

MOTIONS

Are you asking / reminding people about the rules?

Point of Order* To be used whenever proper procedure is not being followed. You can use this in or out of committee. This is the only motion where you can interrupt a speaker. To use, simply say "Point of Order" at any time.

To Amend *Cannot be used in Senate/House, ONLY in Committee.* Used to make a change to a bill's wording. Write down your proposed amendment beforehand. You need to know the exact wording of additions, the bits you want to strike out, and the associated line numbers. You cannot add joke amendments to serious bills. To use, say "[Formal Address], I move to amend the bill by..."

Cloture* To stop all debate and immediately bring a vote. To use, say "[Formal Address], I move we vote immediately."

To Limit Debate* Limits the amount of time you can debate a bill. You can call this amendment before or during debate; for a single bill, multiple bills, or all bills in a session. You can phrase it as follows: [Formal Address] "I move that the debate be closed on this motion by [X o'clock]" OR "I move that debate be limited to [X minutes] total" OR "I move to limit debate to [X minutes per speaker]."

Blast Out* If your bill was tabled or otherwise not discussed by a committee, you can move to discuss it in the House/Senate at the beginning of proceedings before you start debating bills (Order of Business #6, "Motions"). To use, say "[Formal Address], I move that [Bill Name] be withdrawn from the ___ committee and be placed on the docket for Committee of the Whole."

Formal Address: [Mister / Madame] [Chair / Speaker / President], [If in Senate/House: And Member of the Committee],

Bill Name: "Senate/House Bill Number _____"

To Amend a Bill?

Are you trying to pass/fail a bill?

To End / Limit Debate?

Harsh, but Whatever.

Trying to reconsider action on a bill/motion?

Was the bill failed / tabled in committee?

To take a break?

Segregate* If the bill fails in committee, you can have it continue on by motioning right after the committees' reports have been read. Say "[Formal Address], I move that [Bill Name] be segregated from the committee report and placed on the docket for the Committee of the Whole."

Do Pass To pass a bill — the most common motion. Almost always proposed by the bill's author or a friend. To use, say "[Formal Address], I move that when this committee does rise and report, after having under consideration [Bill Name], that it recommends the same do pass."

Do Not Pass• Opposite of "Do Pass." Use when you are against a bill. If the motion passes, the bill fails. If the motion doesn't pass, you just continue debating the bill. To use, say "[Formal Address], I move that when this committee does rise and report, after having under consideration [Bill Name], that it recommends the same do NOT pass."

To Recess* To call a short break. To use, say "[Formal Address], I move to recess [For X minutes/Until X o'clock]"

To Reconsider• Use if you want to discuss the decision on a bill. Only usable if you're reconsidering a bill from that same session (i.e. there have been no non-recess breaks since you discussed the bill). To use, say "[Formal Address], I move that the committee reconsider its action taken on..."

If you are discussing a bill from the other house (e.g. a bill that passed in the Senate and you are now discussing it in the House of Representatives) you use "Be [Concurred/Not Concurred] In" in place of "Do Pass/Do Not Pass".

Remember to stand up, project your voice, and be polite.

There are a few motions not on this page. Most of the time, they won't matter.

* = No Debate or Questions Allowed. • = Infrequently Used.