

## RULE EIGHT

### DECORUM AND DEBATE

8.1—When any Senator desires to speak or deliver any matter to the Senate, he shall rise at his seat and respectfully address himself to “Mr. President,” and, on being recognized, may address the Senate from his desk or from the Well of the Senate, and shall confine himself to the question under debate, avoiding personality. A Senator shall not address or refer to another Senator by his or her first name. In all such cases, a Senator shall appropriately use the appellation of Senator or such appellation and the district number of the Senator being addressed, or he may also use such appellation and the surname of the Senator referred to or addressed.

Decorum and  
debate

8.2—When two (2) or more Senators rise at once, the presiding officer shall name the Senator who is first to be recognized.

Presiding  
officer’s power  
of recognition

8.3—No Senator shall be interrupted by another without the consent of the Senator who has the floor, except:

1. by rising to a question of privilege
2. by rising to a point of order requiring an immediate ruling
3. by appeal from the decision of the presiding officer concerning a point of order (if the appeal is made immediately following the decision)
4. a parliamentary inquiry requiring an immediate reply or a question of no quorum.

The presiding officer shall strictly enforce this Rule.

Interruptions:  
when allowed

8.4—When a member is speaking and another member interrupts to request recognition, it is the right of the presiding officer to permit the person rising to state why he desires the floor; and if the question he desires to raise is entitled to precedence, the member originally speaking should relinquish the floor until the question having precedence is disposed of, but he is entitled to resume the floor as soon as the privileged question has been disposed of. The Senator making a debatable motion or the primary introducer of a bill shall have five (5) minutes in order to close debate.

Senator  
speaking,  
rights

8.5—No Senator shall speak for any longer period of time than thirty (30) minutes without yielding

Limits on speaking                    the floor, except by consent of a majority of the Senators present.

8.6—When a measure is under debate by the Senate, it shall be in order for a Senator to move to limit debate, and such motion shall be decided without debate, except that the introducer of the measure shall have five (5) minutes within which to discuss said motion, and he may divide his time with, or waive it in favor of, some other member. If, by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senators present, the question is decided in the affirmative, debate shall be limited accordingly. The time allotted by such limitation shall be apportioned by the presiding officer equitably, provided, however, that the introducer of such measure shall be entitled to close.

Limitation of debate

8.7—A point of order is the parliamentary device that is used to require a deliberative body to observe its own rules and to follow established parliamentary practice. A parliamentary inquiry is the device for obtaining a predetermination of a rule or a clarification thereof and may be presented in hypothetical form.

Points of order, definition

8.8—A point of order questioning the right of a member to vote on account of interest may be raised after the vote has been recorded and before the result is announced.

Questioning right to vote

8.9—The proper method of taking exception to a ruling of a presiding officer is by appeal. An appeal from a decision of the presiding officer must be made promptly, and before debate has concluded or other business has intervened. A point of order on any other question is not in order while an appeal is pending, but a point of order relating to the appeal may be raised; and, if the determination of the appeal is dependent on this point, it may be decided by the presiding officer. This second decision is also subject to appeal.

Appeals

8.10—An appeal from a decision of the presiding officer on a point of order is debatable even though the question out of which it arose was not debatable.

Appeals, debatable

8.11—Questions of privilege shall be: first, those affecting the rights of the Senate collectively, its safety, dignity, and the integrity of its proceedings; and second, the rights, reputa-

Questions of privilege

tion, and conduct of Senators individually, in their representative capacity only. These shall have precedence over all other questions except motions to adjourn. The question shall not be recognized during the debate on a bill. A question of privilege affecting either house collectively takes precedence over a question of privilege affecting an individual member.

*What is a question of privilege?*

1. Questions which relate to the body or its members in such a manner as to affect proper functioning of the body are questions of privilege. It is necessary that these questions be under the immediate control of the body. They relate to the rights and privileges of the body or any of its members in their official capacity, or to the comfort and convenience of the body or its members in the performance of their official duties.
2. "Questions of privilege" should be distinguished from "privileged questions" which is a class of motions having the highest precedence.
3. Questions of privilege are of two types: They may relate to the privilege of the entire body, which are known as questions of "privilege of the house", and questions of "privilege" which relate to a member, which are known as questions of "personal privilege". In case of conflict, questions of privilege of the house take precedence over questions of personal privilege.

## **RULE NINE**

### **LOBBYING**

9.1—All persons, except members of the Florida Legislature, or duly authorized aides designated in writing by such members, who seek to encourage the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation in the Senate or before its committees shall, before engaging in such activity, register with the Secretary of the Senate. Every registrant, in accordance herewith, shall also be required to state the extent of any direct business association or partnership with any current member of the Legislature.

9.2—Every such person shall register on forms prepared by the Secretary and shall state under oath his name and business address, the name and business address of his principal or