

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
Second Session, Fifty-Fourth Parliament

Sessional Orders adopted 5 February 2020

That Standing Orders be and remain so far suspended so as to provide that –

1. Day and time of meeting

Unless otherwise ordered, the House meets for business on each Tuesday and Thursday at 11.00 am and each Wednesday at 10.30 am.

2. Private Members' Business

After the Address in Reply is completed, Private Members Business has precedence as follows-

1. On Wednesdays after Prayers, Private Member's Business relating to Private Member's Bills and Private Members' Business relating to Other Motions until 1.00 pm provided that –
 - (a) Unless otherwise ordered –
 - (i) Private Member's Bills have priority until 11.30 am;
 - (ii) Notices of Motion have priority over Orders of the Day;
 - (b) Leave to continue remarks may not be sought by any Member but the Member speaking when the allotted time for such business is completed has the right to be first heard when the matter is next called on.
2. On Thursday after Prayers, Private Member's Business relating to motions with respect to Committees and motions for the disallowance of subordinate legislation for up to one hour provided that –
 - (a) Notices of Motion take priority over Orders of the Day, unless otherwise ordered;
 - (b) Leave to continue remarks may not be sought by any Member but the Member speaking when the allotted time for such business is completed has the right to be first heard when the matter is next called on.
3. The following debate time limits apply –

Mover, 15 minutes;
All other Members, 10 minutes;
Mover in reply, 5 minutes.
An extension of 15 minutes may be granted, by leave, to a Member moving the second reading of a Bill.

3. Answers to Questions

Once a notice of a question has been given and placed on the Notice paper pursuant to Standing Order 102, an answer to the question shall be delivered to the Clerk pursuant to Standing Order 103, not more than 30 days after the date on which it had first been printed on the Notice Paper.

4. Eligible Petitions – Referral, Response and Address

1. Eligible Petitions referred to Legislative Review Committee

A copy of every petition, being a single petition, received by the House, certified by the Clerk and signed by 10,000 or more persons, an 'eligible petition', shall be referred by the Clerk to the Legislative Review Committee.

2. Minister's response to a Report on an eligible petition

(a) Within 6 sitting days of a Ministerial response being made to a report relating to an eligible petition, the prescribed Minister shall at the usual time during routine business for Ministers to give notices -

(b) Address the House and explain:

- (i) What if any action is to be taken in relation to the petition; and
- (ii) If no action is to be taken in relation to the petition, the reasons for that fact.

(c) Without further leave of the House, the time allowed for the Address by the prescribed Minister is limited to 15 minutes.

3. Minister's Address note

In the event that a Minister addresses the House with a response to a report relating to an eligible petition, a Member may give notice of a motion, in accordance with the same rules as for other notices of motion, '*That the House note the Minister's Address.*' The notice of motion will be taken into consideration within the time allocated for Private Members Business: Committees and Subordinate Legislation.

Sessional Orders adopted 2 March 2021

5. Period for questions without notice

Unless otherwise ordered, the period for asking questions may not exceed one hour and fifteen minutes and that cross-bench Members, those being not from the group led by the Leader of the Government or group led by the Leader of the Opposition, be entitled to four questions during the period.

If, however, the last question asked or begun to be asked before the expiration of that hour and fifteen minutes has not been answered, the question may be answered even though the period of one hour and fifteen minutes has expired.

6. Grievance Debate

At the conclusion of the period for questions without notice the Speaker may propose the question "That the House note grievances". Up to eight Members two of which must not be from the group led by the Leader of the Opposition or group led by the Leader of the Government, may speak for a maximum of five minutes each before the Speaker puts the question. The Speaker may exercise discretion in determining when each period of five minutes has elapsed, but not so as to reduce the speaking time for any Member to less than five minutes, and that discretion is not open to debate or dissent.

Sessional Orders adopted 30 March 2021

7. **Leave of absence**

Leave of absence from the service of the House may be granted to any Member on notice* of motion stating the reason and period of absence. Except that a Member who is pregnant shall be entitled, without a vote of the Assembly, to 20 weeks maternity leave of absence, and that leave shall commence at a time notified by the Member to the Speaker. A Member is excused from service in the House or on any committee for the period of the leave of absence. A Member who has leave of absence forfeits that leave (except for a period of maternity leave) by attending the service of the House before the expiration of the leave.

* See Constitution Act 1934, section 31(1)(a).

8. **No Stranger admitted to the body of the House**

No Member may bring any stranger into any part of the House appropriated to the Members of the House while the House or Committee of the whole House is sitting.

1. A stranger does not include an infant cared for (which includes feeding and breastfeeding) by a Member.