

STANDING ORDERS

updated as July 2015

STANDING ORDERS

DEFINITIONS

1. (a) **"Assembly"** means the General Assembly in session.
- (b) **"Court"** means General Assembly, or State Assembly, or Presbytery, or Session.
- (c) **"House"** means a Court, either in session or in Committee of the Whole.
- (d) **"Chair"** means either the Moderator or the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole.
- (e) **"Leave of the House"** means leave without any negative voice, except when otherwise stated.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Quorum

2. No business shall be transacted in the General Assembly except in the presence of at least sixteen members, representing more than one of the State Assemblies, and at least one-half of whom are Ministers.

Meetings, How Constituted

3. All meetings of the General Assembly and their Committees shall be opened and closed with prayer, and the fact of their having been so opened and closed shall be recorded in the Minutes.

Sittings of Inferior Courts

4. No inferior Court of which a member has been commissioned to the General Assembly, shall sit during the sittings of the General Assembly, except by permission of the General Assembly.

Moderator

5. The General Assembly shall be presided over by a Moderator, duly elected, who shall have a casting vote but no deliberative vote.

Moderator Absent

6. In the General Assembly, the Moderator for the current term shall preside, or in his absence the Chair shall be taken by the ex-Moderator, or, if he also should be absent, by a predecessor, or a member appointed by the Court.

Recognising the Chair

7. In the General Assembly, members and associated members shall, when entering the House, passing the Chair, or retiring, bow to the Chair.

Clerk

8. The General Assembly shall have its Clerk, usually, but not necessarily, a member of the Court, who shall keep an accurate record of its proceedings, and supply extracts of the proceedings when duly called for. The Clerk is elected by and holds office at the will of the Court.

A Clerk, in accepting office, shall make the declaration de fidei (which is as follows: "I do solemnly affirm and declare that I will faithfully discharge the duties now entrusted to me".)

Associated Members

9. Ministers of settled Charges and bona fide acting Elders, who are members of other Courts of equal standing, Missionaries while under engagement by the Australian Presbyterian World Mission, who are on furlough and who are ordained Elders or Ministers of The Presbyterian Church of Australia, and full-time Chaplains to the Defence Forces of the Commonwealth under appointment by the Defence Forces Chaplaincy Committee of the General Assembly of Australia, and who are ordained Ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, if they are not already representative of a State Assembly or Presbytery, may be associated with the General Assembly.

Privileges of Associates

10. Associate members shall have all the rights and privileges of members except that they shall not move or second a motion or an amendment, vote on any question, or occupy the Chair.

Minutes Confirmed

11. When the Minutes are submitted for confirmation, no question shall be raised regarding them except such as concerns their accuracy as a record of the proceedings.

Permanent Records

12. The permanent records of the General Assembly shall be those confirmed in the presence of the Court or by a Commission appointed and authorized to confirm them.

Extract Minutes

13. No extracts from the Minutes shall be given by the Clerk without the leave or instruction of the Court, and the fees to be charged for such extracts shall be fixed by the Court.

BUSINESS PROCEDURE

Order of Business

14. In the General Assembly, after the First Sederunt, the order of business shall be:
 - (a) At forenoon sederunts:
 - (i) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Proceedings of the previous day.
 - (ii) Reasons of dissent from any of the decisions recorded in the Minutes so confirmed, and the necessary procedure connected therewith.
 - (iii) Leave to print and circulate notices of motion relative to matters to be brought forward at some future sederunt.
 - (iv) The various items of business in the order arranged by the Business Committee and approved by the Court.
 - (v) Applications from Presbyteries for authority to meet, and the announcement of meetings of committees.
 - (b) At evening sederunts:
 - (i) Report of Business Committee relative to next day.
 - (ii) Leave to print and circulate notices of motion.
 - (iii) Business as previously arranged by the Business Committee and approved by the Court.
 - (iv) Announcements relative to Presbyteries and meetings of committees.

Orders of the Day

15. The items of business, as arranged by the Business Committee and approved by the Assembly, shall constitute the Orders of the Day.

Variation of Orders of the Day

16. The Assembly may, from time to time during a sederunt, if it deem it necessary, vary the Orders of the Day for that sederunt by a motion, without notice and without debate.

Orders of the Day Varied

17. A motion to vary the Orders of the Day may be made only at the interval between items of business.
18. When the Order of the Day is reached, it shall be called for by the Moderator.
19. No business shall be introduced to the Assembly by any member until it is called for by the Moderator.

Reports and Deliverances

20. Committees of the General Assembly shall submit to the Assembly a written report; recommendations for action shall be appended in a proposed deliverance; such reports and proposed deliverances shall be printed and circulated among members of the Assembly at least one day before they are considered.

Recommendations

21. No recommendation in any report shall be held as adopted unless it shall have been definitely set forth in the deliverance and approved by the Assembly.
22. Printed reports shall be held as read unless the Assembly desire otherwise.

Questions

23. Relevant questions may be put by any member through the Moderator to the Convener of a Committee when the report is before the Assembly, and, also, after the Deliverance as a Whole has been moved and seconded.

MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Substantive Motions

24. A substantive motion refers to business which does not arise from the report of

any Committee. It shall be written and handed to the Business Convener normally at least one sederunt before it is considered by the Assembly. A substantive motion may, by leave of the House, be moved without notice.

Character of Motions

25. A motion shall be considered as belonging to one of the following categories, and shall be dealt with as prescribed, namely:
- (a) the original motion,
 - (b) a counter-motion - being a motion contradictory or negative to the original motion or to a substantial part of the original motion, and
 - (c) an amendment - being a motion not substantially contradictory to the original motion or counter motion, but for the purpose of:
 - (i) leaving out certain words,
 - (ii) leaving out certain words in order to insert and add other words, or
 - (iii) inserting or adding certain words.

The Moderator shall be the judge of the character to which any motion shall be considered to belong, and shall rule accordingly.

Procedure for Voting on Motions

26. After all amendments, if any, have been disposed of, the Moderator shall take a vote between all motions in categories (a) and (b) of Standing Order 25, and in doing so shall adopt the following procedure:
- a. A vote shall be taken between all the motions in the order determined by the Moderator, beginning at the first.
 - b. Each Commissioner may vote for only one motion.
 - c. If on the first vote, one motion has obtained a clear majority of votes, all the other motions shall fall.
 - d. If no motion has obtained a clear majority, the motion having the smallest number of votes shall be disregarded and a vote taken between the remaining motions.
 - e. The same procedure shall continue until one motion receives a clear majority on a vote.
 - f. The motion that has received a clear majority shall then be put by the Moderator to the Assembly, and shall be voted on 'For' or 'Against'. If a majority vote 'for' it, the motion shall become the judgement of the Assembly. If a majority vote 'against' it the motion shall fall, and further procedure in the matter shall be as the Assembly shall determine.

Amendments

27. Motions shall be amended (a) by leaving out certain words, (b) by leaving out certain words in order to insert or add other words, (c) by inserting or adding certain words.

Negative

28. A direct negative to a motion shall not be a competent amendment.

Incompetent Amendments

29. No amendment shall be proposed in any part of a motion after a later part has been amended, or in any words the House has resolved shall stand part of a motion, or has inserted in or added to a motion, except the addition of other words thereto.

Amendments to an Amendment

30. An amendment may be moved to an amendment that has been moved and seconded as if the first amendment were an original motion.

Notices of Motion

31. Notices of Motion shall be written and handed to the Business Convener at least one sederunt before the matter to which it is related is before the Assembly. Amendments to a proposed deliverance, motion or amendment of which due notice has been given, shall be printed and circulated.

Amendments Without Notice

32. An amendment may be moved without notice if, in the opinion of the Moderator, it arises in the course of the debate and does not alter the substance of the motion. Should the Moderator rule that the proposed amendment affects the substance of the motion, it shall require, in addition to the Moderator's ruling that it has arisen in the course of debate, the leave of the House.

When Seconded

33. Except in Committee of the Whole, a motion or amendment shall be seconded before it can be debated or put to the vote.

Reserving a Speech

34. No member who moves or seconds a motion or amendment shall have the right to reserve his speech to a later stage of the debate.

Member Giving Notice Absent

35. If, when the motion of which notice has been given is called for by the Moderator, the member who gave notice is absent, another member may move the motion; or the court may postpone the motion. Otherwise the motion lapses.

Motion Lapses if not Seconded

36. When the mover of a motion or amendment has finished his speech, his motion or amendment shall forthwith be seconded; if there is no seconder, it lapses and shall not be recorded in the minutes.

Notice Withdrawn

37. If a member withdraws a notice of motion given in, he shall do so without remark, and such motion shall not be recorded in the minutes.

Motions Withdrawn by Leave of the House

38. A motion or amendment, duly made and seconded, shall not be withdrawn except by leave of the House and at the request of the mover, with the consent of the seconder; and any amendment to such motion shall first be withdrawn or negatived.

Motions - not Recorded

39. A motion or amendment ruled not competent shall not be recorded in the minutes, except when the ruling of the Chair has been challenged and voted on.

Notice Changed

40. No change shall be made in the terms of a notice of motion after it is given in, except by leave of the House; but a member has the right to alter his motion, provided notice of the alteration be given at least one sederunt before it comes before the House.

No Change Without Leave

41. After a motion or amendment has been moved, no change shall be made in its terms without leave of the House.

Amendments Put First

42. Amendments shall be put before the motions to which they refer.

Debate Thereon

43. When an amendment is before the House, the debate shall be strictly confined to such amendment.

PROCEDURE IN DEBATE

Members Called

44. When a member desires to speak, he shall rise in his place, but shall not speak until he is called on by the Chair. A member speaking in the Assembly shall address the Chair only.

Speak More Than Once

45. Each member may speak once to each question in debate, whether a motion or an amendment; but no member shall speak more than once to the same question, except (a) in explanation, (b) in stating and asking the ruling of the Chair on a point of order, (c) in reply at the close of a debate, if he is the mover of the original motion except in any debate involving counter-motions, and (d) in Committee of the whole.

Mover of Amendment

46. A member who has spoken to the main question shall not afterwards move an amendment on it, but he may second or speak to an amendment moved by another member.
47. A mover of an amendment shall not afterwards speak to the main question.

Moderator Leaves the Chair

48. The Moderator or Chairman of the Committee of the Whole shall take no part whatever in any debate. If he wishes to speak to any question or to give in a report of a Committee, he shall leave the Chair. He shall also leave the Chair when any case arises in which he is a party.

The Moderator Standing

49. When the Moderator or Chairman shall rise in his place, all members shall forthwith resume their seats and shall remain silent so that the Moderator or Chairman may be heard without interruption.

Interruptions

50. No member shall interrupt a speaker except for one or other of the following purposes:
- (i) to state a point of order and to ask for a ruling of the Chair on it;
 - (ii) to call attention to a breach of the privileges of the House;
 - (iii) to make a personal explanation;
 - (iv) to move that the House sit in private;
 - (v) to move the adjournment of the debate;
 - (vi) to move the "Previous Question";
 - (vii) to object to language deemed objectionable or reflecting on character.

Points of Order

51. Points of order must refer strictly to the order of the proceedings of the House.
52. A member raising a point of order shall simply state it and no other member shall speak at this stage. The Moderator shall then:
- (a) forthwith rule on the point;
 - (b) ask certain members whom he selects to state their views on it, and afterwards rule on the point; or
 - (c) refer it to the House for decision by debate and vote.

Ruling of the Chair Challenged

53. When the ruling of the Chair is challenged, the member who questions the ruling may be heard for not more than five minutes and, the Moderator or Chairman having been heard in reply, the vote shall be taken without further discussion.

Privilege

54. Questions of privilege take precedence over all other business and may at any time be brought forward by any member.
55. Questions of privilege must refer strictly to matters directly affecting the privileges of the Court or its members, which matters have recently emerged

and call for present interposition.

56. If a question of privilege is brought forward in Committee of the Whole, the Committee shall forthwith report it to the Court which alone can deal with questions of privilege.

The "Previous Question"

57. The "Previous Question" may be moved at any stage in a debate after the motion in debate has been moved and seconded, but not by anyone who has spoken to the main question or to an amendment thereupon.
58. The "Previous Question" shall be moved and seconded without debate and shall forthwith be put to the vote.
59. The "Previous Question" must refer to the whole matter before the House. It cannot be moved in a Committee of the whole House or in a select Committee.
60. The carrying of the "Previous Question" shall mean that the Court does not consider it expedient to discuss further, or to give a deliverance on, the matter before the House; and the effect shall be that the Court forthwith departs from that matter and takes up the next order of the day.
61. The negating of the "Previous Question" shall not preclude its being moved again during the same debate.

Adjournments, etc.

62. A motion for the adjournment of (a) the Debate, or (b) the Court, or a motion in the Committee of the Whole "that the Committee report", may be made at any time and without notice.
63. Such a motion shall be put to the vote without debate.
64. The negating of such motion shall not preclude its being moved again during the same debate or sederunt.
65. The adjournment of a debate may be moved by any member, including the member who is at the time speaking to the question in debate.
66. When an adjourned debate is resumed, the right of speaking first shall belong to the member whose speech was interrupted by the adjournment. If no speech was interrupted, the right of speaking first shall belong to the mover of the adjournment, provided that he has not already spoken to the question, whether a motion or an amendment, which was in debate when the adjournment was moved.

Closed Doors

67. The General Assembly may at any time close its doors and sit in private in consequence of a ruling by the Chair, or of a motion made, seconded and put to the vote without debate; but cases or questions which have been discussed with closed doors in a lower Court shall be so discussed in higher Courts unless a motion to the contrary, duly made and seconded and put to the vote without debate, is carried.
68. The negating of such motions shall not preclude their being moved again during the same debate or sederunt.

Character Affected

69. In dealing with cases or questions which have been declared by the Chair to affect character or partake of the nature of personal disputes or misunderstandings, the House shall deliberate and decide thereon in private unless a motion to the contrary, duly made and seconded, is carried; and every such motion shall be put to the House without discussion.

Personal Explanation

70. A member may at any time make a personal explanation.

Explanation in Debate

71. If a member makes an explanation during a debate, it shall refer exclusively to some statement or statements made by himself, which in his opinion, one or more of the speakers in the debate have misapprehended. No other matter whatsoever shall be introduced into an explanation during a debate.

Objectionable Language

72. Language ruled objectionable shall be forthwith withdrawn and apologised for by the speaker and in a manner satisfactory to the House.
73. When language used in debate seems to any member to be objectionable, he may forthwith, but not later, raise a point of order concerning it and ask for the ruling of the Chair. He may also demand that the words be taken down. The Moderator or Chairman shall, without debate, forthwith put the question, "that the words objected to be taken down", and, if this question is resolved in the affirmative, he shall direct the Clerk to take them down as ground for such further action as the House may think fit to take.

Laws not to be Reflected on

74. No member is allowed to reflect on any law or decision of the Assembly except for the purpose of moving in a legitimate form that it be altered or rescinded.

Speech in Reply

75. After the speech in reply, which shall contain no new matter, there shall be no further debate. Before the speech in reply is begun, the Moderator shall distinctly declare that it is to be a reply on the debate, and that thereafter the debate will be closed. Any member entitled to speak has then an opportunity of speaking to the main question before the speech in reply is begun.

The Closure

76. When it shall appear to the Moderator or Chairman, during any debate, that the motion or any amendment on it, has been adequately discussed and that it is the evident sense of the House that the question be now put, he may so inform the House, distinctly stating at the same time whether it is to the debate on the amendment only or to the debate on both the amendment and motion that the closure is to be applied. A motion "That the question be now put" may then, but not till then, be made and seconded without any remark or discussion. The Moderator or Chairman shall forthwith put this motion and, if the same be carried by a majority of at least two-thirds, the Moderator or Chairman shall forthwith put to the vote the motion or the amendment only, or the amendment and the motion, as the case may be, without further debate.

Putting the Question

77. The Moderator or Chairman shall endeavour to put the question at every convenient opportunity. He shall state the motion or amendment or shall cause it to be stated by the Clerk. Any member not distinctly hearing the motion or amendment so stated may require it to be stated again.

The Moderator Interrupted

78. When the Moderator or Chairman shall rise in his place to state or put the question, he may be interrupted by, and shall give way to, any member who wishes to speak to the question, except when the debate has been closed by a speech in reply or by the application of the closure. A member may so intervene up to the moment when the Moderator or Chairman utters the word "Aye" in putting the question to the voices.

VOTING

Member's Vote

79. A member may vote on a motion though he has not voted on any amendment to it.

Within the House

80. No member can, by voice or otherwise, give a vote outside the barrier.

Vote Taken

81. (a) By the voices
The Moderator or Chairman shall take the vote by the voices. He shall put the question in this form: "The question is: Shall this motion (or amendment) pass? All who are of that opinion say 'Aye'." The "Ayes" shall then respond. The Moderator or Chairman shall further say, "All who are of the contrary opinion say 'No'". The "Noes" shall then respond. The Moderator or Chairman shall then say, as the case may appear to him to be, "I think the 'Ayes' (or the 'Noes') have it." If his opinion is acquiesced in by the silence of the House, he shall say "The 'Ayes' (or the 'Noes', as the case may be) have it", and the motion or amendment is passed or lost accordingly. Should there be no dissentient voice a unanimous vote may be recorded.
- (b) By show of hands
If his opinion is challenged by one or more members saying "No", the vote shall be further taken by a show of hands and the numbers shall not be recorded.
- (c) By division or ballot
If the opinion of the Moderator is further challenged, the vote may be taken by either division or ballot.

Vote by Ballot

82. A motion that the vote be taken by ballot shall be put without discussion and decided by a show of hands "for" or "against". Should such a motion be carried, it precludes the taking of the vote by a division. The result of a vote by ballot as reported to the Moderator in writing and declared by him to the House shall be final. The numbers shall be recorded in the minutes.

Vote by Division

83. When a motion that the vote be taken by ballot has not been moved and carried any five members may demand a division. The names of those voting are recorded on the demand of five members, but numbers are recorded in any case.

When the vote is about to be taken by division, the bell shall be rung and after a lapse of two minutes the doors shall be locked and no one shall be allowed to enter or leave the House until the vote is taken. Two tellers on each side shall be appointed. Those "for" the motion or amendment shall go to the right and those "against" to the left of the Chair.

The result of the division, as reported in writing to the Moderator and declared by him to the House, shall be final.

Casting Vote

84. In the case of an equality of votes the Moderator or Chairman shall have a casting vote, but he usually votes so as to leave the matter voted on open for further consideration. He has no deliberative vote.

Questions not Reconsidered

85. No question which has been decided at one sederunt of a Court can be reconsidered at a subsequent sederunt during the same session.

DISSENTS

86. A member may dissent from any resolution of a Court on which he has voted, and he has the right to have his dissent recorded in the minutes; also his reasons if given forthwith. But he shall not dissent from a resolution which has been carried on the voices, or from a resolution affirming or negating any amendment, or from any resolution of the Committee of the Whole.
87. He may also, when the minute recording the dissent is brought forward for confirmation, give in, without comment, written reasons of dissent. These, provided they do not involve a breach of privilege, shall be received without debate and shall be kept "in retentis".
88. The Court may, if it thinks fit, give written answers to reasons of dissent, which answers shall be likewise kept "in retentis". A motion to appoint a Special Committee to answer reasons of dissent shall be put to the vote without debate. The report of the Special Committee may be debated, and shall be dealt with

as the Court sees fit.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

89. By a motion put to the vote, a Court may resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole.
- (a) All members of the Court shall likewise be members of the Committee of the Whole.
 - (b) The Court shall appoint the Chairman of the Committee.
 - (c) Separate minutes shall be kept of the proceedings.
 - (d) A motion need not be seconded.
 - (e) A member may speak more than once to the same question.
 - (f) No member may dissent from any resolution of the Committee.
 - (g) The proceedings shall be closed by the carrying of a resolution to report to the Court on the matter committed, or to report progress and ask leave to sit again.
 - (h) The Court shall forthwith resume, and the report of the Committee shall be given in.
 - (i) The report may be adopted with or without amendment, rejected, postponed, recommitted, or otherwise dealt with as the Court sees fit. At this stage any member may exercise his privilege of dissent.
 - (j) Any of the other Standing Orders which are literally applicable to the proceedings of the Court in session only shall, when applied to the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole, be read along with and be modified by the provisions of this section.

OVERTURES, PETITIONS, REFERENCES, ETC.

Papers Transmitted

90. All overtures, returns on remits, and all papers transmitted by the inferior Courts shall be in the form of Certified Extracts from the minutes of the said Courts.

Questions

91. Relevant questions may be put by any member through the Moderator to (a) overtureists, (b) petitioners, (c) parties stating References, and (d) parties in any case when they shall have completed their respective statements.

Parties at the Bar

92. Overturists, who are not members of the Assembly, petitioners, and parties duly commissioned to state References, Complaints and Appeals shall take their places at the bar when called by the Moderator, and they shall not leave the bar until they are formally dismissed from it by the Moderator.

Two Heard

93. References shall be stated, and overtures and petitions supported, by not more than two persons in each case.

Procedure in Dissents and Complaints, and Appeals

94. In dealing with an appeal or a complaint transmitted for its judgment a Court:
- (a) calls the parties (ie appellants or complainants and the respondent Court) to its bar;
 - (b) hears read the record of the case in the inferior Court, and relative documents, or, if they are printed, may take them as read;
 - (c) hears the appellants or complainants or, if there are more than two, the representatives to a number it determines;
 - (d) hears the respondents appointed by the inferior Court;
 - (e) hears the appellants or complainants in reply;
 - (f) calls for questions from members of the Court;
 - (i) after removing all parties from the bar, deliberates on the case before it.

When parties are removed from the bar, it is at the discretion of the Court whether they are permitted to hear the discussion of the case.

When the Court has reached a decision or judgment, parties shall be recalled to the bar by the Moderator, who shall then announce to them the decision or judgment of the Court.

No document may be read or appear among the papers of the Court (printed or written) unless it was before the Court of first instance, or was offered to it and rejected, and has thence come up regularly.

Protestation

95. When a complaint or an appeal has been fallen from, the respondent shall make a protestation to that effect and shall be entitled to receive an extract minute of the same.

"Sustain"; "Dismiss"

96. If a motion dealing with an overture, reference, complaint, or appeal is negated, the matter is still before the House, and shall be disposed of by another motion. For instance, if a motion to "sustain" or "dismiss" is negative it shall be followed by another motion to "dismiss" or "sustain", or by any other relevant and competent motion, until the matter is disposed of.

Reference Dismissed

97. If a reference is informal or frivolous, or if it clearly appears that the inferior Court has not exhausted all its resources in the matter, the Assembly may dismiss the reference without entering upon the consideration of the substance of the reference.

Petitions

98. A motion to grant the prayer of a petition (which prayer includes the words "or do otherwise as the Assembly in its wisdom may deem fit") means that the Court considers there are sufficient grounds in the petition to justify deliberation and decision. If the motion is approved, it is followed by another motion giving effect to the Court's decision. If it is negated, it is followed by a motion to "dismiss" the petition.

Documents in a Case

99. All overtures, petitions, references, complaints and appeals, with all necessary relative papers, shall be printed and circulated among the members of the General Assembly at least one day before the business is taken up for discussion in the House. No other document shall be deemed part of the record unless it is expressly so ordered by a resolution duly moved, seconded and voted on. In complaints or appeals the expense of printing shall in the first instance be borne by the complainant or complainants or by the appellant or appellants, and by the party losing when the case is finally decided, unless remitted or distributed by the Assembly.

COMMITTEES - COMMISSIONS

Committees

100. The General Assembly shall appoint Standing and Special Committees and the Conveners thereof.
- (i) Three members of a committee shall constitute a quorum.

- (ii) Motions need not be seconded.
- (iii) A member may speak more than once to the same question.
- (iv) The Convener, without leaving the chair, may speak to a question and may move motions or amendments, and he shall have both a deliberative and a casting vote.
- (v) A Committee may, however, at any time resolve to be guided strictly by the formal Rules of Debate.
- (vi) Any member of a Court has a right to be present at a meeting of any of its Committees, whether Standing or Special, and may be associated.
- (vii) Reports of the proceedings of the Committees shall not be published without their consent.
- (viii) Any of the other Standing Orders, which are literally applicable to the proceedings of a court shall, if applied to the proceedings of a Standing or Special Committee, be read along with, and be modified by, the provisions of this section.

Commission

101. The General Assembly may appoint a Commission of one or more persons with full powers to deal with all matters submitted to it and any other urgent matters which may arise from time to time. When a Commission consists of two or more members, the Assembly appoints the Chairman.

STANDING ORDERS - SUSPENDED - AMENDED

Suspension of Standing Orders

102. These Standing Orders may be suspended in whole or in part by a motion, notice of which shall have been given at a previous sederunt, duly moved, seconded and carried, or by a motion without notice if the court be unanimous. The purpose or purposes for which it is proposed that the Standing Orders be suspended shall be distinctly stated.

Amendment of Standing Orders

103. Any proposal to amend or add to these Standing Orders shall be introduced to the General Assembly by overture only.