

FLORIDA 4-H LEGISLATURE

MOTIONS

Any legislator may make any motion by addressing the presiding officer in the usual manner and then stating the motion. When a motion has been made, the presiding officer shall state it to the membership for consideration, the membership will then cast their vote for or against the motion.

- **Main or Principal Motion**

When a motion is made, the presiding officer shall restate it; if in writing, it shall be read aloud by the clerk. At the discretion of the presiding officer, every motion and/or amendment may be required in writing. Passage of a bill is an example of a main motion.

- **Subsidiary Questions**

- **Amendment (Vote required — Majority)**

Any main motion may be amended. An amendment must also conform to the subject matter of the main motion. Only one amendment to an amendment can be offered.

"Mr. President/Madam Speaker, I move to amend the motion to....."

- **To Convene the Committee of the Whole (Vote required — 2/3)**

This, in effect, allows the entire chamber to enter into informal discussion without formality other than recognition by the chair. Instead of pro/con debate rounds, any member may speak for either side.

"Mr. President/Madam Speaker, I move to convene the committee as a whole (for x minutes)"

- **End debate (Vote Required — Majority)**

This is an important motion. Its effect shall be to cut off all debate and bring the House to a direct vote, first upon the pending amendments, if there are any in their order, and then on the main question.

"Mr. President/Madam Speaker, I move to end debate"

- **To Lay on Table (Vote Required — Majority)**

Its effect is to postpone action on a motion but it permits the re-introduction of the motion at a time during that or the next session. It is usually proposed when the author is unable to supply the necessary information requested by his opponent. It is not debatable; the sponsor has 2 minutes to present reasons for its adoption.

- **Incidental Motions**

- **Suspension of the Rules (Vote required — 2/3)**

This is a motion to suspend the operation of the rules of order that the particular body has adopted in order to permit consideration of some pressing matter out of its usual place.

- **Withdrawing a Motion (No vote required)**

When a motion is before the chamber, the mover may withdraw it by rising and moving its withdrawal. No one but the maker of the original motion can move to withdraw.

- **Points of Order (No vote required)**

A legislator, rising to a Point of Order, need not be recognized. The point of order must pertain to the rules and nothing else.

“Madam President/Mr. Speaker, I rise to a Point of Order.”

- **To Adjourn or Recess (Vote Required — Majority)**

This is a highly privileged motion and must be for a certain time. A motion to adjourn takes precedence over a motion to recess.

“Madam President/Mr. Speaker, I move that the Senate/House does now adjourn at ___ a/p.m.”

“Madam President/Mr. Speaker, I move that the Senate/House does now recess until ___ a/p.m.”

To recess at a certain time: “Madam President/Madam Speaker, I move that the Senate/ House adjourn upon the final consideration of Bill No. ___.”

- **To Amend a Bill (Vote Required — Majority)**

The majority of all motions may be made orally, but amendment motions must be made in writing and must amend the proper section of any legislative matter to be effective. An amendment may be offered to any proposition by any member at the time the proposition is before the membership for consideration. An amendment is adopted by majority vote.

- **Postpone Indefinitely (Vote Required — 2/3)**

The effect will be to kill the bill with any pending amendments on the desk or proposition by a 2/3 vote.

“Madam President/Mr. Speaker, I move that House Bill No. ___ be indefinitely postponed.”

To fail to pass a bill outright: “Mr. President/Madam Speaker, I move that we strike the enacting clause,” (must be in amendment form) OR “I move that we table the bill indefinitely,” (may be vocalized).

- **Reconsider a Vote (Vote Required — 2/3)**

This motion is made when a vote has been taken and a member desires, to reconsider the vote by which the bill, amendment or proposition was passed or defeated. If the motion carries, it brings the matter back before the membership for further consideration. Any member who voted on the prevailing side may make it, and the motion can be adopted. No question can be reconsidered more than one time.

“Mr. President/Madam Speaker, I move that the Senate/House do now reconsider the vote by which Bill No. ___ passed (or failed to pass).”

- **To ask a question about parliamentary procedure: (Hypothetical question)**

“Mr. President/Madam Speaker, Point of Parliamentary Inquiry.”

- **Call the Previous Question (Vote Required — 2/3)**

Any member can call for the previous question. The adoption of such a motion ends debate and kills any amendment on the desk which has not been brought to the floor. It brings the main questions to a vote, along with any amendments that have already been passed. Sponsors will be allowed a final summation.

“Mr. President/Madam Speaker, I move the Previous Question of the passage of bill___.”

- **Call the Question on the Amendment (Vote Required — Majority)**

This motion ends debate and moves for an immediate vote on the amendment. Sponsors of the amendment get no final summation. Whether the amendment passes or fails, the presiding officer goes on to the next amendment on the clerk’s desk.

“Mr. President/Madam Speaker, I move the Previous Question of the adoption of amendment__”

- **To Take Up A Bill Out of Its Regular Order and Place It At Some Point On The Calendar Other Than At the Top (Vote Required — 2/3)**

The motion is made that the rules be waived and that the bill be placed at a designated place on the calendar.

“Mr. President/Madam Speaker, I move that the rules be waived and that Bill No. ___ be placed at position # ____ on the calendar.”

- **To Take a Bill Out of Its Regular Order and Place It At the Top Of The Calendar (Vote Required — Unanimous)**

“Madam President/Mr. Speaker, I move that the rules be waived and that Bill No. ___ be placed at position #1 on the calendar.”

- **To Place A Bill On The Calendar Despite An Unfavorable Committee Report (Vote Required — 2/3)**

The sponsor of this motion will be given two (2) minutes to present his reasons for adoption. Not debatable. Vote will immediately follow the sponsor’s statements.

Madam President/Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. ___ be taken from the table and placed on the calendar — the unfavorable report of the committee to the contrary notwithstanding.”

- **To give the rest of your time to someone who supports your side:**

After debate statement: “I yield my time to a likeminded (or unfavorable) speaker,” OR “I yield my time to ____ (name a specific speaker).”

- **As the bill sponsor, you can give up the right to summarize the bill:**

“I waive my right to summation.”

- **Point of Clarification**

“Madam President/Mr. Speaker, Point of Clarification, please.”