

# FLORIDA 4-H LEGISLATURE

# LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## Proper Language & Procedures For Bill Passage

### Opening the Legislative Session

**SPEAKER / PRESIDENT:** The house/senate chamber will now come to order. (strikes the gavel once)

**SPEAKER / PRESIDENT:** Clerk / secretary will you now unlock the voting machines for the members to vote yes for their presence.

vote

**SPEAKER / PRESIDENT:** Clerk / secretary will you now lock the machines and announce a quorum.

**Clerk/ Secretary:** Madam speaker/president A quorum is present

**SPEAKER / PRESIDENT:** The clerk / secretary will now present the bill calendar for this legislative session.

**Clerk/ Secretary:** (reads bill calendar)

**President/Speaker:** “We will now revert to the order of passage of bills.”

### Bill Passage

Bill Sponsor Coming Up Next on Calendar: Gains recognition and says,

**“Mr./Madam President/Speaker, I move that the rules be waived and House Bill No. \_\_\_\_be read for a second time by the title only.”**

**President/Speaker:** “It has been moved that Bill No. \_\_\_ be read for a second time by title noting changes made in committee. Is there an objection to the motion? Hearing none, will the Secretary/Clerk now read Bill No. \_\_\_ for the second time by title noting changes made in the committee.”

**Secretary/Clerk:** (Reads the bill by title only, noting changes made in committee)

**“Bill \_\_\_, a bill to be entitled ...”**

**President/Speaker:** “The sponsor has three (3) minutes to present the bill.”

*Sponsor: Goes to the front of the chamber and presents the bill.*

**President/Speaker:** “We are now in order for non-debatable technical questions for 3 minutes.”

(Legislator rises)

**President/Speaker:** “For what reason does the representative/senator rise?”

**Legislator: (states name and county)** “I rise to ask a non-debatable, technical question of the sponsor.”

**President/Speaker:** “Will the sponsor yield to a non-debatable, technical question?”

**Sponsor:** “Yes, I yield.” (Sponsor may yield to all questions or one at a time)

**President/Speaker:** “The Sponsor has yielded; you may ask your question.”

Legislator: (asks question) — Sponsor answers (Other legislators may be recognized to ask non-debatable, technical questions until time expires).

**President/Speaker:** “We are now open for debate on the floor. We will have 3 rounds of con/pro debate for 4 minutes each.”

(Legislator rises)

**President/Speaker:** “For what reason does the representative/senator rise?”

**Legislator:** “I rise to speak con (or pro) on this bill.”

**President/Speaker:** “You may make your statement”

(Debate is continued by legislators from their assigned seats on an alternating basis, one con/pro speaker, minutes each until three con and three pro speakers have been heard. If a legislator does not use the full 4 minutes he/she may yield his/her time to a “like speaker” or to a specific representative/senator. If time is not yielded, time is called and the debate reverts to the opposing side. Representatives/senators must gain permission from the presiding officer before debating. Debate may continue by a decision of the chair or by a motion to extend debate.)

**President/Speaker:** “The bill sponsor has three (3) minutes to close.”

Sponsor: Returns to the front of the chamber and presents his closing arguments. When finished, he then says:

**“Mr./Madam Speaker/President, I move the rules be further waived and that Bill No. \_\_\_ be read for a third time by title only and placed on final passage.”**

**President/Speaker:** “It has been moved that Bill No. \_\_\_ be read for a third and final time by title only. Is there an objection to the motion? Hearing none, Will the Secretary/Clerk now read House Bill No. \_\_\_ for the third and final time by title only?”

**Secretary/Clerk:** Reads the bill by title only.

**Sponsor:** “Yes, I yield.” (Sponsor may yield to all questions or one at a time)

**President/Speaker:** “The Sponsor has yielded; you may ask your question.”

Legislator: (asks question) — Sponsor answers (Other legislators may be recognized to ask non-debatable, technical questions until time expires).

**President/Speaker:** “We are now open for debate on the floor. We will have 3 rounds of con/pro debate for 4 minutes each.”

(Legislator rises)

**President/Speaker:** “For what reason does the representative/senator rise?”

**Legislator:** “I rise to speak con (or pro) on this bill.”

**President/Speaker: “You may make your statement”**

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**President/Speaker: “The bill sponsor has three (3) minutes to close.”**

Sponsor: Returns to the front of the chamber and presents his closing arguments. When finished, he then says:

**“Mr./Madam Speaker/President, I move the rules be further waived and that Bill No. \_\_\_ be read for a third time by title only and placed on final passage.”**

**President/Speaker: “It has been moved that Bill No. \_\_\_ be read for a third and final time by title only. Is there an objection to the motion? Hearing none, Will the Secretary/Clerk now read House Bill No. \_\_\_ for the third and final time by title only?”**

**Secretary/Clerk: Reads the bill by title only.**

**President/Speaker: “Are there any amendments on the desk?”**

(If so, they are read by the Secretary/Clerk)

(If there are amendments, each is taken up in order as read. The amendment sponsor has two (2) minutes to present amendment. An opposition speaker is then given two minutes. Debate continues until there have been two (2) pro and two (2) con speakers. The amendment sponsor then has one minute to summarize. Vote on each amendment is taken and recorded after all amendments)

**President/Speaker: “I will now accept a motion of the bill sponsor”**

**Sponsor: “Mr./Madam President/Speaker, I move that Bill No. \_\_\_ does now pass.”**

**President/Speaker: “Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_ moves that Bill No. \_\_\_ does now pass. This vote is on the final passage of Bill No. \_\_\_.” “The Secretary/Clerk will unlock the machine and the members will prepare to vote.”**

(allow time for voting)

**“Will the Secretary/Clerk announce the vote?”**

**Secretary/Clerk: “Mr./Madam President/Speaker there are x yeas and x naes”**

**President/Speaker: “By your vote you have passed (failed to pass) Bill No. \_\_\_.”**

**President/Speaker: “The chair recognizes the sponsor of the next bill.”**