**Malta -- Unicameral**

1. Website:

<https://parlament.mt/>

2. Locating Relevant Documents/Files On-line:

*A.RULES OF PROCEDURE*

**1. Name:** Standing Order of the House of Representatives [SO]

Constitution of Malta [CM]

**2. URL**:

<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8970&l=1> [SO]

<http://justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8566> [CM]

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

2016 [SO]

February 22nd, 2019 [CM]

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

[CM] Article 70 - 71 (Page 45 – 46)

[SO] Chapter VII Division (Page 16 – 17)

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

Threshold: A division may be demanded by a member.

After the Speaker or the Chairman in a Committee of the whole House shall have declared the result of the putting of any question, any member who has given his voice with those who are according to such declaration in the minority, may demand a division of the House upon that question, whereupon a division shall without debate take place unless it shall appear to the Chair that such a demand is unnecessarily claimed.

**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?**

Yes. Maltese and English are both the official languages of Malta. All the official articles, including laws and bills, are documented by both languages in accordance with Maltese Constitution.

**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?)**

[SO]

1. Google “Parliament of Malta”

2. Go to ‘parlament.mt’

3. Click ‘About Parliament’ on the top menu bar

4. Under ‘Legislative Instruments’, you will find ‘Standing Orders of the House of Representatives’

5. Click on it and you will see the PDF documents in two languages are available to download.

[CM]

1. Search ‘<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/>’
2. On the homepage, you will see a clickable link ‘Constitution of Malta’
3. Click on it and you will see the PDF documents in two languages are available to download.

**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?**

Since English is the co-official language of Malta, all the legal documents are written in both Maltese and English. Because of that, specific language skills are not required.

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

Every vote and proceeding of the House shall be noted by the Clerk and recorded in the Maltese and English languages. Such votes and proceedings, after being signed by the Clerk of the House, and after having been confirmed by the House, shall be countersigned by the Speaker and shall constitute the minutes of the proceedings of the House.

**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.**

*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).**

A division includes roll call votes. In the *Standing Orders of the House of Representatives*, Votes shall be taken openly and entered in the minutes of the proceedings of the House.

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

The records of legislative voting are written in Maltese. However, the voting record in each document is easily identified by the keywords, “FAVUR” and “KONTRA”.

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

No. The voting record is only available in plenary minutes.

**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)?**

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 official website provides documents from April 4th, 1992 to present.

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

<https://www.parlament.mt/en/13th-leg/plenary-session/?type=committeedocuments>

By clicking on the ‘Minutes’ tile, you may download the Word document of the voting record on that specific date.

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 the relative legislative voting record is included in the URL above.

*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 minutes are referred to as documentation of legislative activities.

**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. Go to the Malta’s Parliament page
2. Click ‘Parliamentary Business’ on menu bar and view the drop-down menu
3. Click ‘Plenary Session’
4. Click ‘Documents’ on the left side of the page

<https://www.parlament.mt/en/13th-leg/plenary-session/?type=committeedocuments>

**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 April 4th, 1992 to present.

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

<https://www.parlament.mt/en/13th-leg/plenary-session/?type=committeedocuments>

**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?**

All the minutes and agendas are recorded in Maltese. Maltese is required for comprehending the documents. However, the voting record in each document is easily identified by the keywords, “FAVUR” and “KONTRA”.

**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:**

A quorum of the House shall consist of fifteen members besides the person presiding at the siting.

If at any sitting of the House any member who is present draws the attention of the person presiding at the sitting to the absence of a quorum and, after an interval of five minutes, the person presiding at the sitting ascertains that a quorum of the House is still not present, the House shall be adjourned without question put until the next sitting day.

**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**.

<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8970&l=1> [SO]

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

Lasted version of this document was in 2016

The specific clause related to quorum was amended in 1965

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

<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8970&l=1> [SO]

(The same URL above)

**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 standing orders of the house of representatives is written in both English and Maltese. No specific language skill required.

**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?**

A member is not obliged to vote. Votes shall be taken openly and entered in the minutes of the proceedings of the House. The Speaker or the Chairman, as the case may be, shall forthwith declare to the House the result of the division and shall state the number of the "Ayes" and of the "Noes".

**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?**

After the lapse of twenty minutes the Speaker or Chairman thereupon puts the question a second time and declares whether the "Ayes" or the "Noes" prevails.

If his decision is challenged and if he thinks that a decision is unnecessarily claimed, he may take the vote by calling successively upon the members who support and upon the members who challenge his decision to rise in their places. He may thereupon either declare the determination of the House or the committee, or order the division to proceed whereupon the doors shall be locked:

Any member who has given his voice with those who are according to such declaration in the minority, may demand a division of the House upon that question, whereupon a division shall without debate take place unless it shall appear to the Chair that such a demand is unnecessarily claimed.

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

According to the rules of procedure, a division (roll-call vote) shall take place without debate as long as at least one member requests it.

**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?**

The roll-call vote will be automatically adopted/accepted when it is proposed.

*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?**

**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?**

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?**

**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?**

Yes. They are included in the Minutes of legislative activities, which are written in Maltese.

<https://www.parlament.mt/en/13th-leg/plenary-session/?type=committeedocuments>

**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?**

Yes, you can determine the procedural type by what the Speaker says. The transcripts are documented in Maltese in each Minute of legislative activities.

**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?**

<https://www.parlament.mt/en/13th-leg/plenary-session/?type=committeedocuments>

**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 names of legislators will be recorded as they cast their vote. The method is undetermined.

**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 breakdown of vote outcome at the level of individual legislator. The transcripts are documented in Maltese in each Minute of legislative activities.

<https://www.parlament.mt/en/13th-leg/plenary-session/?type=committeedocuments>

**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?**

Related information should be included in the Minute of legislative activities.

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?**

Yes. In the Minute of legislative activities, the subjects of the vote, written in Maltese, are listed before the voting records.

**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?**

Yes, you can determine the procedural type by what the Speaker says. The transcripts are documented in Maltese for each Minute of legislative activities.

**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 transcripts are documented in Maltese for each Minute of legislative activities.

**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 names of legislators will be recorded as they cast their vote. The method is undetermined.

**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, the Speaker announces the breakdown of the vote outcome. The transcripts are documented in Maltese for each Minute of legislative activities.

**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*