**Czech Republic – Upper Chamber (Senate)**

1. Website:

<https://www.senat.cz/index-eng.php>

2. Locating Relevant Documents/Files On-line:

*A.RULES OF PROCEDURE*

**1. Name:** The Standing Rules of the Senate (Czech Senate)

**2. URL**:

<https://www.senat.cz/informace/zakon106/zakony/zak107-eng.php>

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

2016

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

Yes.

Chapter: Voting at Meetings [Section 70 – 83]

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

1. Public ballot shall apply to bills, statutory measures of the Senate, approval of the ratification of international treaties, a declaration of belligerency and the endangering of the State, the extension or abolition of a situation of destitution, the giving of consent to the placement of foreign troops in the territory of the Czech Republic, and the giving of consent to national armed forces being sent outside the Czech Republic.

2. The vote shall be taken by either public or secret ballot.

3. Public ballot shall be carried out by raising hands or by a roll call vote. The latter shall be applied if provided for by law or so decided by the resolution of the Senate.

4. When voting by roll call is ordered the names of Senators shall be called in alphabetical order starting with a Senator whose name shall be chosen by a lot drawn by the Presiding Senator. The Senator called shall declare his or her assent to the question, saying “in favour of the motion” or his or her dissent, saying “against the motion”.

**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?**

The official language of Czech Republic is Czech, which is similar to Russian and Polish. However, by selecting the language option, the rule of procedure does have an English version for reference purpose.

**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?)**

1. Google “senate of the parliament of the Czech Republic”

2. Go to <https://www.senat.cz/index-eng.php>

3. Use the website built-in search bar and search ‘The Standing Rules of the Senate’

4. Click the first result and you will see the document

**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?**

The official language of Czech Republic is Czech. However, the rule of procedure does have an English version for reference purpose.

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

N/A

**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.**

N/A

*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).**

The vote shall be taken by either private or public voting. The public voting includes roll-call vote, raising hands, and electronic voting if applicable.

The voting will be administrated in either public or secret ballots.

If voting is administrated by electronic devices, a Senator shall vote in favour of or against a motion by pressing the button of the device any time during the interval set for voting.

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

The official language of Czech Republic is Czech. The original document is written in Czech. However, the rule of procedure does have an English version for reference purpose. In addition, Google translation is needed if we look into the voting records and plenary minutes.

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

Yes!

**If so:**

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

1. Google “senate of the parliament of the Czech Republic”

2. Go to <https://www.senat.cz/index-eng.php>

3. Click ‘Documents and Legislation’ tab on the top menu bar

4. Select ‘ Voting record’ and pick the time frame we are interested

5. The corresponding voting record will show up

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

Based on my review, I noticed that most voting records include roll-call vote record for individual legislators. In addition, most voting is administrated by roll-call vote.

1. **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 earliest voting record can trace back to 1996. (\*Czech Republic was found in 1993)

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

<https://www.senat.cz/xqw/xervlet/pssenat/hlas?ke_dni=18.09.2019&O=12>

You first need to select the time period. Then, you may download the information you want. For example, we chose the twelfth term and we may see the subjects of each voting, result, details, and record. In ‘detail’ tab, the roll-call vote record for each individual legislator is listed. In ‘record’ tab, the stenographic verbatim recordings which took place on the floor is recorded.

1. **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.**

I believe we can download all the information we need from this website.

*C.MINUTES OF PLENARY SESSION*

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

The minute is referred to the ‘Plenary Minutes’ ([Těsnopisecké zprávy](https://www.senat.cz/dokumenty/stenozaznamy/index.php?O=12)), in which it has the structured representation of Minutes on specific dates. If you use google translation to convert Czech into English, the equivalent phrase for plenary Minutes is ‘Shorthand Report’.

# The website also indicates that the report is documented by stenographic approach.

**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**.

1. Google “senate of the parliament of the Czech Republic”

2. Go to <https://www.senat.cz/index-eng.php>

3. Click ‘Documents and Legislation’ tab on the top menu bar

4. Select ‘Plenary Minutes’

5. 1) If you need to downloadable documents, select ‘Brochure with stenographic reports from Senate Meetings’ ([Brožury s těsnopiseckými zprávami ze schůzí Senátu](https://www.senat.cz/dokumenty/stenozaznamy/brozury/index.php?ke_dni=18.9.2019&O=12))

2) If you want to have a preview version of each plenary meeting, select ‘Senate meeting record’ ([Stenozáznamy ze schůzí Senátu](https://www.senat.cz/xqw/xervlet/pssenat/finddoc?typdok=steno))

**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 official website provides documents from 12th senate meeting in 2006 to present.

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

<https://www.senat.cz/dokumenty/stenozaznamy/brozury/index.php?ke_dni=18.09.2019&O=12>

**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?**

The official language of Czech Republic is Czech. The plenary minutes are all documented in Czech. Translation is needed for comprehension.

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

Yes.

*D. ATTENDANCE*

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

Quorum: The Senate shall be eligible to adopt resolutions should a minimum of one third of all Senators be present.

**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**.

There is no official list of members in attendance on a given day unless a member orders a roll call vote or notifies that a quorum is not present.

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

2016

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

It isn’t automatic downloadable since this is a webpage.

URL: <https://www.senat.cz/informace/zakon106/zakony/zak107-eng.php>

**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?**

The official language of Czech Republic is Czech. However, the rule of procedure does have an English version for reference purpose.

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

Yes.

*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?**

Public ballot shall be carried out by raising hands or by a roll call vote. The latter shall be applied if provided for by law or so decided by the resolution of the Senate.

In most cases, the voting is administrated by public ballot, meaning that roll-call voting is used. For each voting record in the plenary minutes, it has an external link which can take you to the individual voting records.

**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?**

Since public ballot is standard voting procedure in this legislature, there is no need to explicitly call a roll-call vote.

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

To adopt a valid resolution, it shall be necessary for the resolution to be agreed by a simple majority (more than 50%) of present members of the Committee unless the Act herein provides otherwise.

1. **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?**

Yes! Through the link below, you can find whether each request was accepted or not.

URL: <https://www.senat.cz/xqw/xervlet/pssenat/hlas?ke_dni=18.09.2019&O=12>

*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?**

All the speeches, debates, and dialogues taken before or after voting are recorded in the Plenary Minutes, for which you can find in the link below. The names of interlocuter are also included.

<https://www.senat.cz/xqw/xervlet/pssenat/finddoc?typdok=steno>

**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?**

All the speeches, debates, and dialogues taken before or after voting are recorded in the Plenary Minutes, which you can find in the link below. <https://www.senat.cz/xqw/xervlet/pssenat/finddoc?typdok=steno>

The length of a participant’s speech can be easily counted.

2. Indication 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?**

For most cases, indication vote is barely utilized in this legislature. As we may see from the plenary minutes, most of the voting results include individual voting records.

All the speeches, debates, and dialogues taken before or after voting are recorded in the Plenary Minutes, for which you can find in the link below. The names of interlocuter are also included.

<https://www.senat.cz/xqw/xervlet/pssenat/finddoc?typdok=steno>

**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?**

All the speeches, debates, and dialogues taken before or after voting are recorded in the Plenary Minutes, for which you can find in the link below. The names of interlocuter are also included.

<https://www.senat.cz/xqw/xervlet/pssenat/finddoc?typdok=steno>

*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?**

The procedural types and subjects of the vote are recorded ahead of the voting results in the Plenary Minutes.

<https://www.senat.cz/xqw/xervlet/pssenat/hlas?ke_dni=19.09.2019&O=12>

**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?**

The procedural types and subjects of the vote are recorded along with the voting results in the Plenary Minutes.

<https://www.senat.cz/xqw/xervlet/pssenat/hlas?ke_dni=19.09.2019&O=12>

**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 result of the vote is listed along with the Plenary Minutes.

<https://www.senat.cz/xqw/xervlet/pssenat/hlas?ke_dni=19.09.2019&O=12>

**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?**

The standing rules of the Senate states that electronic voting, calling of names, roll-call vote by ballot, and secret voting are all valid method. However, most voting results on the website have the individual legislator voting record. We may assume that most voting is taken by roll-call.

<https://www.senat.cz/xqw/xervlet/pssenat/hlas?ke_dni=19.09.2019&O=12>

**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. We can determine the vote outcome and the breakdown of vote at level of individual legislator.

<https://www.senat.cz/xqw/xervlet/pssenat/hlas?ke_dni=19.09.2019&O=12>

**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?**

All speeches, arguments, and quick remarks delivered on the floor should be recorded in Plenary Minutes.

<https://www.senat.cz/xqw/xervlet/pssenat/hlas?ke_dni=19.09.2019&O=12>

2. Indication votes:

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

The procedural types and subjects of the vote are recorded ahead of the voting results in the Plenary Minutes.

<https://www.senat.cz/xqw/xervlet/pssenat/hlas?ke_dni=19.09.2019&O=12>

**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?**

The procedural types and subjects of the vote are recorded along with the voting results in the Plenary Minutes.

<https://www.senat.cz/xqw/xervlet/pssenat/hlas?ke_dni=19.09.2019&O=12>

**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 result of the vote is listed along with the Plenary Minutes.

<https://www.senat.cz/xqw/xervlet/pssenat/hlas?ke_dni=19.09.2019&O=12>

**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?**

The standing rules of the Senate states that electronic voting, calling of names, roll-call vote by ballot, and secret voting are all valid method. However, most voting results on the website have the individual legislator voting record. We may assume that most voting is taken by roll-call.

<https://www.senat.cz/xqw/xervlet/pssenat/hlas?ke_dni=19.09.2019&O=12>

**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?**

Yes. We can determine the vote outcome and the breakdown of vote at level of individual legislator.

<https://www.senat.cz/xqw/xervlet/pssenat/hlas?ke_dni=19.09.2019&O=12>

**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?**

All speeches, arguments, and quick remarks delivered on the floor should be recorded in Plenary Minutes.

<https://www.senat.cz/xqw/xervlet/pssenat/hlas?ke_dni=19.09.2019&O=12>

*NOTES ON ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT COULD BE RELEVANT*