

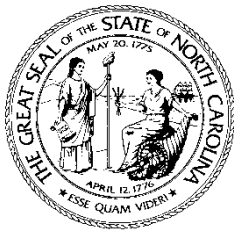
2013

NORTH CAROLINA

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RULES - DIRECTORY



THOM TILLIS
Speaker

JA2650

be used to explain a vote or debate a bill. The Speaker shall determine if the question is one of privilege and shall, without the point of order being raised, enforce this rule.

RULE 9. Points of Order. – (a) The Speaker shall decide questions of order and may speak to points of order in preference to other members arising from their seats for that purpose. Any member may appeal from the ruling of the chair on questions of order; on such appeal no member may speak more than once, unless by leave of the House. A three-fifths vote of the members present shall be necessary to sustain any appeal from the ruling of the chair.

(b) When the Speaker calls a member to order, the member shall be seated, except that a member called to order may clear a matter of fact, or explain, but shall not proceed in debate so long as the decision stands. If the member appeals from the ruling of the chair and the decision by a three-fifths vote of the members present be in favor of the member called to order, the member may proceed; if otherwise, the member shall not; and if the case, in the judgment of the House requires it, the member shall be liable to censure by the House.

RULE 10. Limitations on Debate. – (a) No member shall speak on, debate, or solicit cosponsors for a bill or resolution at its first reading.

(b) No member shall speak more than twice on the main question nor longer than 15 minutes for the first speech and five minutes for the second speech; nor shall the member speak more than twice upon an amendment or motion to reconsider, re-refer, appeal, or postpone or any motion on concurrence, and then not longer than 10 minutes for the first speech and five minutes for the second speech.

(c) A member may speak only once and for not more than 10 minutes on the question of the adoption of a minority report.

(d) In computing the time allowed for argument, the time consumed in answering questions should be considered and is taken out of any time allowed that member.

(e) The House, by consent of a majority of the members present, may suspend the operation of subsections (b) through (d) of this rule during any debate on any particular question before the House.

RULE 11. Reading of Papers. – When there is a call for the reading of the text of a paper which has been presented to the House and there is objection to such reading, the question shall be determined by a majority vote of the members of the House present. Except for protests permitted by the Constitution, no member may have material printed in the Journal until said material has been presented to the House and the printing approved by the House, and said material shall not exceed 1,000 words.

RULE 12. General Decorum. – (a) The Speaker shall preserve order and decorum.

(b) Decency of speech shall be observed and disrespect to personalities carefully avoided.

(c) When the Speaker is putting any question, or addressing the House, no person shall speak, stand up, walk out of, or cross the House nor, when a member is speaking, engage in disruptive discourse or pass between the member and the chair.

(d) Food or beverages shall not be permitted on the floor of the House during the first two hours of the daily session.

(e) The reading of newspapers shall not be permitted on the floor of the House while the House is in session.

(f) The consumption of food or beverages shall not be permitted in the galleries at any time.