**Malta – House of Representatives**

1. Website:

<https://parlament.mt/en/>

<http://pq.gov.mt/>

2. Locating Relevant Documents/Files On-line:

*A.RULES OF PROCEDURE*

**1. Name:** *Standing Orders of the House of Representatives*

**2. URL**:

* <https://parlament.mt/en/menues/about-parliament/legislative-instruments/standing-orders-of-the-house/>
  + English: <http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8970&l=1>
  + Maltese: <http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8970&l=2>
* <https://parlament.mt/en/13th-leg/rulings/>

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

* October 23, 2017

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

* Section 21 [page 6-7]
* VII - “Divisions” - page 16-17

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

* Questions to be decided by a majority of votes
  + Save as otherwise provided in the Constitution, all questions proposed for decision in the House shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the members present and voting.
  + The Speaker shall not have an original vote, but, if upon any question before the House the votes are equally divided, he shall have and exercise a casting vote.
  + Any other person shall, when presiding in the House, retain his original vote as a member and, if upon any question before theHouse the votes are equally divided, shall also have and exercise a casting vote.
* Divisions
  + 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 divisionshall without debate take place unless it shall appear to the Chair that such a demand is unnecessarily claimed.
  + After the lapse of twenty minutes the Speaker or Chairmanthereupon puts the question a second time and declares whether in his opinion the "Ayes" or the "Noes" have it. 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:Provided that the time occupied in taking divisions shall be added to the time appointed for the interruption of business.
  + 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".
  + In case of confusion or error occurring concerning the numbers reported, the House shall proceed to another division unless the same can be otherwise corrected.
  + If the numbers have been inaccurately reported or an error occurs in the names on the division report, the House on being informed thereof shall order the report to be corrected
  + No member shall be entitled to vote in any division unless he is present in the House when the question is put for the second time.
  + No member shall be entitled to vote in the House or in committee of the whole House or appointed by the House upon any question in which he has a direct pecuniary interest.On a motion of which notice has been duly given it shall be lawful for the House to suspend any member who has voted upon any such question from attending its sittings for the rest of thesession.Every member, however, shall be entitled to vote upon any question relating to personal emoluments or parliamentary allowance to which he might be entitled.

**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?**

* Maltese

**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?)**

* Parliament homepage - “About Parliament” on top - “Standing Orders of the House of Representatives” under “Legislative Instruments”

**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?**

* Yes - Both Maltese and English versions are available for standing orders but only Maltese version is available for rulings

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

**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).**

* “Il-Kamra vvotat hekk” means the House votes as follows

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

* Yes - Maltese

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

**If so:**

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

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

Parliamentary Business - Plenary Sessions - “Documents” on the left

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

* 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?**

* Minutes are available starting from the Eighth Legislature on Thu, 05-Dec-1996

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

* No

**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 certain

*C.MINUTES OF PLENARY SESSION*

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

* Minuti

**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.parlament.mt/en/13th-leg/plenary-session/?type=committeedocuments>
* same as indicated in voting

**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?**

* Minutes are available starting from the Eighth Legislature on Thu, 05-Dec-1996

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

* No

**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?**

* Yes - Maltese

**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:**

* quorum procedures found in section 110-112 on page 19-20 on standing order
  1. The quorum in Committee of the whole House shall consist of the same number of members as shall be requisite to form a quorum of the House.
  2. A quorum of the House shall consist of fifteen members besides the person presiding at the siting.
  3. 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**.

* Attendance are only found for two of the sittings
  + <https://parlament.mt/en/13th-leg/political-groups/speaker-pqs/25/>
  + <https://www.parlament.mt/en/13th-leg/political-groups/speaker-pqs/6/>
* also available in the minutes as ATTENDENZA

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

* 1992 - present for the minutes

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

* No

**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?**

* Yes - Maltese

**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?**

* Not Specified. Any member may demand.

**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 Specified

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

* Save as otherwise provided in the Constitution, all questions proposed for decision in the House shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the members present and voting.
* In case of confusion or error occurring concerning the numbers reported, the House shall proceed to another division unless the same can be otherwise corrected.

**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?**

*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?**

* Not 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?**

* Media Archive has videos of all speeches but does not have the number of words of speeches.
* <https://www.parlament.mt/en/menues/reference-material/media-archive/>
* Also available in oral/written PQ’s after clicking on the specific sitting

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?**

* Not 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?**

* Media Archive has videos of all speeches but does not have the number of words of speeches.
* <https://www.parlament.mt/en/menues/reference-material/media-archive/>
* Also available in oral/written PQ’s after clicking on the specific sitting

*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. In minutes listed under ORDNIJIET TAL-ĠURNATA (orders of the day) and before Il-Kamra vvotat hekk ( the house voted as follows)

**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. Described in the minutes and isted in agendas.

**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. Stated in the minutes after listing everyone who voted pro and con.

**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?**

* No. Only stated that the house votes.

**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 breakdown of the vote outcome is available at the level of individual legislator in the minutes.

**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?**

* Yes. In the minutes.

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?**

* Sitting - Documents - Oral/Written PQs
* In the chart under “Resolution Name”

**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?**

* In the chart under “Malta’s voting pattern”

**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?**

* In the chart under “Malta’s voting pattern”

**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?**

* In the chart under “Malta’s voting pattern”

**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?**

* In the chart under “Malta’s voting pattern”

**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

*NOTES ON ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT COULD BE RELEVANT*