies".

Motions and the Power of the Chair

One of the benefits of being the presiding officer is generally referred to as the "power of the chair" and refers to the ability of the presiding officer to control the flow of business as he or she deems appropriate (within the rules of course). Perhaps the greatest "power of the chair" lies in the handling of motions. Allowing or denying that a specific motion to be made or controlling how a motion is made often directly affects whether the motion passes and how the motion affects the bill.

For example, accepting a motion to table a bill is generally perceived as opposition to the bill. Likewise, refusing to recognize a motion to table a bill can be perceived as support for the bill. The handling of motions for the previous question can also be viewed as showing support for / or opposition to a bill. Allowing either type of motion will allow the "processing" of more bills but will conversely severely limit debate.

While the decision of whether to allow a motion or not lies in the hands of the presiding officer, you should be very deliberate in those decisions. It is very common practice during the general sessions for members to try to rush through bills at the top of the docket in an attempt to get to bills lower on the docket. They attempt to do so by tabling bills, moving the previous question at the earliest possible time, or by suspending the rules to somehow restrict debate. To their surprise, when the bill they desire to present or debate finally gets to the top of the docket they find that still more members do exactly the same thing to their bill. The net effect is that a lot of

bill authors get to present their bill in the general session but with very little debate. That is unfortunate because most of the members that are pressing through the docket agree in retrospect that the debate is the fun part. You are urged to consider this as you preside and consider motions that limit debate.

The motions to be particularly aware of are any motion to table, motions for the previous question, and any motion to suspend the rules.

Miscellaneous Tips

- Proponent / Opponent slips and Amendment slips are in order for any measure as soon as the caption of the measure is read.

- Be very careful when asking for the nature of (reason for) the motion versus asking for the actual motion. See the examples in the Special Case Scripts section. If a member makes a motion that is contrary to what he said he was going to do when he stated the nature of the motion, his motion is out of order. If on the other hand, the Chairperson fails to as for the nature of the motion and just tells the member to state his motion, he may make any motion that is in order at that time, which could be very undesirable.

Use and Protection of Texas Capitol Facilities

YMCA Texas Youth and Government is one of just a few select groups that are afforded the opportunity to utilize the House and Senate chambers each year. It is imperative that the presiding officer in each chamber insures that members adhere to all rules provided by Capitol staff. These rules include:

- no food or drink within the chambers -- this includes candy and gum!
- do not open desk drawers or desktops
- do not pick up desk phones and be careful not to knock them off-hook because they automatically ring to the Legislator's office
- do not lean back in chairs such that they hit desks or other chairs
- members must take everything with them when they leave
- all trash must be placed in trash receptacles

OPENING SESSION – HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Event Notes

Once the Senate is organized and ready to conduct business, a committee will be sent to the House to announce that fact. Upon their arrival, the following steps shall be inserted into the opening session script at the first break (when there is no motion on the floor)	
Sergeant-at-Arms	Mister/Madam Secretary (if Secretary of State is still presiding) **OR** Mister/Madam Speaker (*if Speaker has been elected and is presiding*), the Senate Committee is at the House door.
Acting Chairperson	Please admit the committee from the Senate
Senate Committee Chair	Mister/Madam Secretary **OR** Speaker, I have been directed by the Honorable Lt. Governor _____ to inform you that the Senate is organized and ready to conduct business.
Acting Chairperson	Thank you Senators. (*Resume script*)

Session Script

Secretary of State	(*Bang gavel*) The House of Representatives of the _____ Youth Legislature of the State of Texas shall come to order.
Secretary of State	Will House Chaplain _____ please come to the front podium and give the invocation.
House Chaplain	(*Chaplain gives a non-sectarian invocation from front floor podium*)
Secretary of State	(*Address of the House – Speech not to exceed 5 minutes*)
Secretary of State	I now recognize Chief Clerk of the House _____ to announce the House Officers for this session.
Chief Clerk	Parliamentarian _____ Asst. Parliamentarian _____ Journal Clerk _____ Sergeant-at-Arms _____ Assistant Chief Clerk _____ Chaplain _____ Doorkeeper _____ Pages _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Secretary of State	I now recognize the Chief Clerk to call the roll.
Chief Clerk	(*Calls House roll – Assistant Chief Clerk records results on Opening Session roll sheet*) Upon completion of the roll call, if it is found that at least two thirds of House membership is present, Chief Clerk shall announce “Mr. Secretary, a quorum is present”.
Secretary of State	I now recognize the Chief Clerk to administer the Constitutional Oath of Office.
Chief Clerk	Please rise and repeat after me: "I, (state your name), do solemnly swear (or affirm), that I will faithfully execute the duties of the office of a member of the House of Representatives of the _____ Youth Legislature of the State of Texas, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United

	States and of this State. So help me God."
Secretary of State	I now lay before the House, House Resolution 1. Will the Clerk please read House Resolution 1 in its' entirety.
Chief Clerk	BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the _____ Youth Legislature of the State of Texas, That pending the election of the speaker, all persons other than members of the legislature, members of their families, House officers, and approved press representatives be barred from the floor of the house of representatives inside the rail.
Secretary of State	I will now entertain a motion for passage of HR1
Member of House	(*Addresses chair and moves for passage of HR1*)
Secretary of State	We will now vote on adoption of House Resolution 1. All those in favor please say Aye… All opposed Nay… Any abstentions? In the eyes of the chair, this measure is adopted.
Secretary of State	I now lay before the House, House Resolution 2. Will the Clerk please read House Resolution 2 in its' entirety.
Chief Clerk	WHEREAS, Section 9, Article III, Texas Constitution, requires that the house of representatives elect a speaker of the house from its own membership; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall call each candidate forward in turn to give an opening speech and to preside over a demonstration bill to demonstrate the candidates skills; and, be it further RESOLVED, That upon completion of all speeches and demonstrations, votes shall be taken for election of speaker; and, be it further RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall announce the results of the election; and if one candidate has received a majority of the votes cast, the secretary of state shall declare him or her to be elected to the office of speaker of the house of representatives; but if no nominee has received such a majority, the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes in the first ballot shall be in a runoff election and the vote shall be repeated a second time with votes being cast for one or the other of the two candidates, the member receiving the higher vote being declared elected; and, be it further RESOLVED, That after the election, the oath of office shall be administered under the direction of the secretary of state to the speaker-elect, and the speaker shall thereupon take the chair.
Secretary of State	I will now entertain a motion for passage of HR2
Member of House	(*Addresses chair and moves for passage of HR2*)
Secretary of State	We will now vote on adoption of House Resolution 2. All those in favor please say Aye… All opposed Nay… Any abstentions? In the eyes of the chair, this measure is adopted.
Secretary of State	Order having been determined by coin toss, I will now call forward each candidate for Speaker in turn. Each candidate will have the opportunity to speak for 5 minutes and then preside over a bill to demonstrate his or her skills. After all candidates have come forward we will vote for Speaker for this Legislative session. I will then allow you to stand at ease while the votes are counted. I urge you to test the skills of each candidate to enable you to cast a vote for the best candidate.
Each Speaker Candidate in turn	(*Address of the House – Speech not to exceed 5 minutes*). Presentation of selected sample bill following House Floor Procedure.
Secretary of State	Ballots will now be circulated for election of the Speaker. Once all ballots have been collected the House may stand at ease while the

	votes are tallied.
Secretary of State	(*Bang gavel*) The house will now come to order. It is with great honor that I declare the Honorable _____ of _____ to be the duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the _____ Youth Legislature of the State of Texas. I hereby appoint the following escort committee to escort Speaker-elect _____ to the Speaker's rostrum for the purpose of taking the constitutional oath of office by the speaker-elect: (*appoint approximately 6 House members for the escort committee*) _____ _____
Escort Committee and Speaker-elect	(*Speaker-elect escorted by escort committee to Speaker's rostrum. Escort committee returns to seats.*)
Secretary of State	(*To Speaker-elect*) Please repeat after me: "I, (state your name), do solemnly swear (or affirm), that I will faithfully execute the duties of the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives of the _____ Youth Legislature of the State of Texas, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of this State. So help me God."
Secretary of State	(*Handing gavel to Speaker*) It is with great honor that I now relinquish the chair of the _____ Youth Legislature of the State of Texas to the Honorable Speaker of the House, _____.
Speaker of the House	(*Address of the House – Speech not to exceed 5 minutes*)
Speaker of the House	I now lay before the House, House Resolution 3. Will the Clerk please read House Resolution 3 in its' entirety.
Chief Clerk	BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the State of Texas, that the Rules of the _____ House of Representatives are adopted as the permanent rules of the _____ House of Representatives of the _____ Youth Legislature.
Speaker of the House	I will now entertain a motion for passage of HR3
Member of House	(*Addresses chair and moves for passage of HR3*)
Speaker of the House	We will now vote on adoption of House Resolution 3. All those in favor please say Aye… All opposed Nay… Any abstentions? In the eyes of the chair, this measure is adopted.
Speaker of the House	I hereby appoint the following committee to inform the Senate that the House is organized and ready to conduct business: (*appoint 1 chairperson and approximately 5 House members for the committee*) _____ _____
Appointed Committee Members	(*Proceed to Senate Sergeant-at-Arms. When admitted to Chambers by President and recognized, committee chairperson should announce the following*): Mr. President, I have been directed by the Honorable Speaker _____ to inform you that the House is organized and ready to conduct business.
Speaker of the House	(*Continuing without waiting for return of above committee -- Make any announcements provided by officers / Legislative advisors*)
Speaker of the House	(*After all announcements*) The chair will now recognize a motion for adjournment until _____ tomorrow.
Member of House	(*Addresses chair and moves for adjournment until time certain*)
Speaker of the House	There is a motion on the floor for adjournment until _____ tomorrow. Do I hear a second? Hearing one we shall now vote on adjournment until _____ tomorrow. All those in favor please say Aye… All opposed Nay… Any abstentions? In the eyes of the chair, this motion does pass. The house will stand adjourned until _____ tomorrow. (*Bang*

	gavel twice)

OPENING SESSION – SENATE

Event Notes

Once the House is organized and ready to conduct business, a committee will be sent to the Senate to announce that fact. Upon their arrival, the following steps shall be inserted into the opening session script at the first break (when there is no motion on the floor)	
Sergeant-at-Arms	Mister/Madam President, the House Committee is at the Senate door.
Acting President	Please admit the committee from the House
Senate Committee Chair	Mister/Madam President, I have been directed by the Honorable Speaker _____ to inform you that the House is organized and ready to conduct business.
Acting President	Thank you Representatives. (*Resume script*)

Session Script

Lt. Governor	(*Bang gavel*) The Senate of the _____ Youth Legislature of the State of Texas shall come to order.
Lt. Governor	Will Senate Chaplain _____ please come to the front podium and give the invocation.
Senate Chaplain	(*Chaplain gives a give non-sectarian invocation from front floor podium*)
Lt. Governor	(*Address of the Senate – Speech not to exceed 5 minutes*)
Lt. Governor	I now recognize Chief Clerk of the Senate _____ to announce the Senate Officers for this session.
Chief Clerk	Parliamentarian _____ Asst. Parliamentarian _____ Journal Clerk _____ Sergeant-at-Arms _____ Assistant Chief Clerk _____ Chaplain _____ Doorkeeper _____ Pages _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Lt. Governor	I now recognize the Chief Clerk to call the roll.
Chief Clerk	(*Calls Senate roll – Assistant Chief Clerk records results on Opening Session roll sheet*) Upon completion of the roll call, if it is found that at least two thirds of Senate membership is present, Chief Clerk shall announce “Mr. President, a quorum is present”.
Lt. Governor	I now recognize the Chief Clerk to administer the Constitutional Oath of Office.
Chief Clerk	Please rise and repeat after me: "I, (state your name), do solemnly swear (or affirm), that I will faithfully execute the duties of the office of a member of the Senate of the _____ Youth Legislature of the State of Texas, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of this State. So help me God."
Lt. Governor	I now lay before the Senate, Senate Resolution 1. Will the Clerk please

	read Senate Resolution 1 in its' entirety.
Chief Clerk	BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the _____ Youth Legislature of the State of Texas, That pending the election of the President Pro Tempore, all persons other than members of the legislature, members of their families, Senate officers, and approved press representatives be barred from the floor of the Senate inside the rail.
Lt. Governor	I will now entertain a motion for passage of SR1
Member of Senate	(*Addresses chair and moves for passage of SR1*)
Lt. Governor	We will now vote on adoption of Senate Resolution 1. All those in favor please say Aye… All opposed Nay… Any abstentions? In the eyes of the chair, this measure is adopted.
Lt. Governor	I now lay before the Senate, Senate Resolution 2. Will the Clerk please read Senate Resolution 2 in its' entirety.
Chief Clerk	WHEREAS, Section 9, Article III, Texas Constitution, requires that the Senate elect a President Pro Tempore from its own membership; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That the Lt. Governor shall call each candidate forward in turn to give and an opening speech and to preside over a demonstration bill to demonstrate the candidates skills; and, be it further RESOLVED, That upon completion of all speeches and demonstrations, votes shall be taken for election of President Pro Tempore; and, be it further RESOLVED, That the Lt. Governor shall announce the results of the election; and if one candidate has received a majority of the votes cast, the Lt. Governor shall declare him or her to be elected to the office of President Pro Tempore; but if no nominee has received such a majority, the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes in the first ballot shall be in a runoff election and the vote shall be repeated a second time with votes being cast for one or the other of the two candidates, the member receiving the higher vote being declared elected; and, be it further RESOLVED, That after the election, the oath of office shall be administered under the direction of the Lt. Governor to the President Pro Tempore, and the President Pro Tempore shall thereupon take the chair.
Lt. Governor	I will now entertain a motion for passage of SR2
Member of Senate	(*Addresses chair and moves for passage of SR2*)
Lt. Governor	We will now vote on adoption of Senate Resolution 2. All those in favor please say Aye… All opposed Nay… Any abstentions? In the eyes of the chair, this measure is adopted.
Lt. Governor	Order having been determined by coin toss, I will now call forward each candidate for President Pro Tempore in turn. Each candidate will have the opportunity to speak for 5 minutes and then preside over a bill to demonstrate his or her skills. After all candidates have come forward we will vote for President Pro Tempore for this Legislative session. I will then allow you to stand at ease while the votes are counted. I urge you to test the skills of each candidate to enable you to cast a vote for the best candidate.
Each President Pro Tempore Candidate in turn	(*Address of the Senate – Speech not to exceed 5 minutes*). Presentation of selected sample bill following Senate Floor Procedure.
Lt. Governor	Ballots will now be circulated for election of the President Pro Tempore. Once all ballots have been collected the Senate may stand at ease

	while the votes are tallied.
Lt. Governor	(*Bang gavel*) The Senate will now come to order. It is with great honor that I declare the Honorable _____ of _____ to be the duly elected President Pro Tempore of the Senate for the _____ Youth Legislature of the State of Texas. I hereby appoint the following escort committee to escort President Pro Tempore _____ to the President's rostrum for the purpose of taking the constitutional oath of office by the President Pro Tempore: (*appoint approximately 4 Senate members for the escort committee*) _____ _____
Escort Committee and President Pro Tempore	(*President Pro Tempore escorted by escort committee to President's rostrum. Escort committee returns to seats.*)
Lt. Governor	(*To President Pro Tempore*) Please repeat after me: "I, (state your name), do solemnly swear (or affirm), that I will faithfully execute the duties of the office of President Pro Tempore of the Senate for the _____ Youth Legislature of the State of Texas, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of this State. So help me God."
Lt. Governor	(*Handing gavel to President Pro Tempore*) It is with great honor that I now relinquish the chair of the Senate for the _____ Youth Legislature of the State of Texas to the Honorable President Pro Tempore, _____.
President Pro Tempore	(*Address of the Senate – Speech not to exceed 5 minutes*)
President Pro Tempore	I now lay before the Senate, Senate Resolution 3. Will the Clerk please read Senate Resolution 3 in its' entirety.
Chief Clerk	BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Texas, that the Rules of the _____ Senate are adopted as the permanent rules of the _____ Senate of the _____ Youth Legislature.
President Pro Tempore	I will now entertain a motion for passage of SR3
Member of Senate	(*Addresses chair and moves for passage of SR3*)
President Pro Tempore	We will now vote on adoption of Senate Resolution 3. All those in favor please say Aye… All opposed Nay… Any abstentions? In the eyes of the chair, this measure is adopted.
President Pro Tempore	I hereby appoint the following committee to inform the House that the Senate is organized and ready to conduct business: (*appoint 1 chairperson and approximately 3 Senate members for the committee*) _____ _____
Appointed Committee Members	(*Proceed to House Sergeant-at-Arms. When admitted to Chambers by Acting Speaker and recognized, committee chairperson should announce the following*): Mr. Secretary (or Speaker), I have been directed by the Honorable President Pro Tempore _____ to inform you that the Senate is organized and ready to conduct business.
President Pro Tempore	(*Continuing without waiting for return of above committee -- Make any announcements provided by officers / Legislative advisors*)
President Pro Tempore	(*After all announcements*) The chair will now recognize a motion for adjournment until _____ tomorrow.
Member of Senate	(*Addresses chair and moves for adjournment until time certain*)
President Pro Tempore	There is a motion on the floor for adjournment until _____ tomorrow. Do I hear a second? Hearing one we shall now vote on adjournment until _____ tomorrow. All those in favor please say Aye… All opposed

	Nay… Any abstentions? In the eyes of the chair, this motion does pass. The Senate will stand adjourned until _____ tomorrow. (*Bang gavel twice*)

JOINT SESSION

Event Notes

Staging and Seating of Personnel for Joint Session
State Officers, President Pro Tempore, Speaker of the House and Invited Speaker(s) seated in assigned seats on Speaker's Rostrum
House members seated in assigned House chairs
Senate members stage at House door, enter upon signal, and are seated in Center Aisle chairs
Justices stage behind the House Chamber, enter upon announcement, and sit in chairs across front of House facing Speaker's Rostrum
All other delegates seated in the House Gallery

Session Script

Sergeant-at-Arms	(*from center aisle*) Mister / Madame Speaker
Speaker of the House	Yes Mister / Madame Seargent?
Sergeant-at-Arms	The Senate is organized, ready to do business, and waiting at the door for admittance to the House.
Speaker of the House	Admit the Senate. (*Senate enters and is seated in center aisle. President Pro Tempore takes seat on Speaker's Rostrum.*)
Speaker of the House	(*Bang gavel*) The House will come to order.
Lt. Governor	(*Bang gavel*) The Senate will come to order.
Page	Hoya! Hoya! Hoya! All rise for the Honorable Chief Justice _____ and his / her Court and Presiding Judge _____ and his / her Court. (*Chief Justice and Presiding Judge take seat on Speaker's Rostrum. Other Justices are to be seated in chairs across front of House Chamber.*)
Lt. Governor	All rise for the admittance of Governor _____ and his escort committee. (*Governor takes seat on Speaker's Rostrum. Escort committee retires.*)
Speaker of the House	Please stand as the _____ High School Color Guard presents the colors.
Speaker of the House	Please remain standing as _____ leads us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
Speaker of the House	Please remain standing as _____ leads us in the Invocation.
Speaker of the House	(*After Invocation*) Please be seated.
Lt. Governor	Introduce Secretary of State _____
Secretary of State	*Welcome speech*
Lt. Governor	Introduce Attorney General _____
Attorney General	*Introduce Guest Speaker* _____
Lt. Governor	Introduce Governor _____
Governor	*Opening Session Speech*
Lt. Governor	Introduce Editor of Print Media _____ for General Business Announcements
Editor of Print Media	*General Business Announcements*
Lt. Governor	Introduce all remaining guests including Chief Justice

	_____, Presiding Judge _____ and any others: _____.
Speaker of the House	The business of this Joint Session now being complete, the House is adjourned until _____ a.m. Saturday. (*Bang gavel*).
Lt. Governor	The business of this Joint Session now being complete, the Senate is adjourned until _____ a.m. Saturday. (*Bang gavel*).

PROCEDURE FOR FLOOR DEBATE OF A BILL OR RESOLUTION

1) BILL OR RESOLUTION LAID OUT: The Presiding Officer shall lay out the first or next bill and call upon the Clerk to read its caption, Enacting Clause and all passed committee amendments. [Proponent/Opponent slips and Amendment slips are in order as soon as caption is read]

2) AUTHORS OPENING REMARKS: The Presiding Officer shall recognize the bill author(s) for a period not to exceed five (5) minutes to give testimony explaining the bill, its purposes and effects.

    a) In the non-originating house, "author" shall mean the floor sponsor of the legislation.
    b) At the close of this period, the author should move "that this bill be passed on second reading".

3) AUTHORS QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD: Upon completion of the authors opening remarks or expiration of the time period, the author(s) question and answer period shall begin. [NOTE: All members wishing to submit an amendment(s) to the bill must submit a completed Amendment Slip(s) to the Clerk before the end of this period.] The author(s) question and answer period shall be limited to a total of ten (10) minutes and shall proceed as follows:

    a) The Presiding Officer recognizes in turn each Member who wishes to question the author(s) with the following rules applicable:

        i) In the House, questions are posed from the rear podium. In the Senate questions are posed from the respective Senators desk.
        ii) Each member shall be limited to one question until all Members wishing to ask a question have done so.
        iii) Rules do not require an author to yield to questions and the author may refuse to yield to any individual or all members.
        iv) A member asking to pose a question to the author may yield to another member after the author has yielded to the original member and the author must then answer the question.

4) AMENDMENT PERIOD: Completion of the Authors Question and Answer Period marks the beginning of Amendment Period, which the Presiding Officer shall announce. [NOTE: All members wishing to give testimony on the bill must submit a proponent or opponent slip as appropriate, to the Clerk before the end of this period.]

    a) The Presiding Officer shall ask the Clerk to read the amendment
    b) The Presiding Officer shall recognize the amendment author for two (2) minutes to explain the amendment.
    c) The Presiding Officer shall recognize the Author(s) of the Bill for two (2) minutes to respond to the amendment
    d) If the Bill Author(s) accepts the amendment, the Presiding Officer will recognize any ONE member who wishes to speak in opposition of the amendment for a maximum of two (2) minutes. If there are no members who wish to speak against the amendment, proceed to the next step.
    e) The Presiding Officer shall recognize the amendment author for one (1) minute to close debate on the amendment.
    f) The Presiding Officer calls for a vote on the amendment.

g) If the amendment passes, the Clerk denotes that it passed in the appropriate chamber and attaches the completed Amendment Slip to the bill as part of the Bill Jacket.

NOTE: Section 4.a through 4.g shall be repeated for each properly submitted amendment in the order in which they were submitted.

5) PROPONENT / OPPONENT DEBATE PERIOD: Completion of the Amendment Period marks the beginning of Proponent / Opponent Debate Period which the Presiding Officer shall announce.

a) The Presiding Officer will ask the Clerk to name the first proponent witness wishing to give testimony in favor of the bill and shall then recognize him or her for a maximum of two (2) minutes to present his/her testimony. Extensions of time are not allowed.

i) If the proponent wishes to yield to questions and has sufficient time, the Presiding Officer will recognize Members who wish to question the proponent witness until his time expires or is otherwise yielded.

b) The Presiding Officer will ask the Clerk to name the first opponent witness wishing to give testimony against the bill and shall then recognize him or her for a maximum of two (2) minutes to present his/her testimony. Extensions of time are not allowed.

i) If the opponent wishes to yield to questions and has sufficient time, the Presiding Officer will recognize Members who wish to question the opponent witness until his time expires or is otherwise yielded.

b) NOTE: Section 4.a through 4.b. shall be repeated in succession, alternating between proponent and opponent speakers until one or the other is exhausted and continuing through all remaining members that have requested to speak. However, if proponents outnumber opponents on the measure, the final opponent shall be held and called as the last speaker during Proponent / Opponent Debate. If no opponent slips were submitted the Presiding Officer may ask if any member wishes to speak in opposition to the main measures but no opponent is required.

[NOTE: For clarification, proponent and opponent speakers are to alternate but an opponent speaker (if there are any) should close the Proponent / Opponent Debate Period.]

6) AUTHORS SUMMATION PERIOD: The Presiding Officer shall recall the Bill Author(s) to offer two (2) minutes of additional testimony in summation.

7) Presiding Officer recognizes a Member to make a motion for disposition of the bill or resolution.

8) Presiding Officer calls for a vote on the motion (the bill). The vote may be a voice vote or standing vote, but if a written request for a standing vote signed by ten (10) Members is turned into the Clerk before the start of the vote, the Presiding Officer must call for a standing vote.

9) The Clerk completes the bill report and has it delivered to the other house or the governor if it has passed both houses.

10) The Presiding Officer lays out the next bill and repeats the process (steps 1 through 9) for the second and all subsequent bills on the docket.

11) The house will adjourn by a Member's motion only after (1) all bills on the docket have been properly heard and the Legislative Director has given the okay, or (2) the time for adjournment as listed in the schedule has been reached.

EXAMPLES OF FLOOR DEBATE

Bill Debate Script

Using the following simple bill as an example, this section includes a scripted example of a bill debate following floor procedure in the House of Representatives.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

An Act prohibiting ticket scalping, setting penalties, and declaring an emergency.

Be it enacted by the Youth Legislature of the State of Texas

Section 1. Definitions as used in this Act.

a. Scalping: the resale of tickets to concerts, sports events, and other entertainment events at prices greater than the face value as stated on the ticket.

Section 2. Scalping is hereby prohibited.

Section 3. Penalties. Violation of this Act shall be a Class A misdemeanor and shall be punishable as such.

Section 4. Repealer Clause. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are herby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

Section 5. Severability Clause. If any portion of this Act shall be deemed unconstitutional, it is the intent of this Legislature that the other portions of this Act remain in full force and effect.

Section 6. Emergency Clause. The importance of this legislation and the crowded conditions of the calendars of both houses create an imperative public necessity that the Constitutional Rule requiring that bills be read on three (3) separate days in each house be suspended, and it is so suspended, and that this Act shall take effect on the date indicated, and it is so enacted.

The cast of characters includes the **Speaker** and Clerk and the following committee members:

David Dallas from Dallas Downtown YMCA	**Harry Harris from Houston Downtown YMCA**
Alice Travis from Austin Downtown YMCA	***Sally Bexar from San Antonio Downtown YMCA***

and ***Terry Tarrant from Fort Worth Downtown YMCA*** as the Bill Author.

Bill Laid Out

SPEAKER: Will the clerk please read the caption of the first bill?

CLERK: A Bill to be entitled An Act prohibiting ticket scalping, setting penalties, and declaring an emergency.

Author's / Sponsor's Opening Remarks

SPEAKER: The bill author shall come forward to make opening remarks. You will have 5 minutes.

Terry Tarrant: Fellow Representatives, I come before you to ask for your consideration of an important piece of legislation. Every day, average citizens are denied the opportunity, or must pay ridiculous premiums, to attend popular events. Though there are never enough front row seats to satisfy consumer demand, it is almost impossible for the average consumer to buy premium seats at the price the performer, promoter and venue intended those seats to cost. This is true because "scalpers" buy up large quantities of premium seats and then auction them off to the highest bidder. This has also caused some major performers, Garth Brooks for example, to cancel events in some venues.

David Dallas: Mr. Speaker!

SPEAKER: For what purpose does the gentleman[1] rise?

David Dallas: David Dallas, Dallas Downtown YMCA, I rise to question the Bill Author.

SPEAKER: Does the Bill Author wish to yield?

Terry Tarrant: Not during my opening remarks.

SPEAKER: The Bill Author does not wish to yield at this time.

Terry Tarrant: We must put an end to this practice of price gouging – to equalize the playing field so that each average consumer has an equal chance to get the best seats in the house.

Alice Travis: Mr. Speaker!

SPEAKER: For what purpose does the lady[2] rise?

Alice Travis: Alice Travis, Austin Downtown YMCA, I rise to make a motion.

SPEAKER: State the nature of your motion.

Alice Travis: Concerning Tabling of this Bill.

SPEAKER: I do not wish to recognize that motion at this time.

Terry Tarrant: I appreciate the Speaker's recognition that this is a matter worthy of debate by not recognizing the motion to table it. I urge you to give this important matter fair consideration and will now yield the remainder of my time to my closing remarks.

Author's / Sponsor's Question and Answer Period

SPEAKER: The Bill Author has yielded his remaining time, 2 minutes, to his summation period. We will now move to the formal Question and Answer period. Please note that Amendment slips are due by the end of the Question and Answer Period. Does anyone wish to question the Bill Author at this time?

David Dallas: Mr. Speaker!

SPEAKER: For what purpose does the gentleman rise?

David Dallas: David Dallas, Dallas Downtown YMCA, I rise to question the Bill Author.

SPEAKER: Does the Bill Author wish to yield?

Terry Tarrant: Yes.

SPEAKER: Proceed.

David Dallas: Don't you believe that a person that stands in line and buys tickets to an event and later finds he will not be able to attend the event should be able to sell them instead of losing the money?

Terry Tarrant: Yes I do, but not for a profit.

David Dallas: Mr. Speaker!

SPEAKER: For what purpose does the gentleman rise?

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[1] See "Addressing Members of the Legislature" on page 1.
[2] See "Addressing Members of the Legislature" on page 1.

David Dallas: David Dallas, Dallas Downtown YMCA, I rise to question the Bill Author.

SPEAKER: Does anyone object to this member asking another question? Seeing none does the Bill Author wish to yield?

Terry Tarrant: Yes.

SPEAKER: Proceed.

David Dallas: And why shouldn't someone be able to sell anything that they buy legally for a profit?

Terry Tarrant: Because it is not these individuals and their circumstances that have caused event tickets to become out of reach of the average person. It is the ticket agencies that pay homeless people a few dollars, or a pack of cigarettes, or a bottle of wine, to stand in line and buy all of the tickets they can with the sole intent of reselling the tickets at a marked up price.

David Dallas: And what is wrong with that?

SPEAKER: [striking gavel] Mr. Dallas, you are out of order!

Alice Travis: Mr. Speaker!

SPEAKER: For what purpose does the lady rise?

Alice Travis: Alice Travis, Austin Downtown YMCA, I rise to question the Bill Author.

SPEAKER: Does the Bill Author wish to yield?

Terry Tarrant: Yes.

SPEAKER: Proceed.

Alice Travis: Continuing with the previous line of questioning, what is wrong with a ticket agency acquiring tickets for the purpose of resale?

Terry Tarrant: The face value of tickets are set at a level to pay the performers, the promoters and the venue and still be reasonable enough in cost that an enthusiast can afford to attend. Scalped tickets are marked up so much that either the enthusiast must settle for an undesirable seat or make great sacrifice to purchase a high-priced ticket for a good seat. Of course this generally means that only the elite have front row seats.

SPEAKER: Are there any further questions of the Bill Author?

Sally Bexar: Mr. Speaker!

SPEAKER: For what purpose does the lady rise?

Sally Bexar: Sally Bexar, San Antonio Downtown YMCA, I rise to question the Bill Author.

SPEAKER: Does the Bill Author wish to yield?

Terry Tarrant: Yes.

SPEAKER: Proceed.

Sally Bexar: If this is enacted, don't you think that punishment, as a Class A Misdemeanor, is too harsh?

Terry Tarrant: I do not. However, I would entertain an amendment to change the punishment to Class C for first time offenses and Class B for subsequent offenses.

Clerk: Time.

Amendment Period

SPEAKER: Time has been called. We will now move into the Amendment Period. Will the Clerk please read the first amendment?

CLERK: Amend by replacing the text of Section 3 Penalties with "First time violation of this Act shall be punishable as a Class C misdemeanor. Second and subsequent violations shall be punishable as a Class B misdemeanor."

SPEAKER: The Amendment Author shall come forward and have two minutes to explain the amendment.

Sally Bexar: As I said while questioning the author, I feel that the penalty is too stiff for the offense. I urge you to pass this

amendment so that the penalty is commensurate to the crime. [Leaves podium]

SPEAKER: The Bill Author shall come forward and have two minutes to respond to the amendment.

Terry Tarrant: I support this amendment as I feel a first time offender should not be subjected to jail time.

SPEAKER: Since the Bill Author has accepted this amendment, is there any member who wishes to speak against this amendment? Seeing none, the Amendment Author will now have one minute to close debate on this amendment.

Sally Bexar: The punishment has to fit the crime so I urge you to vote for this amendment. [Leaves podium]

SPEAKER: By her actions she has yielded her time to the chair. We will now vote on the amendment. All those in favor please signify by saying "Aye". All those opposed say "Nay". In the eyes of the chair the Ayes have it and this Amendment is adopted. [Strike gavel twice] The Clerk will now read the next amendment.

CLERK: There are no more amendments.

Proponent / Opponent Debate Period

SPEAKER: Since there are no more amendments, we will now move into the Proponent / Opponent Debate Period. Would the Clerk please read the name of the first Proponent speaker?

CLERK: Harry Harris

SPEAKER: Harry Harris shall come forward to speak in favor of this Bill. You will have 2 minutes.

Harry Harris: I am fully in support of this Bill because I think the average fan should be able to attend an event without having to go into debt. At present, it is very expensive to attend the events of superstars because all of the good tickets are bought by ticket agents for resale. [Sits down]

SPEAKER: By his actions he has yielded his time to the chair. Would the Clerk please read the name of the first Opponent speaker?

CLERK: Alice Travis

SPEAKER: Alice Travis shall come forward to speak in opposition to this Bill. You will have 2 minutes.

Alice Travis: I strongly believe in a free-market economy and therefore must oppose any measure that would limit an individual's right to make a profit. Therefore I urge you to vote against this Bill.

Harry Harris: Mr. Chairperson!

SPEAKER: For what purpose does the gentleman rise?

Harry Harris: Harry Harris, Houston Downtown YMCA, I rise to question the Opponent.

SPEAKER: Does the Opponent wish to yield?

Alice Travis: No.

SPEAKER: The Opponent does not wish to yield to your question.

David Dallas: Mr. Chairperson!

SPEAKER: For what purpose does the gentleman rise?

David Dallas: David Dallas, Dallas Downtown YMCA, I rise to question the Opponent with a friendly question.

SPEAKER: Does the Opponent wish to yield?

Alice Travis: Yes.

SPEAKER: Proceed.

David Dallas: Wouldn't you agree that the performers, promoters and venues are making the money they feel they must make if the tickets are sold at face value?

Alice Travis: Yes.

David Dallas: How does…

SPEAKER: I'm sorry, but you are out of order – you may only ask one question.

David Dallas: Mr. Chairperson!

SPEAKER: For what purpose does the gentleman rise?

David Dallas: David Dallas, Dallas Downtown YMCA, I rise to question the Opponent.

SPEAKER: Does anyone object to this member asking another question? Seeing none does the Opponent wish to yield?

Alice Travis: Yes.

SPEAKER: Proceed.

David Dallas: As I was saying, wouldn't you also agree that if a person is willing and able to pay more than face value that the owner of that ticket has the right to sell it?

Alice Travis: Yes.

Clerk: Time.

SPEAKER: Time has been called. Will the Clerk please read the name of the next Proponent speaker?

CLERK: There are no more proponent speakers.

SPEAKER: Since there are no more proponent speakers, would the Clerk please read the name of the next Opponent speaker?

CLERK: David Dallas

Alice Travis: Mr. Speaker!

SPEAKER: For what purpose does the lady rise?

Alice Travis: Alice Travis, Austin Downtown YMCA, I rise to make a motion.

SPEAKER: State the nature of your motion.

Alice Travis: Concerning the Previous Question.

SPEAKER: I do not wish to recognize that motion at this time. Davis Dallas shall come forward to speak in opposition to this Bill. You will have 2 minutes.

David Dallas: I think the significant points have already been made but I must emphasize that I simply cannot support any piece of legislation that restricts the rights of an individual to make a profit. I urge you to vote against this bill. [Leaves podium]

SPEAKER: By his actions, he has yielded his time to the Chair. Would the Clerk please read the name of the next Opponent speaker?

CLERK: There are no more opponent speakers.

Author's / Sponsor's Summation Period

SPEAKER: Since there are no more Opponent speakers, the Bill Author shall come forward and have three minutes to close debate.

Alice Travis: Point of Order!

SPEAKER: State your point.

Alice Travis: The time limit for the author's summation is two minutes.

SPEAKER: You are correct. However this author yielded two minutes from opening debate to this period.

Alice Travis: Thank you.

SPEAKER: You have four minutes.

Terry Tarrant: It is time that we put an end to the gouging of ticket agencies and re-enable normal people to afford front row seats to their favorite event. As amended, I think the punishment is viewed as more appropriate for the crime. Therefore, I urge all of you to vote for this Bill, and hereby move that this bill due pass as amended.

Bill Disposition

SPEAKER: There is a motion on the floor for due passage of this bill as amended. Do I hear a second?

Harry Harris: Second!

SPEAKER: A motion for due passage of this bill as amended has been made and seconded. We will now vote on that motion. All those in favor, please signify by saying "Aye". All those opposed, say "Nay". In the eyes of the chair, the Ayes have it, and this bill as amended due pass. [Strike gavel twice] The Clerk will now read the caption of the next bill.

Special Case Scripts

Using the same sample bill, this section includes various scripted examples for things that can occur during debate.

Motion to Table

Alice Travis: Mr. Speaker!

SPEAKER: For what purpose does the lady rise?

Alice Travis: Alice Travis, Austin Downtown YMCA, I rise to make a motion.

SPEAKER: State the nature of your motion.

Alice Travis: Concerning Tabling of this Bill.

SPEAKER: State your motion.

Alice Travis: I move that this bill be laid on the table.

SPEAKER: There is a motion to table this Bill on the floor. Do I hear a second?

David Dallas: Second!

SPEAKER: There is a motion to table this Bill on the floor that has been duly seconded. We will now vote on that motion. All those in favor, please signify by saying "Aye". All those opposed, say "Nay". In the eyes of the chair, the Ayes have it, and this bill is laid on the table. [Strike gavel twice] The Clerk will now read the caption of the next bill.

Motion for Previous Question

Davis Dallas: Mr. Speaker!

SPEAKER: For what purpose does the gentleman rise?

David Dallas: David Dallas, Dallas Downtown YMCA, I rise to make a motion.

SPEAKER: State the nature of your motion.

Davis Dallas: Concerning the Previous Question.

SPEAKER: State your motion.

Davis Dallas: I move the Previous Question.

SPEAKER: There is a motion for Previous Question on the floor. Do I hear (25 in House / 5 in Senate) seconds?

Various members: Second!

SPEAKER: There is a motion for Previous Question on the floor that has been duly seconded. We will now vote on that motion. All those in favor, please signify by saying "Aye". All those opposed, say "Nay". In the eyes of the chair, the Ayes have it. [Strike gavel twice and Call for the next appropriate action, i.e. the Authors Summation]

Point of Order

Someone does something that is against the rules that is either not caught by, or is ignored by, the chairperson and some other member objects.

Alice Travis: Point of Order!

SPEAKER: State your point.

Alice Travis: The member is not appropriately attired.

SPEAKER: The chair stands corrected. The member will please put his coat back on.

Speaker is Unable to Determine Outcome of Voice Vote

SPEAKER: There is a motion for [matter] on the floor that has been duly seconded. We will now vote on that motion. All those in favor, please signify by saying "Aye". All those opposed, say "Nay". The chair is unable to determine the outcome from this voice vote. Therefore we will now take a standing vote. All those in favor, please signify by standing. [Speaker and Clerk(s) count proponents] Be seated. All those opposed, please stand. [Speaker and Clerk(s) count opponents] Be seated. By a vote of [# of proponents] to [# of opponents], this measure does pass.

Member Calls Division on Announcement of Outcome of Voice Vote

SPEAKER: There is a motion for [matter] on the floor that has been duly seconded. We will now vote on that motion. All those in favor, please signify by saying "Aye". All those opposed, say "Nay". In the eyes of the chair, the Ayes have it. [Strike gavel twice – a member, disputing the call of the vote, says "Division" between the two gavel strikes] Division has been called. Therefore we will now take a standing vote. All those in favor, please signify by standing. [Speaker and Clerk(s) count proponents] Be seated. All those opposed, please stand. [Speaker and Clerk(s) count opponents] Be seated. By a vote of [# of proponents] to [# of opponents], this measure does pass.

SAMPLE OPENING SESSION RESOLUTIONS

House / Senate Resolution 1

H (or S).R. No. 1

R E S O L U T I O N

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives (Senate) of the ____ Youth Legislature of the State of Texas, that pending the election of the speaker (president pro tempore), all persons other than members of the legislature, members of their families, temporary officers, and approved press representatives be barred from the floor of the House of Representatives (Senate) inside the rail.

_____
Speaker of the House (Lieutenant Governor)

I certify that H(or S).R. No. 1 was adopted by the House (Senate) on January ____, 200__, by a non-record vote.

_____
Chief Clerk of the House (Senate)

House / Senate Resolution 2

H (or S).R. No. 2

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Section 9, Article III, Texas Constitution, requires that the House of Representatives (Senate) elect a speaker of the house (president pro tempore of the senate) from its own membership; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the secretary of state (lieutenant governor) shall call forward the nominees from each district for the election of speaker of the house of representatives (president pro tempore of the senate) for the ____ Legislature and shall recognize those candidates for speeches not to exceed five minutes in length; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That after all speeches have been made, each candidate shall have the opportunity to preside over a practice bill presentation to demonstrate his or her skills; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all votes taken for election of speaker (president pro tempore) shall be on the provided written ballot forms record; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the secretary of state (lieutenant governor) shall announce the results of the election; and if one candidate has received a majority of the votes cast, the secretary of state (lieutenant governor) shall declare him or her to be elected to the office of speaker of the house of representatives (president pro tempore of the senate) ; but if no nominee has received such a majority, the two nominees receiving the largest number of votes in the first ballot shall be in a runoff election and the procedure shall be repeated a second time with votes being cast for one or the other of the two nominees, the member receiving the higher vote being declared elected; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That after the election, the oath of office shall be administered under the direction of the secretary of state (lieutenant governor) to the speaker-elect (president pro tempore-elect), and the speaker shall thereupon take the chair (the lieutenant governor may optionally relinquish the chair to the president pro-tempore).

_____
Speaker of the House (President Pro Tempore)

I certify that H(or S).R. No. 2 was adopted by the House (Senate) on January ____, 200__, by a non-record vote.

_____
Chief Clerk of the House (Senate)

House / Senate Resolution 3

H.R. No. 3

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, At the general election on November 4, 1930, Section 5, Article III, Texas Constitution, was amended to read as follows, to wit:

"The Legislature shall meet every two years at such time as may be provided by law and at other times when convened by the Governor. When convened in regular Session, the first thirty days thereof shall be devoted to the introduction of bills and resolutions, acting upon emergency appropriations, passing upon the confirmation of the recess appointees of the Governor and such emergency matters as may be submitted by the Governor in special messages to the Legislature; provided that during the succeeding thirty days of the regular session of the Legislature the various committees of each House shall hold hearings to consider all bills and resolutions and other matters then pending; and such emergency matters as may be submitted by the Governor; provided further that during the following sixty days the Legislature shall act upon such bills and resolutions as may be then pending and upon such emergency matters as may be submitted by the Governor in special messages to the Legislature; provided, however, either House may otherwise determine its order of business by an affirmative vote of four-fifths of its membership."; and

WHEREAS, Under said amendment it is specifically provided that either house may otherwise determine its order of business by an affirmative vote of four-fifths of its membership; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Representatives (Senate) of the ____Texas Youth Legislature, by an affirmative vote of four-fifths of its membership, That the order of its business for the regular session is hereby determined to be otherwise than set forth in Section 5, Article III, Texas Constitution, and declared to be specifically as set forth in the temporary and permanent Joint Rules of the YMCA Youth Legislature and the rules of the House of Representatives (Senate) of the ____th Youth Legislature.

_____
Speaker of the House (President Pro Tempore)

I certify that H(or S).R. No. 3 was adopted by the House (Senate) on January ____, 200__, by a non-record vote.

_____
Chief Clerk of the House (Senate)

HOUSE AND SENATE FLOOR DEBATE MOTION / SECONDS CHARTS

Motion	Citation	Required Votes	Seconds Required	Debatable Motion
Suspend floor admission rules		Unanimous	One	Yes
Authorize Conference Committee to Meet		Unanimous	One	Yes
Expulsion of a member of the body		2/3 membership	One	Yes
Override of Veto for bills originating in the other house		2/3 membership	One	No
Override of Veto for bills originating in this house		2/3 present	One	No
Suspend floor privileges of a member		2/3 present	One	Yes
Suspend the normal order of business	Const Art 3, Sec 5(c)	4/5 membership	One	Yes
Suspension of a Joint Rule		4/5 present	One	Yes
Suspension of a House or Senate Rule		2/3 present	One	Yes
Adoption of House, Senate or Joint Rules		Majority of membership	One	No
Final passage of proposed Constitutional Amendment		2/3 membership	One	No
Final passage of Bill to take effect immediately	Const Art 3, Sec 39	2/3 membership	One	No
Final passage of Bill that does not take effect immediately		Majority present	One	No
Final passage of an Amendment		Majority present	One	No
Adopt Conference Committee Report		Majority present	One	Yes
Adopt Motion for Previous Question		Majority present	25 in House 5 in Senate	Yes
Motion to Lay on the Table		Majority present	One	No
Motion to Lay on the Table Subject to Call		Majority present	One	No
Motion to Limit Amendments		Majority present	25 in House 5 in Senate	Yes

PROCEDURE FOR FLOOR DEBATE OF BILL OR RESOLUTION – QUICK FORM

1) BILL OR RESOLUTION LAID OUT
2) AUTHORS OPENING REMARKS (5 minutes)
3) AUTHORS QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD (10 minutes)
4) AMENDMENT PERIOD (repeat the following for each amendment)
   a) Clerk reads amendment
   b) Amendment author (2 minutes)
   c) Bill Author(s) (2 minutes)
   d) Optional Opponent if Bill Author is FOR Amendment (2 minutes)
   e) Amendment author closes debate (1 minute)
   f) Calls for a vote on the amendment
5) PROPONENT / OPPONENT DEBATE PERIOD (repeat the following until all proponents and opponents are heard, hearing an opponent last, even if several proponents have to speak successively)
   a) Proponent witness (2 minutes)
   b) Opponent witness (2 minutes)
6) AUTHORS SUMMATION PERIOD (2 minutes)
7) MOTION - Call for motion for disposition of the bill or resolution
8) VOTE - Call for vote on the motion (the bill)