

**Joint Rule 3. Conference committee procedure.** (a) *Action by house of origin of bill or concurrent resolution amended by other house.* When a bill or concurrent resolution is returned to the house of origin with amendments by the other house, the house of origin may: (1) Concur in such amendments; (2) refuse to concur in such amendments; or (3) refuse to concur in such amendments and request a conference on the bill or concurrent resolution.

(b) *Concurrence by house of origin; concurrence prior to taking action on conference committee report by other house; final action; effect of failure of motion to concur.* The house of origin of any bill or concurrent resolution may concur in any amendments made by the other house, except that if the bill or concurrent resolution has been referred to a conference committee such action may only be taken prior to the taking of final action upon the conference committee report upon such bill or concurrent resolution by the other house. A vote in the house of origin of any bill or concurrent resolution on a motion to concur in amendments to such bill or concurrent resolution by the other house shall be considered action on the final passage of the bill or concurrent resolution and the affirmative and negative votes thereon shall be entered in the journal. If the motion to concur is upon amendments to a bill or concurrent resolution for which a conference committee has been appointed and action has not been taken upon the report of such committee by the other house and such motion fails, the bill or concurrent resolution shall not be deemed to have been killed thereby and the motion to concur may be renewed but not on the same legislative day. If the motion to concur is upon amendments to a bill or concurrent resolution for which a conference committee has not been appointed and such motion fails, the bill or concurrent resolution shall be deemed to be killed.

(c) *Motion to nonconcur; when considered final action; effect of adoption of motion.* A vote in the house of origin of any bill or concurrent resolution on a motion to nonconcur or to refuse to concur in amendments to such bill or concurrent resolution by the other house which is not coupled with a request for the appointment of a conference committee shall be considered action on final passage of the bill or concurrent resolution and the affirmative and negative votes thereon shall be entered in the

journal, and the bill or concurrent resolution shall be deemed killed on the adoption thereof.

(d) *House of origin refusal to concur or nonconcur; request for conference; procedure.* When a bill or concurrent resolution is returned by either house to the house of origin with amendments, and the house of origin refuses to concur or to nonconcur therein, a conference may be requested by a majority vote of the members present and voting. Such request shall be transmitted to the other house by message which shall include the names of the conferees on the part of the requesting house. Upon receipt of any such message, the receiving house may, in like manner, approve such conference, and shall thereupon notify the requesting house by message stating the names of its conferees.

(e) *Membership; appointment; chairperson; house of origin of substitute or materially changed bill or concurrent resolution; meetings of conference committee.* Each conference committee shall consist of three members of the senate and three members of the house of representatives, unless otherwise fixed by agreement of the president of the senate and speaker of the house. Senate members shall be appointed by the president of the senate and house members shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives. The president or the speaker may replace any conferee previously appointed by such person. Not fewer than one member appointed from each house shall be a member of the minority political party of such house except when such representation for such house is waived by the minority leader of such house. In all cases, the first-named member of the house of origin of the bill or concurrent resolution assigned to the committee shall be chairperson of the conference committee. The house of origin of a substitute bill or substitute concurrent resolution shall be the house in which the bill or concurrent resolution in its original form was introduced. The chairperson of a conference committee on a bill or concurrent resolution the subject matter of which has been ruled to be materially changed shall be a member of the house which amended the bill or concurrent resolution to materially change the subject matter. Each conference committee shall meet on the call of its chairperson. All meetings of conference committees shall be open to the public and no meeting shall be

adjourned to another time or place in order to subvert such policy.

(f) *Conference committee reports; matters which may be included; report not subject to amendment; house which acts first on report; copies of reports; reports considered under any order of business.* Only subject matters which are or have been included in the bill or concurrent resolution in conference or in bills or concurrent resolutions which have been passed or adopted in either one or both houses during the current biennium of the legislature may be included in the report of the conference committee on any bill or concurrent resolution except in any appropriations bill there may be included a proviso relating to any such item of appropriation. For purposes of this subsection, subject matters which are or have been included in a bill or concurrent resolution are limited and strictly construed to include only the specific text from the bill or concurrent resolution or subject matters that fall under the subject heading of the bill in conference committee.

Subject to any limitations imposed under the constitution of the state of Kansas, ~~no~~ not more than a total of four additional bills or concurrent resolutions or parts of bills or concurrent resolutions in conference or bills or concurrent resolutions or parts of bills or concurrent resolutions which have passed in either one or both houses during the current biennium of the legislature may be included in the report of the conference committee on any bill or concurrent resolution, ~~except that reports of conference committees on any taxation bill are not subject to the limitation contained in this provision.~~ Whenever bills or parts of additional bills have been previously added to the bill in conference by a committee or the committee of the whole of either house, the number of bills or parts of bills that may be added to such bill in the report of the conference committee along with the number of bills and parts of bills previously added shall not exceed a total of five of bills or parts of bills. A conference committee report shall not be subject to amendment. The original signed conference committee report shall be submitted to and acted upon first by the house other than the house of origin of the bill or concurrent resolution. Except when a conference committee report is an agree to disagree coupled with

a request that a new conference committee be appointed or is a recommendation to accede to or recede from all amendments of the second house, electronic and paper copies of the report shall be made available to all members of the house considering the report not later than 30 minutes before the time of its consideration, except that if the report is more than six pages in length no paper copies will be required to be distributed to individual members provided that at least 10 paper copies of the report are made available to members at the clerk's or secretary's desk at the front of the respective house. By written notice, the majority leader may direct the clerk or secretary to increase from six pages to some greater number of pages the size of conference committee reports that need not be distributed by paper copies to individual members pursuant to this rule. The affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members present in the house at the time of consideration of the report shall be sufficient to dispense with distribution of copies of the conference committee report to all members of that house. Reports of conference committees may be received and considered under any order of business.

(g) *Signatures required on conference committee reports.* All initial conference committee reports other than an agreement to disagree coupled with a request that a new conference committee be appointed shall be signed by all of the conferees. All initial conference committee reports which are an agreement to disagree coupled with a request that a new conference committee be appointed shall be signed by a majority of the conferees appointed in each house. If a conference committee report which is an agreement to disagree coupled with a request that a new conference committee be appointed is not adopted, a subsequent conference committee report shall be signed by all conferees unless a subsequent conference committee report which is an agreement to disagree coupled with a request that a new conference committee be appointed is adopted, in which case a conference committee report subsequent to the adoption of such report shall be signed by a majority of the conferees appointed in each house. All other conference committee reports shall be signed by a majority of the conferees appointed in each house.

(h) *Vote to adopt conference committee report final action; effect of failure of motion to adopt conference committee report.* The vote to adopt the report of a conference committee, other than a report of failure to agree coupled with a recommendation for appointment of a new conference committee, shall be considered final action on the bill or concurrent resolution and the affirmative and negative votes thereon shall be entered in the journal. If the motion fails, the bill or concurrent resolution shall be deemed to be killed. If the motion on a conference committee report which is an agreement to disagree coupled with a request that a new conference committee be appointed fails, the bill or concurrent resolution shall not be deemed to have been killed thereby and remains in conference.

(i) *Report of conference committee unable to agree; effect of failure to request new conference committee; effect of failure of motion to adopt report requesting new conference committee.* If a conference committee upon any bill or concurrent resolution is unable to agree, it shall report that fact to both houses. Such report may request that a new conference committee be appointed thereon. If the committee so reports but fails to request the appointment of a new conference committee thereon, the bill or concurrent resolution shall be deemed to have been killed upon the adoption by either house of such report. If the motion to adopt a report requesting the appointment of a new conference committee fails, the bill or concurrent resolution shall be deemed to be killed.

(j) *Bills or concurrent resolutions under consideration by conference committees and reports thereof; carryover from odd-numbered to even-numbered year.* Bills or concurrent resolutions under consideration by a conference committee, or a report of which has been filed but no action taken thereon in either house, at the time of adjournment of a regular session of the legislature held in an odd-numbered year shall remain alive during the interim and may be considered by the committee and legislature as the case may be at the regular session held in the following even-numbered year.