

## HOUSE UNIQUE COMMITTEES/RULES

### Syntaxing

- House Representatives are under strict regulations involving how they address other people, how the conch works, etc.

### Rules Committee

- Assigns other committees to review bills
- Schedules debates and defines rules for such debates
- Can throw out bills
- Represents the will of the majority caucus usually

### Committee of the Whole

- Consists of most if not all the members of the House
- Implemented as a committee
- Allows for longer debates with less people and allows group voting (only 100 required for committee to do something).
- House as a whole still must vote even if this committee acts
- 218 people are required for the House to start its operations.

### Discharge Petition

- The equivalent of "just shut up and let us debate/vote on it"
- Bypasses committee review.
- Requires a simple majority.

## SENATE UNIQUE COMMITTEES/RULES

### Germanity:

- Legislatures have agreed that only one topic should be discussed at a time.
- A germane amendment is another edit to a bill that pertains to a bill.

### Nongermane Amendments:

- Technically, because of the Senate's more lax rules, a Senator can propose they add on anything to a bill even if it's not related.
- This results in a lot of unrelated bullshit being amended to a bill in the Senate. These bills which have been screwed with are known informally as Christmas Tree bills.

### Debate Time:

- Senators have longer speech times and can choose to use their time any way they want.
- A filibuster is a tool which is used frequently to jam the procession of a bill. This is when a person reads for an obnoxious amount of time. This not only delays the passage of

bills but can also kill it by running down the clock. In contrast, the House doesn't have this, only the Party Leaders and the Speaker can do that.

- It is possible to force the person to shut up by a vote of 60% (60 Senators).

Unanimous Consent:

- When every Senator has to agree to something.

Holds:

- Anything to run down the clock or just waste time while an unfavorable bill is being passed.
- Sometimes there would be a bill or other motion that required all hands in. If even one person objects they could burn time and possibly even kill the bill.
- Sometimes Senators would threaten to object as a tool.
- In 1917 the President called for changes in this, famously saying the Senate is the only legislative body in the world which cannot act when its majority is ready for action.
- Therefore, rule 22 was established that says "if 60% of the Senate agrees to it, the offending Senator is forced to shut up". At one point it was  $\frac{2}{3}$  until it was lowered to  $\frac{3}{5}$ .
- This rule is called the cloture rule.

Foreign Affairs:

- Both houses do have a FA committee.
- The senate has more responsibilities pertaining to FA.
- Writers of the Constitution gave the Senate the power to ratify or shoot down foreign treaties because the people represented the States and were a smaller body.