

## Appendix 4

### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS

On the following pages is a table which sets out proposed standing orders to implement the committee's recommendations. The standing orders have been restructured and renumbered and are intended to be placed together. It is proposed to achieve this by:

- Omitting chapter IV (Standing Committees)
- Omitting chapters XXIV (Select Committees) and XXV (Witnesses), replacing with proposed chapters XXIV to XXVIA (set out in the table)
- Omitting chapter XXVIII (Joint Committees)
- Moving chapter XXVI (Communication between the Houses) to become chapter XXVIII and renumbering these standing orders as 385 to 388

[Note chapter XXVII (Conferences) would remain where it is, there would be no SO 372 or 389 and chapter IV would be empty]

It is proposed to omit the following standing orders:

- 330 (First meeting) Usually arranged by Secretary in consultation with chair-elect and/or other members. This can be left to administrative practice.
- 339 (Secret committees) No longer relevant.
- 349 (Payment of certain witnesses before committees) Payment of witnesses and employment of staff is an administrative matter that need not be in the standing orders. Committees have no statutory authority to employ persons in their own right.
- 351 (Conference desired by message) Having empowered committees to confer with Senate committees it is up to the committees to communicate. This is in keeping with standing order 369 which states 'Communication with the Senate may be by message, by conference, or by select committees conferring with each other.' The House, Library and Publications Committees traditionally meet with their Senate counterparts without an exchange of messages. It is proposed to omit the word 'select' from SO 369.
- 352 (Committees communicate by word of mouth) See above
- 353 (Committee of House to report proceedings at a conference) See above
- 361 (When intended witness is in prison) Arrangements for hearing witnesses who are in custody need not be in the standing orders. The power to summons witnesses is contained elsewhere.
- 366 (Witness withdraws if question objected to) This is not practical in the House and the matter is dealt with in respect of committees in the proposed resolution on dealing with witnesses.
- 386 (Joint committee—Time and place of first meeting) As for first meeting of a House committee this can be dealt with administratively.

## Proposed standing orders governing committees

Proposed standing order	Relevant existing SOs	Relevant recommendation or comment
<b>Chapter XXIV STANDING COMMITTEES</b>		
<p><b>Appointment</b></p> <p><b>323</b> Standing committees shall be appointed at the commencement of each Parliament in accordance with the provisions of standing orders 324 to 331.</p>	new	Extracts from each current standing order establishing a committee the words ‘appointed at the commencement of each Parliament’
<p><b>General purpose standing committees</b></p> <p><b>324</b> (a) The following general purpose standing committees shall be appointed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs;</li> <li>(ii) Standing Committee on Communications, Transport and Microeconomic Reform;</li> <li>(iii) Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training;</li> <li>(iv) Standing Committee on Environment, Recreation and the Arts;</li> <li>(v) Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs;</li> <li>(vi) Standing Committee on Financial Institutions and Public Administration;</li> <li>(vii) Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology;</li> <li>(viii) Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs; and</li> <li>(ix) Standing Committee on Primary Industries, Resources and Rural and Regional Affairs.</li> </ul> <p>(b) A standing committee appointed pursuant to paragraph (a) shall be empowered to inquire into and report on any matters within its area of responsibility, or any matter referred to it by either the House or a Minister, including any pre-legislation proposal, bill, motion, petition, vote or expenditure, other financial matter, report or paper.</p>	28B (a), (b), (c)	Recommendations 3, 4, 6, 7, 10 and 19. In the case of conflict between a committee and the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit in relation to inquiring into an Auditor-General’s report, the committee believes that the JCPAA’s view should prevail because it has a statutory responsibility in relation to the reports.

<b>Proposed standing order</b>	<b>Relevant existing SOs</b>	<b>Relevant recommendation or comment</b>
<p>Petitions, annual reports of government departments and authorities and reports of the Auditor-General tabled in the House shall stand referred to the relevant committee for any inquiry the committee may wish to make. Petitions and reports shall stand referred to committees in accordance with a schedule tabled by the Speaker to record the areas of responsibility of each committee:</p> <p>Provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) any question concerning responsibility for a petition, report or a part of a report shall be determined by the Speaker;</li> <li>(ii) the period during which an inquiry concerning an annual report may be commenced by a committee shall end on the day on which the next annual report of that Department or authority is presented to the House; and</li> <li>(iii) if a committee intends to inquire into all or part of a report of the Auditor-General, it shall notify the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, in writing, of its intention.</li> </ul> <p>(c) Each committee appointed under paragraph (a) shall consist of 10 members, six government and four non-government Members. Each committee may be supplemented with up to two members for a particular inquiry.</p>		
<p><b>Committee of Privileges</b></p> <p><b>325</b> (a) A Committee of Privileges shall be appointed to inquire into and report on complaints of breach of privilege or contempt which may be referred to it by the House under standing order 95 or by the Speaker under standing order 97A or any other matter referred to it pursuant to a resolution of the House.</p> <p>(b) The committee shall consist of the Leader of the House or his or her nominee, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition or his or her nominee and nine other Members.</p>	26	The words ‘or contempt’ have been added after ‘breach of privilege’ and a reference to the committee considering other matters which may be referred pursuant to a resolution of the House. This recognises the committee’s expanded role in considering matters related to the right of reply recently given to persons referred to unfavourably in the House and the proposed resolution

<b>Proposed standing order</b>	<b>Relevant existing SOs</b>	<b>Relevant recommendation or comment</b>
		concerning disclosure of in camera evidence (recommendation 26).
<p><b>Library Committee</b>  <b>326 (a)</b> A Library Committee shall be appointed to consider any matter relating to the provision of library services to Members referred to it by the House or by the Speaker.  <b>(b)</b> The committee shall consist of the Speaker and six other Members.</p>	27	Terms of reference for the committee have been included which reflect those of the Senate Library Committee and match the powers of the House Committee. The power to act during recess has been omitted as it gives the subordinate body a power not available to House itself.
<p><b>House Committee</b>  <b>327 (a)</b> A House Committee shall be appointed to consider any matter relating to the provision of facilities in Parliament House referred to it by the House or by the Speaker.  <b>(b)</b> The committee shall consist of the Speaker and six other Members.</p>	27	Terms of reference for the committee have been included which reflect those of the Senate House Committee. The power to act during recess has been omitted as for the Library Committee.
<p><b>Publications Committee</b>  <b>328 (a)</b> A Publications Committee shall be appointed to consider all documents presented to the House which have not been ordered to be printed by either House of the Parliament. The committee shall report from time to time in connection with documents presented to the House and may make recommendations as to what documents ought to be printed and whether wholly or in part.  <b>(b)</b> The committee shall consist of seven Members.  <b>(c)</b> When conferring with a similar committee of the Senate the committee shall have power to inquire into and report on the printing, publication and distribution of parliamentary and government publications and on such matters as are referred to it by the relevant Minister.</p>	28	The requirement that the committee consider petitions has been omitted. The terms of reference of the committee have been broadened to allow it to make recommendations concerning documents other than whether they should be printed. This reflects the fact that the future of the Parliamentary Papers Series is uncertain and that other roles for the committee may be instituted, for example monitoring the availability of papers. Pursuant to proposed standing order 340, the power to call for witnesses and documents is extended generally to the

<b>Proposed standing order</b>	<b>Relevant existing SOs</b>	<b>Relevant recommendation or comment</b>
		committee rather than confining it to when it is sitting as a joint committee with the Senate as is the case at present.
<p><b>Committee of Members' Interests</b></p> <p><b>329</b> (a) A Committee of Members' Interests shall be appointed—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) to inquire into and report upon the arrangements made for the compilation, maintenance and accessibility of a Register of Members' Interests;</li> <li>(ii) to consider any proposals made by Members and others as to the form and content of the register;</li> <li>(iii) to consider any specific complaints made in relation to the registering or declaring of interests;</li> <li>(iv) to consider what changes to any code of conduct adopted by the House are necessary or desirable;</li> <li>(v) to consider what classes of persons (if any) other than Members ought to be required to register and declare their interests; and</li> <li>(vi) to make recommendations upon these and any other matters which are relevant.</li> </ul> <p>(b) The committee shall consist of seven Members, four government Members and three non-government Members: provided that, where the Opposition is composed of two parties, the committee shall consist of four government Members, two Members of the largest opposition party, and one Member of the smaller opposition party.</p> <p>(c) The committee shall have power to call for witnesses and documents but shall not exercise that power, nor undertake an investigation of the private interests of any person, unless approved by not less than four members of the committee other than the chair.</p> <p>(d) The committee shall, as soon as practicable after 31 December in each year, prepare and present to the House a report on its operations during that year and shall also have power to report from time to time.</p>	28A	Some adjustments made to accommodate recommendation 19 concerning appointment of Members by resolution.

<b>Proposed standing order</b>	<b>Relevant existing SOs</b>	<b>Relevant recommendation or comment</b>
<p><b>Standing Committee on Procedure</b></p> <p><b>330</b> (a) A Standing Committee on Procedure shall be appointed to inquire into and report on the practices and procedures of the House generally with a view to making recommendations for their improvement or change and for the development of new procedures.</p> <p>(b) The committee shall consist of eight members, five government members and three non-government members.</p>	28C	Some adjustments made to accommodate recommendation 19 concerning appointment of Members by resolution.
<p><b>Selection Committee</b></p> <p><b>331</b> (a) A Selection Committee shall be appointed to arrange the timetable and order of business for private Members' business and committee and delegation reports on each sitting Monday pursuant to standing order 101.</p> <p>(b) The committee shall consist of the Deputy Speaker, the Chief Government Whip, the Chief Opposition Whip, the Third Party Whip, four government members, three opposition members and one independent member.</p> <p>(c) Private Members' business which is to be accorded priority, the order of consideration and the times allotted for debate on each item and the time limits allotted for each Member speaking shall be approved by a majority of the members present at a meeting of the committee and in accordance with general principles adopted by the House after report by the committee.</p> <p>(d) The Selection Committee may determine the order of precedence and times allotted for consideration of committee and delegation reports and private Members' business and shall report its determinations to the House in sufficient time for its decisions to be published on the Notice Paper of the sitting Thursday prior to the Monday to which the determinations apply.</p> <p>(e) Reports of the committee made pursuant to paragraph (d) shall be deemed adopted when presented and shall be printed in Hansard.</p> <p>(f) Five members of the committee shall constitute a quorum of the committee.</p>	28D	The deadline for decisions to be published in the Notice Paper has been changed from Wednesday to Thursday to allow some more flexibility while still publishing the determinations before they are due for debate.

<b>Proposed standing order</b>	<b>Relevant existing SOs</b>	<b>Relevant recommendation or comment</b>
(g) For the purpose of private Members' business in this and any other standing order, a private Member is any Member of the House other than the Speaker or a Minister.		
<b>Chapter XXV GENERAL COMMITTEE PROVISIONS</b>		
<b>Application</b> 332 Except as provided in another standing or sessional order, or as otherwise ordered by the House, the provisions in standing orders 333 to 355 apply to all committees of the House.	new	
<b>Appointment of Members</b> 333 Members shall be appointed to, or discharged from, a committee on motion moved on notice. For the purpose of consideration of a bill referred to a committee pursuant to standing order 217A, one or more members of a committee may be replaced by other Members by motion on notice. This does not affect the provision for a general purpose standing committee to be supplemented by up to two members.	323, 324, various SOs relating to individual committees 28B(c)	Recommendation 19
<b>Speaker and Deputy Speakers</b> 334 The Speaker, the Deputy Speaker or the Second Deputy Speaker shall not be appointed to serve on a committee except with his or her consent or as specified in a standing or sessional order.	325	Slightly modified to reflect practice and cover ex officio memberships such as Selection, House etc
<b>No Member to be on a committee if pecuniarily interested</b> 335 No Member may sit on a committee if he or she has any direct pecuniary interest in a matter which is the subject of an inquiry before the committee. If the right of a Member to sit on a committee is challenged, the committee may report the matter to the House for resolution.	326	Wording altered to be consistent with standing order 196 which applies to voting in the House. A provision has been added to enable any disputes to be resolved by the House.
<b>Election of chair and deputy chair</b> 336 (a) A committee, before the commencement of business, shall elect a government member as its chair. The chair shall have only a casting vote.	331, 28B(e), (f), 28C (c), (d)	Provisions currently relating to general purpose standing committees to apply to all committees.

<b>Proposed standing order</b>	<b>Relevant existing SOs</b>	<b>Relevant recommendation or comment</b>
<p>(b) A committee shall elect a deputy chair who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chair at that meeting.</p>		
<p><b>Quorum</b>  <b>337 (a)</b> Three members of a committee shall constitute a quorum of that committee. If at any time a quorum is not present, the chair shall suspend proceedings of the committee until a quorum is present or adjourn the committee.  (b) If, after the lapse of 15 minutes from the time appointed for the meeting of a committee, a quorum is not present, the members present may retire, and their names shall be entered in the minutes. The secretary of the committee shall notify members of the next meeting.</p>	28B (g), 29, 328, 329	As at present this standing order leaves the obligation with the chair of a committee to suspend or adjourn whenever a quorum is not present. This reflects the position in the Main Committee.
<p><b>Subcommittees</b>  <b>338 (a)</b> A committee shall have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of three or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.  (b) A committee shall appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only and at any time when the chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of the subcommittee the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting.  (c) The quorum of a subcommittee shall be two members of that subcommittee.  (d) Members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the public proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum.</p>	28B, 28C	Extends power to appoint subcommittees to all committees



<b>Proposed standing order</b>	<b>Relevant existing SOs</b>	<b>Relevant recommendation or comment</b>
<p><b>Proceedings and sittings of committee</b>  <b>339</b> (a) A committee or any subcommittee may conduct proceedings using any means approved by the House and in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) in private meeting;</li> <li>(ii) by hearing witnesses, either in public or in private; and</li> <li>(iii) in the form of another meeting, discussion or inspection conducted in accordance with the practice of committees of the House.</li> </ul> <p>(b) A committee or any subcommittee may adjourn from time to time, move from place to place and sit during any sittings or adjournment of the House.</p>	<p>28B (m), 28C (j), 333</p>	<p>Recognises that committees may use a variety of informal meeting styles. The reference to any means approved by the House refers to the use of electronic communication devices approved by resolution of the House in 1997. The committee has recommended that this resolution be reviewed at the end of the next Parliament (recommendation 22) with a view to incorporation in the standing orders. Any decisions made by the House relating to the means of conduct of committee proceedings could be incorporated into this standing order. Extends power to move from place to place to all committees.</p>
<p><b>Power to call for witnesses and documents</b>  <b>340</b> (a) A committee or any subcommittee shall have the power to call witnesses and require that documents be produced.  (b) The chair of a committee or subcommittee shall direct the secretary of the committee or subcommittee to invite or summon witnesses and request or require the production of documents, as determined by the committee or subcommittee.</p>	<p>334, 26, 28B(1), 28C(i), 335, 354</p>	<p>This extends power to all committees (the Selection, House and Library Committees are the only committees that do not already have this power and they are unlikely to use it). The proposed wording distinguishes between summoning and requesting evidence. The term ‘document’ is intended in this and other proposed standing orders to have the same meaning as in the Acts Interpretation Act which includes electronic and other forms.</p>

<b>Proposed standing order</b>	<b>Relevant existing SOs</b>	<b>Relevant recommendation or comment</b>
<p><b>Power to make use of records of previous committees</b>  <b>341</b> A committee or any subcommittee shall have power to consider and make use of the evidence and records of similar committees appointed during previous Parliaments.</p>	28B (q), 28C (n)	Extends power to all committees.
<p><b>Conferring with Senate committees</b>  <b>342</b> A committee shall have power to confer orally or in writing with a similar committee of the Senate.</p>	27, 28, 28A(e), 28B(r), 350, 351, 352, 353	Extends power to Procedure and Privileges Committees. It is proposed to omit standing orders 351 – 353. The House having given power to committees, it is up to the committees to communicate. Before it can be exercised the Senate would need to take complementary action.
<p><b>Records of proceedings and divisions</b>  <b>343 (a)</b> All proceedings of a committee or a subcommittee shall be recorded by the secretary of the committee. These records shall constitute the minutes of proceedings and shall be signed by the chair after confirmation by the committee or subcommittee.  <b>(b)</b> Any documents presented to the committee or subcommittee shall be signed by the secretary.</p>	332, 346	Wording changed to reflect practice and requirements for the Votes and Proceedings of the House (SO 38).
<p><b>Admission of visitors</b>  <b>344</b> When a committee or subcommittee is examining a witness, or engaged in other proceedings for the purpose of gathering information, visitors may be admitted. They shall withdraw if requested by the chair or any member of the committee or subcommittee. All visitors must withdraw when the committee or subcommittee is deliberating or taking evidence in camera.</p>	337	Wording updated to remove archaic term ‘strangers’. The possibility of informal proceedings when visitors may be present is recognised. Reference to in camera hearings inserted.
<p><b>Admission of other Members</b>  <b>345</b> Members of the House may be present when a committee or subcommittee is examining a witness, or engaged in other proceedings for</p>	338	Members only to be excluded by resolution of the committee rather than at the request of an individual member.

<b>Proposed standing order</b>	<b>Relevant existing SOs</b>	<b>Relevant recommendation or comment</b>
the purpose of gathering information, but shall withdraw if the committee or subcommittee so resolves. They shall always withdraw when the committee or subcommittee is deliberating or taking evidence in camera.		
<p><b>Evidence not to be disclosed</b></p> <p><b>346 (a)</b> The evidence taken by a committee or subcommittee and documents presented to it, and proceedings and reports of it, which have not been reported to the House, shall not, unless authorised by the House or the committee or subcommittee, be disclosed or published to any person other than a member or officer of the committee.</p> <p>Provided that a committee may resolve to:</p> <p>(i) publish press releases, discussion or other papers or preliminary findings for the purpose of seeking further input to an inquiry; or</p> <p>(ii) divulge any evidence, documents, proceedings or report on a confidential basis to any person or persons for comment for the purpose of assisting the committee in its inquiry or for any administrative purpose associated with the inquiry.</p> <p>(b) A committee or subcommittee shall have power to authorise publication of any evidence given before it or any document presented to it.</p>	340, 28B(o), 28C(l)	<p>Extends publication power to all committees.</p> <p>Specifies who evidence can be disclosed to rather than disclosed by.</p> <p>Recognises the modern practice for committees to publish press releases, discussion papers etc before reporting and to provide copies of drafts or submissions to advisers or others for comment. The proposed standing order envisages that any publication under paragraphs (i) or (ii) would be by resolution of the committee. Individual members would not be allowed to divulge unpublished material without the permission of the committee.</p>
<p><b>Power to report from time to time</b></p> <p><b>347</b> A committee shall have leave to report from time to time.</p>	28B (p), 28C (m), 341	
<p><b>Chair to prepare report</b></p> <p><b>348</b> The chair of a committee shall prepare a draft report and submit it to the committee.</p>	342	Subcommittees have not been included as the report to the House must be from the whole committee. Procedures for subcommittees would be implicitly the same or as agreed by the committee and/or subcommittee.

<b>Proposed standing order</b>	<b>Relevant existing SOs</b>	<b>Relevant recommendation or comment</b>
<p><b>Consideration of draft report</b>  <b>349</b> At a meeting convened for the purpose, the chair shall present his or her draft report to the committee. The report may be considered at once, provided copies have been circulated in advance to each member of the committee. The report shall be considered paragraph by paragraph, and appendixes shall be considered in order at the conclusion of consideration of the report itself.</p> <p>A member objecting to any portion of the report shall vote against it or move an amendment at the time the particular paragraph or appendix is under consideration.</p> <p>If any member dissents from all or part of the report or wishes to attach a protest to a report, the member may add a protest or dissenting report to the main report.</p>	343	<p>Wording changed to reflect practice (eg reference to archaic practices like the Chair reading out the report have been omitted).</p> <p>Adding of protests or dissenting reports spelt out more fully.</p> <p>A paragraph relating to disclosure of in camera evidence in a dissenting report could be added to this standing order following experience with the proposed resolution (recommendation 25).</p>
<p><b>Alternative draft report</b>  <b>350</b> If any member, other than the chair, submits a draft report to the committee, the committee shall first decide upon which report it will proceed.</p>	344	
<p><b>Reconsideration</b>  <b>351</b> After the draft report has been considered, the whole or any paragraph may be reconsidered and amended.</p>	345	Wording updated.
<p><b>Chair to sign report</b>  <b>352</b> Every report of a committee shall be signed by the chair. Any protest or dissenting report shall be signed by the member or members protesting or dissenting.</p>	346	Requirement for dissenting reports to be signed added to reflect practice.
<p><b>Report and minutes presented</b>  <b>353</b> The report of a committee, together with the minutes of the proceedings, shall be presented to the House by a member of the committee.</p>	347	Provision for reading report omitted.

<b>Proposed standing order</b>	<b>Relevant existing SOs</b>	<b>Relevant recommendation or comment</b>
<p><b>Consideration set down</b></p> <p><b>354</b> Upon the presentation of a report, the report may be ordered to be printed with or without the documents accompanying it. Subject to any determinations of the Selection Committee pursuant to standing order 102B, its consideration may be set down for a subsequent sitting when a specific motion without notice in connection with it may be moved.</p>	348	Reference to standing order 102B and the Selection Committee inserted.
<p><b>Government responses to committee reports</b></p> <p><b>355 (a)</b> The Government shall prepare and present to the House no later than three months after the presentation of a report from a House of Representatives or joint committee, a response to the recommendations contained in the report. This provision does not apply to reports from the following committees: Privileges; Library; House; Publications (except for reports on inquiries); Members' Interests; Selection and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works. If the Government does not consider it appropriate to respond to a particular report, it shall inform the House giving reasons for its decision.</p> <p>If the Government is unable to provide a final response within three months of the presentation of a report, it shall inform the House of the reasons for the delay and, if possible, present an interim response.</p> <p>If, after the expiration of three months from the presentation of a committee's report, the Government has not presented a response, an interim response or a statement of reasons for the delay, a member of the committee, at the request of the committee, may rise in his or her place immediately after Prayers and prior to the commencement of business on a sitting Monday and request the Speaker to write to the relevant Minister seeking reasons for the delay in responding.</p> <p>(b) A government response to a committee report may be presented in the House by a Minister or delivered to the Clerk who shall make an announcement to the House at the commencement of proceedings on the</p>		<p>Recommendations 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17. Recognises that routine reports of some committees do not require a response and includes flexibility for Government to opt not to respond if it considers it is not appropriate (eg for some Procedure Committee reports).</p> <p>Introduces a new procedure for presentation of responses similar to announcement of petitions but allows Ministers to present separately if they wish.</p> <p>Responses to be automatically placed on the Notice Paper under committee and delegation business (at present they would be placed in government business if a motion to take note is moved). This means that they would be available for the Selection Committee to place on the program for a Monday or could be referred to the Main Committee by the House.</p> <p>The Speaker is given some discretion to</p>

<b>Proposed standing order</b>	<b>Relevant existing SOs</b>	<b>Relevant recommendation or comment</b>
<p>next sitting Monday of any responses received.</p> <p>(c) When a government response to a committee report is presented to the House or announced by the Clerk, consideration of the response shall be made an order of the day under Committee and Delegation Business for consideration at a subsequent sitting.</p> <p>(d) The Speaker shall prepare and present to the House a schedule listing government responses to committee reports which have been presented and reports presented to which responses have not been presented. The schedule shall be presented by the Speaker twice in each calendar year or as often as the Speaker deems appropriate.</p>		<p>vary the timing of presentation of the schedule of responses as sittings normally do not fit exactly with the six monthly intervals proposed.</p>
<b>SELECT AND JOINT COMMITTEES</b>		
<b>Select committees</b>		
<p><b>Appointment</b></p> <p><b>356</b> The House may appoint select committees on motion.</p>	323	<p>The requirement for the mover of the motion to be on a committee has been omitted as select committees are usually established by motion by a Minister.</p>
<p><b>Report from select committee</b></p> <p><b>357</b> On the appointment of a select committee, a day shall be fixed for the reporting of its proceedings to the House, by which day the report of the committee shall be presented by a member of the committee, unless the House grants an extension of time. The report of the committee may be presented prior to the date fixed.</p>	327	<p>Interim or progress reports would be allowed using the general power of all committees to report from time to time (proposed SO 347).</p> <p>Allows report to be presented by a member of the committee other than the chair to reflect practice and bring into line with proposed standing order 353 relating to standing committees (current SO 347).</p>

<b>Proposed standing order</b>	<b>Relevant existing SOs</b>	<b>Relevant recommendation or comment</b>
<b>Joint committees</b>		
<b>Proposal to appoint</b> <b>358</b> A proposal for a joint committee of the House of Representatives and the Senate agreed to by the House shall state the number of Members the House will appoint to serve on the committee and be forwarded to the Senate by message.	385	Modified to specify more clearly the process.
<b>Quorum of joint committee</b> <b>359</b> The House may fix the quorum of its Members required to constitute a sitting of a joint committee. Subject to this a joint committee shall fix its own quorum.	387	It is proposed that following consultation the Houses agree to procedures for joint committees to operate under (recommendation 20). These procedures could be inserted in place of some or all of the proposed standing orders 359 to 361.
<b>Appointment of Members</b> <b>360</b> On receipt of a message from the Senate agreeing to appoint a joint committee in the same terms as agreed to by the House, the House will proceed to appoint the number of Members agreed upon to serve on the committee.	388	Wording clarified.
<b>Report of proceedings</b> <b>361</b> The proceedings of a joint committee shall be reported to the House by one of the Members it has appointed to serve on the committee.	389	
<b>Consideration of bills by House members of joint committees</b> <b>362</b> The House of Representatives members of a joint committee shall be considered to be a committee for the purpose of considering bills referred by the House under standing order 217A and shall operate under the provisions applying to general purpose standing committees.	28BA	

<b>Proposed standing order</b>	<b>Relevant existing SOs</b>	<b>Relevant recommendation or comment</b>
<b>Chapter XXVIA WITNESSES BEFORE THE HOUSE OR A COMMITTEE</b>		
<p><b>Summoning of witnesses</b></p> <p><b>363</b> (a) Witnesses who are not Members may be ordered to attend before the House by summons under the hand of the Clerk of the House, or before a committee, by summons under the hand of the secretary of the committee.</p> <p>(b) If a witness fails or refuses to attend or to give evidence, the House, on being acquainted with the matter, shall deal with it.</p>	354, 355	Wording updated.
<p><b>Attendance of Member before the House or a committee</b></p> <p><b>364</b> (a) When the attendance of a Member is ordered by the House for examination by the House, the Member shall be summoned by the Speaker to attend in his or her place.</p> <p>(b) If a committee desires the attendance of a Member as a witness, the chair shall, in writing, invite the Member to attend; but should the Member refuse to come, or to give evidence or information as a witness to the committee, the committee shall advise the House, and not again summon the Member to attend the committee.</p>	356, 367	Wording updated.
<p><b>Charges against Members</b></p> <p><b>365</b> (a) No committee, except the Privileges Committee and the Committee of Members' Interests, shall inquire into, or make findings in respect of, the conduct of any Member of the House, unless it is directed to do so by the House.</p> <p>(b) If any information comes before any committee or any allegation is made to a committee, except the Privileges Committee and the Committee of Members' Interests, charging any Member, the committee shall inform the Member concerned of the details of the charge and give the Member an opportunity to make any statement to it bearing on the matter. Unless the committee considers the matter is without substance, it</p>	358	Changed in accordance with recommendation in the 1989 report of Procedure Committee to exclude the Privileges and Members' Interests Committees and give Members the right to respond to criticism before the matter is presented to the House.



<b>Proposed standing order</b>	<b>Relevant existing SOs</b>	<b>Relevant recommendation or comment</b>
shall report the matter to the House and shall not proceed further on that information or allegation without being directed by the House to do so.		
<p><b>Attendance of Senators or officers of the Senate</b>  <b>366</b> When the attendance of a Senator, or any officer of the Senate, is desired by the House or any committee of the House, a message shall be sent to the Senate to request that the Senate give leave to the Senator or officer to attend for examination.</p>	359	Wording updated. It is not intended that this standing order would preclude that attendance of a Senator or Senate officer from appearing voluntarily before a committee without an exchange of messages by the Houses.
<p><b>Request by Senate for Member or officer to appear before the Senate or a Senate committee</b>  <b>367</b> Should the Senate request by message the attendance of a Member of the House before the Senate or any of its committees, the House may forthwith authorise that Member to attend, if the Member thinks fit. The House, if similarly requested by the Senate, may, if the House thinks fit, also instruct its own officers to attend the Senate or any of its committees.</p>	360	Wording updated. As above a Member or officer could still voluntarily appear before a Senate committee without seeking leave of the House.
<p><b>Witness entitled to protection</b>  <b>368</b> All witnesses giving evidence to the House, or any of its committees, are entitled to the protection of the House in respect of anything that may be stated by them in their evidence.</p>	362	The terms ‘giving evidence to’ and ‘stated’ have been substituted for ‘being examined before’ and ‘said’, respectively, to encompass written evidence as well as oral.
<p><b>Witness to be examined at the Bar of the House</b>  <b>369</b> A witness before the House shall be examined at the Bar unless the House otherwise orders.</p>	363	
<p><b>Examination of witnesses</b>  <b>370</b> (a) When a witness appears before the House the witness shall be examined by the Speaker, and any questions addressed by the Members are taken to be put through the Speaker.  (b) During consideration in detail of a bill in the House, any Member may put questions directly to a witness.</p>	364, 365, 367, 336	Paragraph (d) (current SO 336) altered to reflect practice, make procedures more flexible and refer to the proposed resolution regarding treatment of witnesses (recommendation 24).

<b>Proposed standing order</b>	<b>Relevant existing SOs</b>	<b>Relevant recommendation or comment</b>
<p>(c) A Member of the House giving evidence to the House shall be examined in his or her place.</p> <p>(d) The examination of witnesses before a committee or a subcommittee shall be conducted according to the mode of procedure agreed on by the committee and in accordance with any resolution of the House.</p>		
<p><b>Officers not to give evidence without leave</b>  <b>371</b> An officer of the House, or other staff employed to record evidence before the House or any of its committees, may not give evidence elsewhere in respect of any proceedings or examination of any witness without the leave of the House.</p>	368	Wording updated to reflect changes to techniques for recording evidence.

## Other proposed amendments to the standing orders

<b>Proposed standing order</b>	<b>Relevant existing SOs</b>	<b>Relevant recommendation or comment</b>
<p><b>Routine of business</b>  <b>101</b> The House shall proceed on the days indicated with its ordinary business in the following routine:</p> <p><i>Monday</i></p> <p>1. Presentation of government responses to committee reports.  2. Presentation of, and statements on, reports from parliamentary committees and delegations. 3. Orders of the day for the resumption of debate on motions moved in connection with committee and delegation reports. 4. Private Members' business (debate to be interrupted at 1.45</p>	101	Recommendations 11 and 16.

<b>Proposed standing order</b>	<b>Relevant existing SOs</b>	<b>Relevant recommendation or comment</b>
<p>p.m.). 5. Members' statements (at approximately 1.45 p.m.). 6. Questions without notice (at 2 p.m.). 7. Presentation of petitions. 8. Private Members' business (in continuation for 1 hour). 9. Grievance debate (debate to continue for 1 hour and 20 minutes). 10. Notices and orders of the day.</p> <p><i>Tuesday</i></p> <p>1. Questions without notice. 2. Presentation of papers. 3. Ministerial statements, by leave. 4. Matter of public importance. 5. Notices and orders of the day.</p> <p><i>Wednesday and Thursday</i></p> <p>1. Notices and orders of the day. 2. Questions without notice (at 2 p.m.). 3. Presentation of papers. 4. Ministerial statements, by leave. 5. Matter of public importance. 6. Notices and orders of the day.</p>		
<p><b>Committee and delegation reports</b></p> <p><b>102A</b> Following Prayers each sitting Monday, the Clerk may announce the presentation of government responses to House of Representatives and joint committee reports and then parliamentary committee and delegation reports may be presented in the order determined by the Selection Committee.</p>	102A	Recommendation 16.
<p><b>Precedence to motions regarding committee and delegation reports</b></p> <p><b>102C</b> Following the presentation of reports pursuant to standing order 102A, the resumption of proceedings on motions relating to committee and delegation reports shall have precedence according to the order of priority and times allotted for debate determined by the Selection Committee, each Member speaking for a period not exceeding 10 minutes or any lesser period determined by the Selection Committee.</p>	102C	Recommendation 11.
<p><b>Private Members' business—procedure</b></p> <p><b>104A</b> In the period during which private Members' business is accorded precedence pursuant to standing order 104, notices and orders of the day</p>	104A	Recommendation 11. Wording of the second paragraph has been clarified to ensure that the any decision of the Selection Committee to

<b>Proposed standing order</b>	<b>Relevant existing SOs</b>	<b>Relevant recommendation or comment</b>
<p>relating to private Members' business shall be called on by the Clerk in the order in which they appear on the Notice Paper. When the time allotted by standing order 101, or by the Selection Committee, for an item of business has expired, consideration shall be interrupted by the Chair and the question before the Chair shall be put:</p> <p>Provided that, where the Selection Committee has determined that consideration of a matter should continue on a future day, at the time fixed for interruption, or when debate has concluded, the Chair shall interrupt proceedings and further consideration of the matter shall be set down on the Notice Paper for the next sitting.</p> <p>Notices by private Members of their intention to present bills shall stand referred to the Selection Committee which shall give priority to them over other notices and orders of the day and determine the order in which they are to be presented. Upon the respective notice being called on by the Clerk, the Member in whose name the notice stands shall present the bill and may speak for a period not exceeding five minutes in support thereof. The bill shall then be read a first time and the motion for the second reading shall be set down on the Notice Paper for the next sitting.</p> <p>If the motion for the second reading of any private Member's bill is agreed to by the House, further consideration shall be accorded precedence of other private Members' business and the Selection Committee may allot times for consideration of the remaining stages of the bill.</p>		<p>continue the debate on another day is adhered to whether the debate takes its allocated time or not.</p>
<p><b>Petitions deemed to have been received; referred to standing committee</b></p> <p><b>130</b> (a) Every petition presented shall be deemed to have been received by the House unless a motion, moved forthwith, that a particular petition be not received, be agreed to.</p> <p>(b) Every petition presented shall stand referred to the relevant general purpose standing committee for any inquiry the committee may wish to make unless the House refers the petition to another committee. The only other question entertained by the House on the presentation of a petition</p>	<p>130</p>	<p>Recommendation 10.</p>

<b>Proposed standing order</b>	<b>Relevant existing SOs</b>	<b>Relevant recommendation or comment</b>
shall be that a particular petition be printed.		
<b>Instruction to committee</b> <b>302</b> An instruction to a committee extending or restricting the order of reference may be moved, after notice, on any day prior to the report of the committee.	302	Omit the word 'select'.
<b>Modes of communication</b> <b>385</b> Communication with the Senate may be by message, by conference, or by committees conferring with each other.	369	Omit the word 'select'.