**Germany – Bundesrat**

1. Website:

<https://www.bundesrat.de/EN/homepage/homepage-node.html>

2. Locating Relevant Documents/Files On-line:

*A.RULES OF PROCEDURE*

**1. Name:**

* Rules of Pro­ce­dure of the Bun­desrat

**2. URL**:

* <https://www.bundesrat.de/EN/funktionen-en/go-en/go-en-node.html#doc5157334bodyText1>
* German: <https://www.bundesrat.de/DE/aufgaben/recht/go/go-node.html>

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

* 8th June 2007

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

* III. Meetings of the Bundesrat
  + Rule 29 - Voting
  + Rule 30 - Voting rules

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

* Votes are generally cast by a show of hands in the Bundesrat. Due to the large number of votes to be taken in each meeting, the Bundesrat President generally only counts votes in favour of a motion to determine whether these votes constitute a majority or not.
* Abstentions and votes against a motion that do not affect the absolute majority are therefore not counted separately.
* A roll-call vote of the Länder is taken for amendments to the constitution and other particularly important decisions. That means that each federal state casts its vote, in alphabetical order, by calling out its voting position.
* In this case, the vote cast by each state is recorded in the minutes. The Bundesrat's Rules of Procedure do not provide for secret votes.

**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

**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?)**

* Roles and Functions - Rules of Procedure

**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?**

* English documents are available for the above documents

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

* only votes in favor and thus the majority or minority
* How the individual countries vote in the plenary session is basically not recorded. The countries publish their voting behavior online
  + In the case of constitutional amendments and other particularly important decisions, the vote is made by calling the countries. They then give their votes in alphabetical order by acclamation. In this case, their voting behavior is recorded in the meeting report. Secret ballots are not familiar with the Rules of Procedure of the Bundesrat.

**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.**

* <https://www.bundesrat.de/DE/aufgaben/gemeins-a/geschaeftsordnung/gemeinsamer-ausschuss-geschaeftsordnung.html?nn=4353542#doc4596802bodyText19>

*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).**

* Abstimmung
* En bloc voting

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

* Yes - German

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

* Yes for each country

**If so:**

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

* **Berlin:** <https://www.berlin.de/rbmskzl/politik/bundesangelegenheiten/aktuelles/artikel.776154.php>
* The voting records for other countries can be found separately here: <https://www.bundesrat.de/DE/plenum/abstimmung/abstimmung-node.html>

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

* In the Federal Council is usually **voted by hand**. Because of the many votes that have to be taken at each meeting, the President of the Federal Council generally only votes in favor and thus the majority or minority. Opinions and abstentions that are of no importance to the absolute majority are not counted.

**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?**

* Case sensitive

**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.**

*C.MINUTES OF PLENARY SESSION*

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

* Plenarprotokolle
* Tagesordnungen

**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.bundesrat.de/DE/dokumente/plenarprotokolle/plenarprotokolle-node.html>
* <https://www.bundesrat.de/DE/plenum/to-plenum/to-plenum-node.html>
* Databases - Databases - scroll down for “Stenographic reports on plenary sessions” and “Agendas of plenary sessions”

**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?**

* From 09/07/1949 to present

**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 - German

**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:**

* attendance not reported (only countries are reported)

**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**.

* Not found

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

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

**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?**

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

*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?**

* Any Member of the Bundesrat may question the Federal Government or its members on any item on the agenda during its meetings.

**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?**

* “Es liegen ### Wortmeldungen vor” indicates start of justification

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

* A question shall not be dealt with at the meeting if the Land concerned has agreed to accept a written reply. The reply of the Federal Government shall be communicated to all Länder.
* Votes are generally cast by a show of hands in the Bundesrat. Due to the large number of votes to be taken in each meeting, the Bundesrat President generally only counts votes in favour of a motion to determine whether these votes constitute a majority or not.

**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?**

* Minderheit (minority) or Mehrheit (majority)

*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?**

* No

**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?**

* In each plenary agenda under “Redebeiträge” (speeches)

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?**

* No. Only countries

**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?**

* In each plenary agenda under “Redebeiträge” (speeches)

*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 agenda corresponding to the minute

**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 agenda

**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. Through declaring Minderheit (minority) or Mehrheit (majority).

**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?**

* all by hands

**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?**

* no breakdown is shown.

**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?**

* not found

2. Indication votes: same as above

**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*