**Finland – Parliament/Riksdag**

1. Website:

<https://www.eduskunta.fi/FI/sivut/default.aspx>

2. Locating Relevant Documents/Files On-line:

*A.RULES OF PROCEDURE*

**1. Name:** Parliament’s Rules of Procedure

**2. URL**: <http://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/ajantasa/2000/20000040?search%5Btype%5D=pika&search%5Bpika%5D=eduskunnan%20ty%C3%B6j%C3%A4rjestys>

**3. What is the date for the most recent revision on the rules of procedure?**

February 1, 2019

**4. Is there a section of the rules of procedure that covers voting rules? If so, indicate the section.**

Sections 61, 62, and 63.

**5. If available, please list the rules governing the use of roll call votes.**

Section 60: Proposals for decisions and voting

“At the end of the debate on the subject, the President shall report on the proposals made. If a reminder is found against the President's report which the President finds to be correct, he shall correct the report. If the reminder in the President's opinion does not justify a change to the report, Parliament will decide on the report.

Following the report, the President shall make a proposal in which order they shall be put to the vote. If the President's draft order of voting is to be amended, but the President does not consider this to be appropriate, Parliament shall decide on the order of voting.

The order of voting, once approved, the President will make a presentation of a vote, that the answer to *share* or *not* indicates parliament  Decision. If there is more than one proposal for a decision, one shall be put forward as a counter-proposal against the other until all have been voted on.

An unsuccessful representative's proposal shall not be put to the vote.

No other discussion of the matters referred to in this section is permitted. Nor is it allowed to vote on whether to vote. “

Section 61: Voting Method

“Voting shall be by machine vote, by standing order or by open ballot. The President shall announce the voting method. No debate on the method of voting is allowed.

A roll-call vote shall be taken whether or not a standing vote has already taken place, if the President considers it appropriate or if the President considers that a standing vote has not given a clear answer, or if a representative so requests.

Open balloting shall take place if, for technical reasons, the vote cannot be carried out, or if the President considers that the vote has not given a reliable answer or that the votes have been split. However, if a tie in a vote that does not apply to parliament a final decision on the treatment stage, the new electronic voting, and the ballot is delivered only when the sounds under the new electronic voting system have gone exactly.”

Section 62: Open Ticket Voting

“Open ballot voting is by roll call using different colored flags. Flags must bear the name of the agent as well as the word *share* , *no* or *empty* . Any other kind of ballot must be rejected. Representatives should bring their ballot papers into the ballot box in the order in which their name is called. Voting tickets are read out and counted.”

**6. If the documents are available in multiple languages, does it seem like the same number of documents/files are available in the different languages?**

Available in English, Swedish, and Finnish.

**7. How exactly did you locate these files? (i.e. if you were going to write instructions for someone else to find them, what would that look like?)**

Under the “Regulation of Laws” tab. Then, on the right hand side of the page.

**8. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required to code information of interest from them? If so what are these?**

No.

**9. Is there anything else you think we should know?**

No.

**10. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file for previous versions of the rules of procedure? If so, repeat questions 2-8.**

No.

*B.RECORD OF LEGISLATIVE VOTING*

**1. Please indicate the terminology for the type of votes as reported in the working language of the legislature (e.g., scrutin public ordinaire).**

**2. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required? If so what are these?**

Nope, since the minutes are directly on the website, chrome translate works fine.

**3. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file covering the voting record online (separate from the plenary minute)?**

No. This page explains that the voting results are found in the minutes from that session. It also shows how to search for poll results directly at their URL.

<https://www.eduskunta.fi/FI/lakiensaataminen/taysistunnon_verkkolahetykset/Sivut/Aanestykset.aspx>

**If so:**

**-Where can one find these documents? Please provide instructions for how someone would find them.**

**-What types of votes are reported (e.g., the roll call vote record for individual legislators)?**

**4. If you find on-line documents, does this seem to be all the relevant documents for a specific time period? If so, what is the time period? If not, can you describe what is missing?**

The minutes, and therefore the record of legislative voting, are only recorded from 2015 to the present.

**5. Can one automate downloading of these files? If so, please provide any available computer code for that purpose.**

Not sure.

**6. Did we download all the information available in the sources indicated in this section? If not, please indicate which source and years we are missing.**

Not sure.

*C.MINUTES OF PLENARY SESSION*

**1. Please indicate the terminology for the type of information as reported in the working language of the legislature:**

“Plenary” is “Täysistunto”.

**2. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file covering the specific information online? If so, where (please provide instructions for how one would find them)? If an official source is not available, please list any secondary sources**.

<https://www.eduskunta.fi/FI/lakiensaataminen/taysistunnon_verkkolahetykset/Sivut/Taysistuntojen-poytakirjat.aspx>

**3. If you find on-line documents, does this seem to be all the relevant documents for a specific time period? If so, what is the time period? If not, can you describe what is missing?**

The minutes are only recorded from 2015 to the present.

**4. Can one automate downloading of these files? If so, please provide any available computer code for that purpose.**

Not sure.

**5. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required to code information of interest from them? If so what are these?**

No, google chrome translate works fine.

**6. Did we download all the information available in the sources indicated in this section?**

Not sure.

*D. ATTENDANCE*

**1. Please indicate the terminology for the type of information as reported in the working language of the legislature:**

“Roll-call” is “Nimenhuuto”

**2. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file covering the specific information online? If so, where (please provide the URL)? If an official source is not available, please list any secondary sources**.

In the minutes, there is a link to the “roll-call report”. The report only shows those who are absent.

**3. What years are available on this source?**

The minutes, and therefore the attendance record, are only available from 2015 to the present.

**4. Can one automate downloading of these files? If so, please provide any available computer code for that purpose.**

Not sure.

**5. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required to code information of interest from them? If so what are these?**

No, google chrome translate works fine.

**6. Did we download all the information available in the sources indicated in this section?**

Not sure.

*E. ROLL CALL VOTE REQUEST*

**1. In the available on-line documents, can you identify a request for a roll-call vote? If so, are there specific words or other indications that systematically identify the requester?**

The president always introduces a vote. There cannot be a request for a roll-call vote unless a standing vote happened and a member thinks the result is unclear, which is very rare.

Before a vote, the President says “The order of voting was adopted”.

After a vote, the President says “It shall be entered”.

**2. Do the available on-line documents report a justification for a request for a roll-call vote? If so, are there specific words or other indications that systematically identify the justification?**

Not sure, it would be very rare to see a request.

**3. How is the decision to accept or deny the roll-call vote request made (this may be found in the rules of procedure)?**

From Section 61 : “A roll-call vote shall be taken whether or not a standing vote has already taken place, if the President considers it appropriate or if the President considers that a standing vote has not given a clear answer, or if a representative so requests.”

**4. In the available on-line documents, can you identify whether the request was accepted? If so, are there specific words or other indications that systematically identify this?**

Not sure, it would be very rare to see a request.

*F. DISCUSSION BEFORE THE VOTE*

1. Roll-call votes:

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the names of participants who participated in discussion before a vote? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes, the President says “A detailed discussion of \_\_\_ is now underway”. Then the minutes list an abridged version of each proposal/speech.

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the length (in words) of a participant’s speech? If so, where can this be found?**

I do not think so.

2. Indication Votes:

According to the constitution, Section 63: Result of the Vote

“The President shall record the result of the vote. The results of all votes shall be kept and published. No debate is allowed.”

Therefore, I do not think there are any indication votes, since all votes are recorded.

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the names of participants who participated in discussion before a vote? If so, where can this be found?**

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the length (in words) of a participant’s speech? If so, where can this be found?**

*G. VOTING*

1. Roll-call votes:

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the subject of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

In the minutes, it lists each subject that is listed on with its result underneath. Also underneath is a link to the specific minutes for that discussion/vote. The subject will also appear on the top of that webpage.

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the procedural type (motion/agenda/article of a bill/amendment/etc…) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

It is in the title of the webpage for the specific minutes for that discussion/vote.

**c. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the result of the vote (e.g., the motion passed)? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes, the President reads this in the specific minutes. Also, in the general minutes for that day the topic of the vote and the result is listed.

**d. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the method (electronic, calling of names, etc..) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

In the specific minutes of that day, when the President reads the result of the vote, there is a link included to a webpage with relevant information about that vote.

**e. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the breakdown of the vote outcome (e.g., yes/no/abstain) in the aggregate? At the level of individual legislator? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes, the vote outcome is recorded to the level of the individual legislator. It is under the tab labeled “Kansanedustajittain”.

**f. In the available on-line documents, can you determine whether there were any arguments documented during the vote (e.g. , a protest over procedure)? If so, where can this be found?**

No, because the minutes are not that detailed. Also, the Rules of Procedure prohibits discussion during and after the vote (sections 60, 61).

2. Indication votes: See section F, part 2.

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the subject of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the procedural type (motion/agenda/article of a bill/amendment/etc…) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

**c. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the result of the vote (e.g., the motion passed)? If so, where can this be found?**

**d. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the method (electronic, raising of hands, etc..) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

**e. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the breakdown of the vote outcome (e.g., yes/no/abstain) in the aggregate? If so, where can this be found?**

**f. In the available on-line documents, can you determine whether there were any arguments documented during the vote (e.g. , a protest over procedure)? If so, where can this be found?**

*NOTES ON ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT COULD BE RELEVANT*

It is important to use the website in the Finnish language, but use chrome translate to change into English. The English version of the website has less information available.

Note from class session 9/13/2019: The website in the Swedish language has minutes going back to 2009.