

Maryland General Assembly

Explanation of Floor Motions and Legislative Actions

Floor Motions

Motion Not To Concur

The motion not to concur means that one chamber rejects an amendment adopted by the opposite chamber.

Motion To Adjourn Sine Die

A motion to adjourn sine die is the final termination of a regular or special legislative session.

Motion To Adjourn

A motion to adjourn is the termination of a session with the hour and day of the next session set prior to adjournment.

Motion To Allow Late Introduction Of Legislation

A motion to allow late introduction of legislation allows introduction of a measure after the last introduction date as set by the constitution and each chamber's rules.

Motion To Bring Bill To The Floor

The motion to bring a bill to the floor requires a committee to return a measure with or without a recommendation to the floor.

Motion To Concur

The motion to concur means that one chamber accepts an amendment adopted by the opposite chamber.

Motion To Have Two Readings On The Same Day

The Maryland Constitution requires three readings of a bill on different days in each Chamber for passage unless a 2/3 majority of that Chamber votes to consider the bill twice on the same day. A motion to have two readings on the same day requires a 2/3 vote and allows the Chamber to consider a bill twice on the same legislative day.

Motion To Lay On The Table/Motion To Postpone Indefinitely

House Rule: Both motions prevent any further consideration of the measure during the legislative session.
Senate Rule: Motion to lay on the table - sets aside consideration of a measure for an unspecified time.
Motion to postpone indefinitely - prevents any further consideration of the measure during the legislative session.

Motion To Lay On The Table

The motion to lay on the table sets aside consideration of the question in the Senate.

Motion To Lay Over

A motion to lay over postpones consideration of a bill or joint resolution with pending amendments for one day or one hour.

Motion To Limit Debate

A motion to limit debate restricts discussion of a question in the Senate in accordance with the terms of the motion.

Motion To Postpone Indefinitely

The motion to postpone indefinitely prevents further action on or consideration of the question in the Senate.

Motion To Re-Refer

A motion to re-refer sends a measure to a different committee after the original referral.

Motion To Recede

A motion to recede means that an amendment adopted by the opposite chamber is reconsidered and withdrawn by that chamber.

Motion To Recess

The motion to recess is an intermission in a daily session keeping the same legislative day.

Motion to Recommit

A motion to recommit sends a measure back to the standing committee after it has been reported to the floor.

Motion To Reconsider

A motion to reconsider places before the chamber a question previously decided.

Motion To Refer

A motion to refer sends a measure to a committee for consideration.

Motion To Resist A Lay Over

A motion to resist a lay over does not allow a postponement of consideration of a bill or joint resolution with pending amendments for one day or one hour.

Motion To Special Order

A motion to special order postpones consideration to a specific future time.

Motion To Substitute Bill For Unfavorable Report

A motion to substitute a bill for the unfavorable report places a bill or joint resolution that had received an unfavorable recommendation on a committee report before the chamber for consideration.

Motion To Suspend The Rules

A motion to suspend the rules requires a 2/3 vote and temporarily suspends the effect of the rule in question.

Motion To Vote On The Previous Question

The motion to vote on the previous question closes debate and brings the pending question to an immediate vote.

Motion To Withdraw

A motion to withdraw allows the sponsor of a measure before the Chamber to remove that measure from consideration.

Legislative Actions

Second Reading

Favorable

A bill reported to the floor of the chamber by a committee with a "favorable" recommendation carries no committee amendments with it. The report may be adopted or rejected.

Favorable with Amendments

A bill reported to the floor of the chamber by a committee with a "favorable with amendments" recommendation from the committee carries committee amendments. The report may be adopted or rejected.

Floor Amendment

A member may submit an amendment to the chamber for consideration. A floor amendment may be adopted, rejected, or withdrawn.

Second Reading Passed

Second reading passed means the bill is ordered passed to third reading.

Second Reading Passed with Amendments

Second reading passed with amendments means the bill is ordered passed to third reading.

Third Reading

Passed Enrolled

Passed enrolled means that a bill or joint resolution was passed again by the original chamber as amended by the opposite chamber. In the case of a conference committee report, the bill or joint resolution must be passed again by both chambers.

Third Reading Failed

Third reading failed means the bill did not meet its Maryland Constitutional requirements of three readings for passage in the chamber.

Third Reading Passed

Third reading passed means the bill met its Maryland Constitutional requirements of three readings for passage in the chamber.

Other Actions

Adopted

Measure adopted by the body.

Attendance Quorum

The attendance quorum is a record of all senators that have been present some time during a daily legislative session.

Bills Vetoed By The Governor

A yes vote is a vote to override the veto and a no vote is a vote to sustain the veto.

Conference Committee Report

A conference committee report is a report by a joint house & senate committee, after the refusal of one chamber to concur in amendments adopted by the other, which proposes changes to pending legislation that are acceptable to both chambers.

Consent Calendar

A consent calendar is a calendar of non-controversial measures that has one vote passing all measures.

Executive Nominations Committee Report

An Executive Nominations Committee report is a vote on appointments by the governor requiring legislative confirmation.

Quorum

A quorum call is a record of those members present in the chamber to transact business.

Rejected

Measure rejected by the body.