



State of Christensen Legislative Overview

House of Representatives structure and rules:

The body will be separated into parties. Ducks on one side and Beavers on the other.

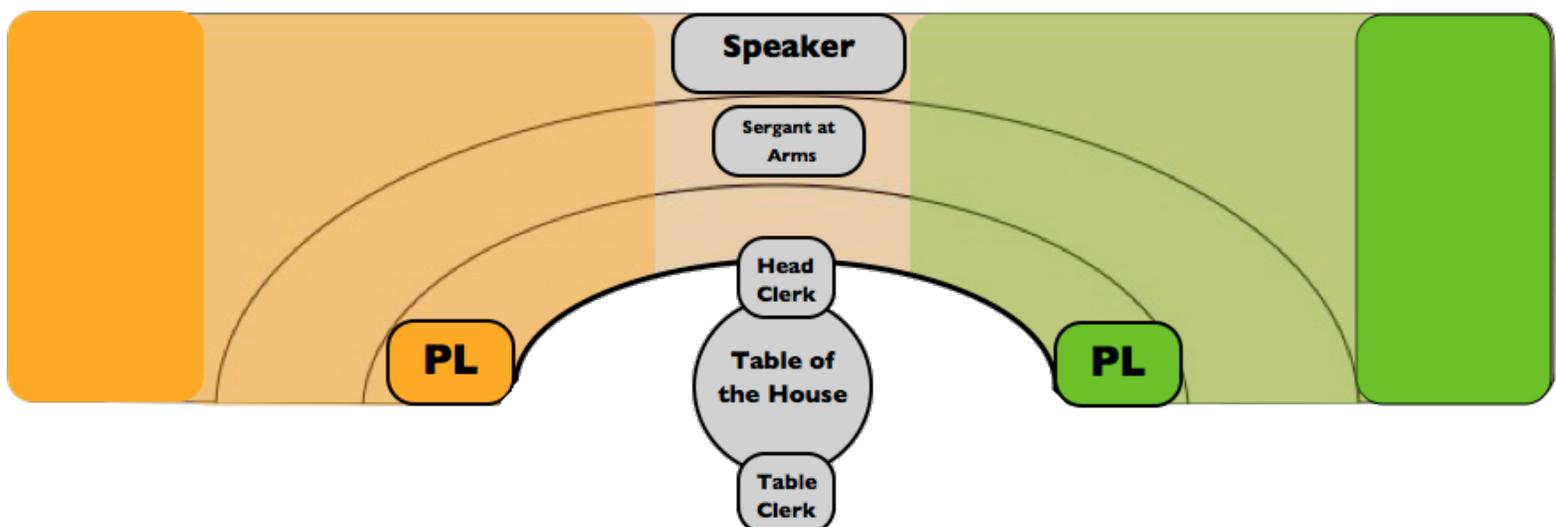
The Speaker of the House will be stationed in the middle back of the room. If no Speaker is seated this will be the first position elected when the body assembles. After election the Speaker will maintain complete neutrality. His job is to maintain order and to ensure the timely presentation of bills. The Speaker will only be able to vote when there is a tie and only if he decides to do so.

There will be a center table called the “Table of the House” where people presenting bills and Executives will stand when attending “Questions”

Each party will elect a leader (PL). This leader will become a Representative with all the rights and duties of the same. The leaders role in the House will be to defend the party when necessary and push party related legislation. They will become the overall leader of their respective parties in the state.

Two Clerks will be appointed to handle all the bills and paperwork of the House. They will not vote at any time. One Clerk is the Table Clerk and the other is the Head Clerk. They are responsible for all paperwork of the House and maintaining the calendar of events along with any other functions needed to move the business of the House forward.

The Sergeant at Arms will be appointed to act as the officer responsible for general order of the House under the direction of the Speaker and admittance or restriction of non members according to the Speakers orders. He may appoint staff as needed, the Sergeant does not vote.



Bills:

There are two kinds of bills. CH State bills that deal with issues of the simulation and OR State bills that address real life issues that face the state of Oregon. After Boys State ends signed OR state bills will be summarized and distributed to all members of the Oregon Legislature.

Each member can produce as many bills as he wants. He may also sponsor bills from a citizen of his city.

All bills will be given to the Clerks for processing and addition to the daily docket at direction from the Speaker.

The Speaker along with the Clerks will produce and distribute a bill schedule before each session. When the bill schedule is produced it will show what bill is to be heard in what order and a summary of the bill details. After the daily session the Clerks will produce a document listing the passed and failed bills for distribution to the citizens, Legislators and Media.

Order of procedures for hearing a bill:

The Speaker will open a hearing on the bill. The sponsor will then step up to the Table of the House and present his bill to the members and explain the details. Then the member will take questions on the merits of the bill. Any time after the initial presentation of the bill by the sponsor, members may propose amendments.

Friendly amendments only require the sponsors permission. Any amendment the sponsor does not agree to require 50% plus 1 of the members to agree to it before it becomes part of a bill. At any time the sponsor may remove himself from the bill. If no new sponsor volunteers then the bill dies.

After debate and amendments the bill will be voted on. To pass a bill it takes 50% of the members plus 1 to pass. A tie vote will require the Speaker to break the tie if he so wishes. If the Speaker declines to break the tie the bill will die. If the Bill passes it then goes to the Senate. Any Senate bills passed will go to the Governor for his consideration.

When a Senate bill is brought to the House the Senator who sponsored the bill must attend with his bill to go through the same process as stated above for a House bill.

When a House bill is passed to the Senate the sponsor will present his bill in the Senate.

Speaking on the House floor:

The Speaker is responsible for overall order in the House. He will call forth each bill and open the hearing in order as it was scheduled. All members must defer to the orders of the Speaker while in session.

When the Speaker opens the hearing on a Bill the Sponsor must step up to his side of the Table of the House and present his bill. He will then stand for questions and amendments.

To be given the floor a Member must be recognized by the Speaker. To be recognized you must stand and be picked by the Speaker to be given the floor. You may then ask a question or talk for or against the bill.

There may be interruptions during a debate where a Member will stand up and say:

“Will the honorable Member give way”

It is up to the Member speaking to agree or not.

If the member gives way then the requesting member may make his point. The member making the point can not divert the discussion and go off on a tangent. After his point is made then original speaker can continue. The Speaker will moderate this.

Voting:

When a bill is ready to be voted on and all the amendments have been added or other details taken away the Speaker will call out

“On passage of the Bill before us” All those in flavor say AYE”, (wait for the call)

“All those opposed say NAY.” (wait for the call)

At this point the Speaker will direct the clerk to check the appropriate box (pass or fail) on the bill and hand it to the Sergeant At Arms who will call out if the bill passed or failed.

If it is to close for the Speaker to tell what side won he will then direct the Sergeant at Arms to call for “Division”. The Sergeant at Arms will then call out **“division”** and direct Members to the appropriate lobby.

At this point the members will physically stand up and walk to the AYE or NAY section of the lobby to be counted by the Clerks. The results will be called out by the Sergeant at Arms when the Clerks have the correct tally and reported to the Speaker.

A Division may also be called by either party leader with the support of at least 3 members of the opposition and 5 members of his party.

RITUAL IS NECESSARY FOR US TO KNOW ANYTHING.

~ KEN KESEY

WHEN PEOPLE LACK TEACHERS, THEIR TENDENCIES ARE NOT CORRECTED; WHEN THEY DO NOT HAVE RITUAL AND MORAL PRINCIPLES, THEN THEIR LAWLESSNESS IS NOT CONTROLLED.

~ XUN ZI

Other actions of the House:

The Speaker's Procession,

The Speaker's Procession is voluntary. If you wish to start without the procession then the House will come to order after the Speaker is seated.

It may seem antiquated in our modern era but ceremony and ritual creates a unique experience and sense of place for the activities House Members will be taking part in.

At the call of the Speaker and Party leaders House members gather in the "Members Lobby", the Speaker leads a formal procession from the Members Lobby to the House Chamber.

The Order of Procession is the Sergeant at Arms then the Speaker of the House, the Clerks with the bills of the day.

*Police along the route call out "**Make way for the Speaker**", to signify that any people present should stand aside for the Speaker's procession.*

Party leaders follow after a good space with their party members, Majority party first unless the minority party is given the courtesy by the majority party leader.

*As the Members lead by the leaders proceed to the chamber from the Members Lobby, Police along the route call out "**Make way for the right honorable Members of the House**", to signify that any people present should stand aside for the Members's procession. The procession walks at a normal, formal pace.*

If no procession is ordered then daily proceedings start here:

The Speaker moves to his chair and stands until all members are present, after the Speaker sits the Sergeant at Arms calls out "**be seated**" and then all other members and the Clerks sit.

At the beginning of each legislative session the Speaker will invite the Senate to sit in attendance. This part of the day will be called "Questions". The Sergeant at Arms will announce "**Let us open Questions**" at the order of the Speaker.

At this time the Legislature may call other Executives to the chamber. The Sergeant at Arms will announce the arrival at the Table of the House. The Chamber then may ask Executives questions pertaining to the function of government and or actions they have taken in the course of their duties. The Governor is the only Executive that must be in attendance at the beginning of a session, any other Executive will need to be summoned.

After Questions the Senate will depart for their chamber.

After all are seated the Sergeant at Arms announces, **“The House has been opened and is free to consider matters of its choosing. All those with business in front of the House step forward and be recognized.”**

When all work has finished the Speaker directs the Sergeant at Arms to declare **“The business of the House has ended, by order of the Speaker I parole you until the convening of next session on a date Sine Die.”** Or if the next session time is known the Sergeant may replace “Sine Die” with the time of the next session. The Speaker strikes the staff three times, stands and when he does so all other members may stand and leave as they will.

YOU HAVE TO LEARN THE RULES OF THE GAME. AND THEN YOU HAVE TO PLAY BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE.
~ ALBERT EINSTEIN

YOU DON'T LEARN TO WALK BY FOLLOWING RULES. YOU LEARN BY DOING, AND BY FALLING OVER.
~ RICHARD BRANSON

IF YOU OBEY ALL THE RULES YOU MISS ALL THE FUN.
~ KATHARINE HEPBURN

Rules of Conduct:

Members need to allow sponsors to speak when they are presenting a bill.

However there is no rule that disallows clapping, verbal comments, jeers, foot stamping and accusations to be verbalized out loud during any part of debate as long as the vocalizations do not turn into a statement. No inappropriate language, personal insults or offensive remarks are allowed. Violation may result in dismissal from the House.

The style of debate in the House has traditionally been one of cut-and-thrust; listening to other Members' speeches and intervening in them in spontaneous reaction to opponents' views. This style of debate can make the House Chamber a rather noisy place with robustly expressed opinion, many interventions, expressions of approval or disapproval, and sometimes repartee and banter. There is, of course, a fine line to be

drawn between vigorous debate and forthright expression of views and a deliberate attempt to intimidate an opponent. Members have the right, when speaking, to be heard without unendurable background noise (deliberate or accidental) and the Speaker will call for order if it appears there is an attempt to drown out a Member, or when a number of Members are leaving the Chamber or conversing loudly. The Speaker also has the right to inform a Member who has failed to observe the courtesies of debate that he need not expect to get priority in being called to speak. But successive Speakers have taken care not to bridle the traditional vigor of the expression of opinion in the House.

If proceedings become too disordered the Speaker may use (strikes on the floor) his staff of office and call for order. If the body becomes too disordered he may direct the Sergeant at Arms to remove offending members from the House until he allows them back.

The party leader may assert control over their respective parties when they feel appropriate.

Members may at anytime they feel necessary petition the Speaker to reign in loud or obnoxious Members.

Controlled disorder is allowed and encouraged as long as the Speaker feels the work of the House is progressing and members are being given the courtesy due their office.

Points of Order:

Members who believe some breach of the rules of the House has occurred, or who may seek clarification of them, may rise (they may interrupt another Member for the purpose, if necessary) and say "**On a point of order, Mr Speaker**". A point of order should then be stated and the Speaker gives a ruling. Points of Order cannot develop into a debate on substantive business, or an issue over which the Speaker has no control (e.g. the fact an Executive has decided not to make a statement on an issue)

A point of order or clarification may be requested during a division. The requesting member must approach the Table of the House and ask for a point of order or clarification by the Speaker.

The House will defer to this set of rules and the decisions of the Speaker in most matters. If a member requires further clarification the latest edition of Masons Manual may be used in consultation with the Program Director to maintain the continuity of the simulation.

"A NATION OF SHEEP WILL BEGET A GOVERNMENT OF WOLVES."

— EDWARD R. MURROW