



QUEENSLAND

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Legislative Assembly

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**SESSIONAL ORDERS  
OF THE  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
56<sup>th</sup> PARLIAMENT (FIRST SESSION)**

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BRISBANE

By Authority: N J Laurie, The Clerk of the Parliament

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Adopted 15 February 2018  
Effective 16 February 2018  
Amended 23 August 2018



## SESSIONAL ORDERS – 56<sup>TH</sup> PARLIAMENT (FIRST SESSION)

### Days and Hours of Sitting and Order of Business

1. (a) The House shall sit on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- (b) The House shall sit each day from 9.30am until the automatic adjournment is declared in accordance with Sessional Order 2(2)(c), unless adjourned earlier in accordance with Sessional Order 2(3).
- (c) The Order of Business for each Sitting Day shall be as follows—

#### **Tuesday**

*9.30am — 10.15am—Preliminary Business \**

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

*10.15 am — 11.15 am—*

Question Time

*11.15 am — 11.35 am—*

Business Program Motion (in accordance with Sessional Order 2B)

*11.35 am — 1.00pm—*

Government Business

*1.00pm — 2.00pm—*

Lunch break

*2.00pm — 3.00pm—*

Matters of Public Interest

*3.00pm — 5.30pm—*

Government Business

*5.30pm — 7.00pm—*

Disallowance Motions, Private Members' Bills or Government Business (in accordance with Sessional Order 1(d))

*7.00pm — 7.30pm—*

Automatic Adjournment

*\* (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

#### **Wednesday**

*9.30am — 10.15am—Preliminary Business \**

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions  
Citizen's Right of Reply  
Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk  
Ministerial Papers  
Ministerial Notices of Motion  
Ministerial Statements  
Any other Government Business  
Personal Explanations  
Tabling of Reports  
Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument  
Notice of motion for debate during Private Members' Motion (5.00pm — 6.00pm) (Notice may be stated in the House and delivered to the Clerk)

10.15am — 11.15am—  
Question Time

11.15am — 12.30pm—  
Government Business

12.30pm — 1.00pm—  
Introduction of Private Members' Bills #

1.00pm — 2.00pm—  
Lunch break

2.00pm — 5.00pm—  
Government Business

5.00pm — 6.00pm—  
Private Members' Motion (motion for which notice was given immediately prior to 10.15am to take precedence)

6.00pm — 7.00pm—  
Government Business

7.00pm — 7.30pm—  
Automatic Adjournment

*\* (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

*# (If there are no Private Members' Bills to introduce, or any introduction to complete, the next item of business to commence with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusted accordingly.)*

### **Thursday**

9.30am — 10.15am—Preliminary Business \*

Prayers  
Messages from the Governor  
Matters concerning privilege  
Speaker's Statements  
Appointments  
Petitions  
Citizen's Right of Reply  
Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk  
Ministerial Papers  
Ministerial Notices of Motion  
Ministerial Statements  
Any other Government Business  
Personal Explanations  
Tabling of Reports  
Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

10.15am — 11.15am—  
Question Time

11.15am — 1.00pm—  
Government Business

1.00pm — 2.00pm—  
Lunch break

2.00pm — 3.00pm—  
Private Members' Statements (Total time 60 minutes, 20 members x 3 minutes each)

3.00pm — 4.00pm—  
Debate of Committee Reports (in accordance with Sessional Order 3) if no reports to debate,  
Government Business

4.00pm — 6.00pm—  
Government Business

6.00pm — 6.30pm—  
Automatic Adjournment

*\* (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

(d) On a Tuesday afternoon—

(i) if there are no Disallowance Motions or Private Members' Bills to debate (in accordance with the requirements of Standing Order 59 or Sessional Order 5), the adjournment may be either moved immediately or otherwise continue with Government Business until automatic adjournment;

(ii) if there are Disallowance Motions or Private Members' Bills to debate (in accordance with the requirements of Standing Order 59 or Sessional Order 5), the House will commence with Disallowance Motions, Private Members' Bills or Government Business until automatic adjournment.

(e) If the House sits on any day other than a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, then unless otherwise ordered, the order of business shall be as follows:

*From 9.30am — 10.00 am—*

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

*10.00am — 10.30am—*

Question Time

*10.30am — 1.00pm—*

Government Business

*1.00pm — 2.00pm—*

Lunch break

*2.00pm — until adjournment moved—*

Government Business

## **Automatic Adjournment**

2. (1) Standing Order 56 is suspended for this session.
- (2) At the time specified for the Automatic Adjournment in the Order of Business for each Sitting Day, the Speaker shall:
  - (a) notify the House that it is the time for the Automatic Adjournment of the House;
  - (b) shall call on up to ten members to speak for no more than three minutes each to make an adjournment statement; and
  - (c) at the conclusion of the members' statements in 2(b) above, shall declare the House is adjourned to the date and time previously agreed to by the House.
- (3) Notwithstanding Sessional Orders 1(b) and 2(2), the motion "That the House do now adjourn" may be moved by the Leader or Acting Leader of the House at any time despite the order of business, in which case there will be an Adjournment Debate for 30 minutes and then the question shall be put.

## **Business committee**

- 2A. (1) A Business Committee comprising the following members is established:
  - (a) the Leader of the House (or alternate);
  - (b) Premier (or alternate);
  - (c) the Manager of Opposition Business (or alternate); and
  - (d) the cross-bench member nominated under s.81 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* (or alternate).
- (2) The role of the Business Committee is to aim to agree how the House will deal with government business.
- (3) Any decisions made by the Business Committee in accordance with (2) are not binding on the House and a Business program motion in accordance with 2B is required.
- (4) In this Sessional Order "alternate", in relation to a member, has the same meaning as in section 81 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*.
- (5) At a meeting of the Business Committee a quorum is the Leader of the House (or alternate) and one other member.
- (6) A meeting of the Business Committee is chaired by the Leader of the House (or alternate).

## **Business program motion**

- 2B. (1) At the time specified in the Sessional Orders, the Leader of the House may move a motion without notice that provides for the allocation of time for any proceedings on a government Bill or any other government business.
- (2) The motion may include a requirement that at the expiration of time specified in (1) all remaining questions necessary to pass the Bill, a stage of the Bill or any other government business be put, without further debate, which is taken to include any of the following:
  - (a) the second reading question;
  - (b) clauses and schedules en bloc;
  - (c) any amendments to be moved by the minister in charge of the Bill; and
  - (d) the third reading and long title.

- (3) Completion of all questions necessary to pass the Bill, a stage of the Bill or any other government business in accordance with (1) and (2) shall take precedence over all other business, including the automatic adjournment, with the Order of Business adjusting to recommence after necessary questions are completed.
- (4) Any agreed Business Program may be amended by a motion without notice, moved by the Leader of the House.
- (5) Any amendment agreed to in (4) above is to take effect one hour after the House agrees to such an amendment.

### **Debate of Parliamentary committee reports**

3. (1) If a committee report is tabled that is not:
  - (a) a report on a bill pursuant to Part 5 of the Standing Orders;
  - (b) an annual report of a Committee;
  - (c) a report on travel undertaken by a Committee;
  - (d) a report of the Ethics Committee; or
  - (e) a report by a Committee on subordinate legislationthen a motion shall be set down on the notice paper by the Clerk that the House is to take note of the committee report.
- (2) Motions that the House take note of committee reports will be brought on for debate in the time set aside each Thursday in the order in which they are placed on the notice paper.
- (3) A debate of a motion in (2) not completed may be adjourned to the following Thursday.
- (4) A motion in (2) cannot be amended.
- (5) A motion in accordance with (1) is set down on the notice paper regardless of whether the report is tabled whilst the House is sitting or not sitting.

### **Consideration of Ethics Committee Reports in regard to Citizen's Right of Reply**

4. When the Ethics Committee reports to the House regarding a Citizen's Right of Reply in accordance with Standing Order 283, the committee's recommendation will be considered by the House on the next sitting day following the tabling of the committee's report and at the time in the Order of Business as specified in Sessional Order 1.

### **Private Members' Bills**

5. (1) A member who is not a Minister may introduce a Bill during time set aside in the Order of Business for Private Members' Bills. In such a case the Member introducing the Bill may either complete the speech in the time allotted or, if not completed, adjourn their speech to the next period allotted.
- (2) A Private Members' Bill which has been reported on by a portfolio or other committee, will be brought on for debate on the sitting Tuesday evening next following the passage of three calendar months after the tabling of the committee's report on the Bill.
- (3) The House will continue to debate the Bill on each following sitting Tuesday evening until consideration of that Bill has been finalised.

## Condolence Motions

6. (1) A motion of condolence may be moved as the first item of business after Speaker's Statements in the Order of Business.
- (2) If a motion of condolence is moved in accordance with (1), the debate on such motion will last no more than one hour, after which time the question shall be put.
- (3) After a motion of condolence is moved, debated and resolved in accordance with (1) and (2), the Order of Business for the day shall then resume, with Question Time commencing 45 minutes after the motion of condolence was resolved and with starting times for all other items, except lunch and dinner breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.

## Matters of Public Interest, Private Members Statements and adjournment statements

7. During the time set aside for Matters of Public Interest, Private Members Statements and adjournment statements, no questions can be put nor divisions called.

## Maximum time limits for debates, speeches and statements

8. The maximum time limits that apply to debates, speeches and statements are contained in the schedule below.

Subject	Relevant Standing or Sessional Orders	Time
<b>Address in Reply Debate</b> – Total time – Mover – Other members – Mover in reply	SO 47	28 hours 20 minutes 20 minutes 30 minutes
<b>Adjournment Statements</b> – Total time – Each member	Sessional Order 2(2)(b)	30 minutes 3 minutes
<b>Adjournment Debate</b> – Total time – Each member	Sessional Order 2(3)	30 minutes 3 minutes
<b>Bills – Government Bills</b> Introduction of Bills (explanatory speech) First reading <b>Government Bills reported on by a committee</b> Second reading debate – Minister – Leader of the Opposition (or nominee) – Other members – Minister in reply Consideration in detail – Mover (Minister) – Other members (on each question) <i>Government Bills declared urgent and not referred or not reported on by a committee</i> Second reading debate – Minister	SO 129 SO 130 SO 138 SO 146 & SO 147 SO 129, SO 137 & SO 138	1 hour No debate 30 minutes 30 minutes 10 minutes 20 minutes No limit 3 minutes To speak once only as per SO 129 for 1 hour



<b>Subject</b>	<b>Relevant Standing or Sessional Orders</b>	<b>Time</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Leader of the Opposition (or nominee)</li> <li>– Other members</li> <li>– Mover in reply</li> </ul> Consideration in detail  Mover <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Leader of the Opposition (or nominee) (on each questions)</li> </ul>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Other members (on each question)</li> </ul>	SO 146, SO 147 & SO 156	1 hour 15 minutes 30 minutes  No limit 1 x 20 minutes; or 2 x 10 minutes; or 1 x 10 minutes & 2 x 5 minutes  1 x 10 minutes or 2 x 5 minutes
<p><b>Bills – Private Members’ Bills</b></p> Introduction of Bills (explanatory speech)  First reading Second reading debate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– All members</li> <li>– Mover in reply</li> </ul> Consideration in detail  <p><b>Where Bill has been considered by portfolio committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Mover</li> <li>– Other members (on each question)</li> </ul> <p><b>Where Bill has not been considered by portfolio committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Mover</li> <li>– Other members (on each question)</li> <li>– Minister responsible for policy area (on each question)</li> </ul>	SO 129 & Sessional Order 5  SO 130  SO 138   SO 146, SO 147 & SO 156	1 hour  No debate  10 minutes 30 minutes   No limit 3 minutes  No limit 3 minutes 1 x 20 minutes; or 2 x 10 minutes; or 1 x 10 minutes & 2 x 5 minutes
<p><b>Debate of Committee Reports – each member</b></p>	Sessional Order 3	5 minutes
<p><b>Disallowance of statutory instruments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Total time</li> <li>– Mover</li> <li>– Other members</li> <li>– Minister in reply</li> </ul>	SO 59	1 hour 30 minutes 15 minutes 10 minutes 20 minutes
<p><b>Dissent to ruling of Speaker</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Total time</li> <li>– Each member</li> </ul>	SO 250	1 hour 10 minutes
<p><b>Election of Speaker</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Each member</li> </ul>	SO 39	5 minutes
<p><b>Extension of Time, by consent of a majority of the House, without debate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Motions and Second Reading Debates</li> <li>– Question Time</li> </ul>		5 minutes 2 minutes
<p><b>Matters concerning privilege</b></p>	Sessional Order 1, & SO 248 & 267	At discretion of Speaker

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Relevant Standing or Sessional Orders</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>Matters of Public Interest</b> – Total time – Leader of Opposition or nominee – Other members	Sessional Order 1 & 7	1 hour 10 minutes 5 minutes
<b>Motions</b> – Mover – Other members – Mover in reply	Chapter 15	10 minutes 10 minutes 15 minutes
<b>Motions – Business Program Motion</b> (11.15 am Tuesdays) and <b>Amendments to Business Program Motion</b> – Mover – Other members – Total debate	Sessional Order 1 and 2B	5 minutes 5 minutes 20 minutes or when four speakers have concluded
<b>Personal Explanations</b> – each member	Sessional Order 1	At discretion of Speaker
<b>Private Members' Motions</b> (Wednesday 5.00–6.00 pm) – Total time – All members	Sessional Order 1	1 hour 5 minutes
<b>Private Members' Statements</b> – Total time – Each member	Sessional Order 1 & 7	1 hour 3 minutes
<b>Tabling of Reports</b> – Chairperson of Committee on presentation of committee report – Member tabling report	Sessional Order 1 & 2	5 minutes 2 minutes
<b>Questions Without Notice</b> – Question time (total time) – Member asking question – Minister answering question	Sessional Order 1 & SO 113	1 hour, Tues, Wed, Thurs. 30 minutes on Friday At discretion of Speaker 3 minutes

### **Dress standards**

9. Dress standards in the parliamentary chamber should be appropriate to the Queensland climate and reflect general community standards. All members and staff are expected to dress in business attire.

Male members and staff may wear a long-sleeve business shirt and tie or coat and long-sleeve business shirt without tie.