



QUEENSLAND

Legislative Assembly

SESSIONAL ORDERS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
55th PARLIAMENT (FIRST SESSION)

BRISBANE

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

Adopted 27 March 2015
Effective 28 March 2015
Amended 9 August 2017

SESSIONAL ORDERS – 55TH 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 on Tuesday and Thursday from 9.30am until by its own resolution the House adjourns.
- (c) The House shall sit on Wednesday from 2.00pm until by its own resolution the House adjourns.
- (d) The Order of Business for each Sitting Day shall be as follows—

Tuesday

*9.30am – 10.30am—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 (6.00pm – 6.30pm) (Notice may be stated in the House and delivered to the Clerk)

Private Members' Statements (total time 15 minutes, 5 members x 3 minutes each, Leader of the Opposition or nominee has first call)

10.30am – 11.30am—

Question Time

11.30am – 12.00pm—

Introduction of Private Members' Bills#

12.00pm – 1.00pm—

Matters of Public Interest

1.00pm – 2.30pm—

Lunch break

2.30pm – 6.00pm—

Government Business

6.00pm – 6.30pm—

Private Members' Motion (motion for which notice was given in morning to take precedence)

6.30pm – 7.30pm—

Dinner break

7.30pm until adjournment moved—

Government Business

** (If completed before 10.30am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch and dinner 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 and dinner breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)

Wednesday

2.00pm – 3.00pm—Preliminary Business*

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Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

Notice of motion for debate during Private Members' Motion (6.00pm – 6.30pm) (Notice may be stated in the House and delivered to the Clerk)

Private Members' Statements (total time 15 minutes, 5 members x 3 minutes each, Leader of the Opposition or nominee has first call)

3.00pm – 4.00pm—

Question Time

4.00pm – 4.30pm—

Introduction of Private Members' Bills#

4.30pm – 6.00pm—

Government Business

6.00pm – 6.30pm—

Private Members' Motion (motion for which notice was given earlier in the afternoon to take precedence)

6.30pm – 7.30pm—

Dinner break

7.30pm – 10.00pm—

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

From 10.00pm until Adjournment moved—

Government Business

**(If completed before 3.00pm, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except the dinner break, 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 the dinner break, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)

Thursday

*9.30am – 10.30am—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 (6.00pm – 6.30pm) (Notice may be stated in the House and delivered to the Clerk)

Private Members' Statements (Total time 15 minutes, 5 members x 3 minutes each, Leader of the Opposition or nominee has first call)

10.30am – 11.30am—

Question Time

11.30am – 12.00pm—

Introduction of Private Members' Bills#

12.00pm – 1.00pm—

Debate of petitions (in accordance with Sessional Order 2A) and Debate of Committee Reports (in accordance with Sessional Order 2) or if no petitions or reports to debate, Government Business

1.00pm – 2.30pm—

Lunch break

2.30pm – 3.00pm—

Private Members' Statements (Total time 30 minutes, 10 members x 3 minutes each)

3.00pm – 6.00pm—

Government Business

6.00pm – 6.30pm—

Private Members' Motion (motion for which notice was given immediately prior to 10.00am to take precedence)

6.30pm – 7.30pm—

Dinner break

7.30pm until adjournment moved—

Government Business

**(If completed before 10.30am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch and dinner 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 and dinner breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)

(e) On a Wednesday evening—

- (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 3), the adjournment may be either moved immediately or otherwise the House will break for dinner between 6.30pm and 7.30pm and then commence with Government Business until 10.00pm;
 - (ii) if there are Disallowance Motions or Private Members' Bills to debate (in accordance with the requirements of Standing Order 59 or Sessional Order 3), the House will break for dinner between 6.30pm and 7.30pm and then commence with Disallowance Motions, Private Members' Bills or Government Business until 10.00pm.
- (f) The motion "That the House do now adjourn" may only be moved by the Member occupying the position of Leader or Acting Leader of the House in the House.
 - (g) As soon as the motion in (f) is moved, there will be an Adjournment Debate for 30 minutes and then the question shall be put.
 - (h) 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.
 - (i) 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 – 10.30 am—

Prayers

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Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

Question Time (for remaining time until 10.30 am)

10.30am – 1.00pm—

Government Business

1.00pm – 2.30pm —

Lunch break

2.30pm – until adjournment moved—

Government Business

Debate of Parliamentary committee reports

- 2. (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 legislation

then 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.

Debate of Petitions signed by 10,000 or more persons

- 2A** (1) The subject matter of every petition tabled in the House and announced by the Clerk as having been signed by 10,000 or more persons, shall be set down on the notice paper by the Clerk that the House is to take note of the petition, unless:
- (a) the Committee of the Legislative Assembly determines that the subject matter of the petition is so frivolous or vexatious as to not warrant the attention of the House by way of debate under this sessional order; or
 - (b) the Committee of the Legislative Assembly determines that a debate on a petition on the same subject has already taken place in the same session; or
 - (c) the Committee of the Legislative Assembly determines that debate on a petition would anticipate debate on another order on the notice paper; or
 - (d) the Committee of the Legislative Assembly determines that other petitions on the same subject are also set down on the notice paper, in which case all such petitions shall be combined in the same order.
- (2) In determining whether a debate on the same subject has already taken place in the same session in 2A (1)(b) the Committee of the Legislative Assembly will have regard to whether the subject of the petition is the same in substance (not form) as a previous petition which has already been debated in that session.
- (3) Motions that the House take note of a petition 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.
- (4) Any further petitions received before the first order on the notice paper is disposed of shall be set down on succeeding Thursday's in the order in which they are presented (with the time limits for speaking as set out on Sessional Order 5).
- (5) If a Member does not seek the call when the Order of the Day to note a petition is called on that Order will lapse.
- (6) The Order of the Day cannot be amended and at the conclusion of the debate the question shall be put.
- (7) A division on any question or quorum call shall not be permitted during debate of the Order of the Day.

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

- 2B** 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

- 3.** (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 Wednesday 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 Wednesday evening until consideration of that Bill has been finalised.

Condolence Motions

4. (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 half an hour 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.

Maximum time limits for debates, speeches and statements

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

Subject	Relevant Standing or Sessional Orders	Time
Address in Reply Debate – Total time – Mover – Other members – Mover in reply	SO 47	28 hours 20 minutes 20 minutes 30 minutes
Adjournment debate – Total time – Each member	SO 56 & Sessional Order 1	30 minutes 3 minutes
Bills - Government Bills Introduction of Bills (explanatory speech) First reading Government Bills reported on by a committee Second reading debate – Minister – Leader of the Opposition (or nominee) – Members of the relevant committee – All other members – Minister in reply Consideration in detail – Mover (Minister) – Other members (on each question) Government Bills declared urgent and not referred or not reported on by a committee Second reading debate – Minister	SO 129 SO 130 SO 138 SO 146 & SO 147 SO 129, SO 137 & SO 138	1 hour No debate 1 hour 1 hour 20 minutes 10 minutes 30 minutes No limit 3 minutes To speak once only as per SO 129 for 1 hour
– Leader of the Opposition (or nominee) – Other members – Mover in reply		1 hour 20 minutes 30 minutes

<p>Consideration in detail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mover (Minister) – Leader of the Opposition (or nominee) (on each question) <p>– Other Members (on each question)</p>	SO 146, SO 147 & SO 156	<p>No limit</p> <p>1 x 20 minutes; or 2 x 10 minutes; or 1 x 10 minutes & 2 x 5 minutes</p> <p>1 x 10 minutes or 2 x 5 minutes</p>
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Bills - Private Members' Bills		
<p>Introduction of Bills (explanatory speech)</p> <p>First reading</p> <p>Second reading debate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – All members – Mover in reply <p>Consideration in detail</p> <p>Where Bill has been considered by portfolio committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mover – Other members (on each question) <p>Where Bill has not been considered by portfolio committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mover – Other members (on each question) – Minister responsible for policy area (on each question) 	<p>SO 129 & Sessional Order 3</p> <p>SO 130</p> <p>SO 138</p> <p>SO 146, SO 147 & SO 156</p>	<p>1 hour</p> <p>No debate</p> <p>10 minutes 30 minutes</p> <p>No limit 3 minutes</p> <p>No limit 3 minutes 1 x 20 minutes; or 2 x 10 minutes; or 1 x 10 minutes and 2 x 5 minutes</p>
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Debate of Committee Reports – each member	Sessional Order 1	5 minutes
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Debate of Petitions	Sessional Order 2A	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Total time – Mover – Member next speaking – Two other members 		<p>16 minutes</p> <p>5 minutes</p> <p>5 minutes</p> <p>3 minutes each</p>
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Disallowance of statutory instruments	SO 59	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Total time – Mover – Other members – Minister in reply 		<p>2 hours</p> <p>15 minutes</p> <p>10 minutes</p> <p>20 minutes</p>
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Dissent to ruling of Speaker	SO 250	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Total time – Each member 		<p>1 hour</p> <p>10 minutes</p>
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Election of Speaker – each member	SO 39	5 minutes
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Extension of Time, by consent of a majority of the House, without debate		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Motions and Second Reading Debates – Question Time 		<p>10 minutes</p> <p>2 minutes</p>
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Matters concerning privilege	Sessional Order 1, & SO 248 & 267	At discretion of Speaker
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Matters of Public Interest – Total time – Leader of Opposition or nominee – Other members	Sessional Order 1	1 hour 10 minutes 5 minutes
Motions – Mover – Other members – Mover in reply	Chapter 15	20 minutes 20 minutes 30 minutes
Personal Explanations – each member	Sessional Order 1	At discretion of Speaker
Private Members' Motions (Tuesday and Thursday 6.00-6.30pm, Wednesday 7.30-8.00pm) – Total time – All members	Sessional Order 1	30 minutes 5 minutes
Private Members' Statements – Each member	Sessional Order 1	3 minutes
Tabling of Reports – Chairperson of Committee on presentation of committee report – Member tabling report	Sessional Order 1 & 2	5 minutes 2 minutes
Questions Without Notice – Question time (total time) – Member asking question – Minister answering question	Sessional Order 1 & SO 113	1 hour, Tues, Wed, Thurs. Time remaining until 10.30am on Friday At discretion of Speaker 3 minutes

Dress standards

6. 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.