

BIBLIOTECA DEL CONGRESO DE LA NACION

CUERPO DE TRADUCTORES

TRADUCCION N°: 7659

TRADUCTOR: Suaya-Testa

FECHA: 29-4-05

### National Senate Regulations

Passed by resolution signed on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2002, and enforced since March 3, 2003, according to section 2 of that resolution.

## TITLE I

### PREPARATORY SESSIONS AND INCORPORATION AND OATH OF ELECTED SENATORS.

#### First preparatory session

Section 1.- On February 24 of every year or on the immediately previous working day in case it is a holiday, the Senate shall hold preparatory sessions in order to appoint the authorities and to establish the days and hours of the ordinary sessions, which may be altered by a House resolution.

#### Senate authorities election

Section 2.- Subsequently, the Senate shall hold by absolute majority the election of a provisional president -who shall preside it in the circumstances determined in section 58 of the Constitution-, a vice-president, a first vice-president and a second vice-president.

### Election system

Section 3.- In absence of a majority, the candidates with the greatest number of votes shall be elected; and in case of a tie the president shall decide.

### Oath taken to the Senate authorities

Section 4.- Subsequently, the provisional president, the vice-president, the first vice-president and the second vice-president appointed shall take their oaths. The oath may be omitted if these appointments imply a re-election.

The oath shall be made in the following terms: "Do you swear by the Nation, by God and by this Holy Bible to duly fulfil the office of.....that has been entrusted to you and to give full compliance to the provisions of the National Constitution? Or "Do you swear by the Nation and by God to duly fulfil the office of.....that has been entrusted to you and to give full compliance to the provisions of the National Constitution? Or "Do you swear by the Nation to duly fulfill the

office of.....that has been entrusted to you and to give full compliance to the provisions of the National Constitution?”.

Once the oath has been taken, in the first two cases, the President shall say: “If you do not fulfil these duties, you shall be responsible to God and the Nation”. In the last case, he shall say: “If you do not fulfil these duties, you shall be responsible to the Nation”

#### Term of office

Section 5.- The provisional president, the vice-president, the first vice-president and the second vice-president shall hold their offices up to the last day of the month of February of the year subsequent to their election. If the new authorities have not been elected until such moment, they shall remain in office until the next election. If the provisional president, the vice-president and the first and second vice-presidents are no longer senators, they shall be replaced by the persons indicated in section 34.

#### Reporting of appointments

Section 6.- The appointments of the provisional president, the vice-president and the first and second vice-presidents shall be reported to the Executive Power, the House of Representatives and the Supreme Court of Justice.

#### Incorporation of elected senators

Section 7.- On November 29 of each year of renewal of the Senate members or on the immediately previous working day in case of a holiday, the Senate shall meet in order to incorporate the elected senators that have submitted the titles granted by the competent authority and to determine the validity of the titles of the elected provisional members, except those challenged by:

a) A political party organized in the district that elected them;

b) The candidate voted at the same election;

c)A responsible senator or institution or individual at the Senate discretion who challenges an elected member due to unfulfillment of the requirements established by section 55 of the National Constitution.

Titles submitted are sent to the Committee on Constitutional Affairs or to the Special Powers Committee appointed ad hoc in the absence of the former in order to determine their validity. This decision may be considered in preparatory sessions.

Despite the approval of the titles of the provisional elected members, the body, at the time of their incorporation, may examine and assess any new circumstance related to the fulfillment of the eligibility requirements established by section 55 of the National Constitution.

#### Participation of elected members in the debate to constitute quorum

Section 8.- -Elected senators shall constitute quorum for the assessment of their titles but they shall not vote to assess their own titles.

### Rejection of elected members

Section 9.- In case of rejection of any elected member, the President of the Senate shall report this circumstance to the National Executive Power, the provincial governments and the government of Buenos Aires city in order to arrange a new election.

### Senators oath

Senators are incorporated when they take the following oath: "Do you swear by the Nation, God and this Holy Bible to duly fulfil the office of senator that has been entrusted to you for the Federal Legislative Congress of the Argentine Nation and to give full compliance to the provisions of the National Constitution?", or the following: "Do you swear by the Nation and God to duly fulfil the office of senator that has been entrusted to you for the Federal Legislative Congress of the Argentine Nation and to give full compliance to the provisions of the National Constitution?" or the following: "Do you swear by the Nation to duly fulfil the office of senator that has been entrusted to you for the Federal Legislative Congress of the

Argentine Nation and to give full compliance to the provisions of the National Constitution?”

After taking the oath, in the first two cases, the President shall say: “If you do not fulfil these duties, you shall be responsible to God and the Nation”. In the last case, he shall say: “If you do not fulfil these duties, you shall be responsible to the Nation”

#### Formalities

Section 11.- This oath shall be taken by the President of the Senate in a loud tone of voice. All members shall be standing up.

#### Incorporation of senators

Section 12.- Once a senator has been incorporated and his titles filed, the President of the Senate shall issue a certificate signed by the secretaries which shall contain his condition, the district he represents, the date of

incorporation and expiration of his term. The parliamentary secretary shall file the certificate in a special record.

Incorporated senators shall receive the payment established by law since the beginning of their terms or since the date established by the Senate at the approval of their titles.

#### Reporting of future vacancies

Section 13.- The President shall report to the National Executive Power, the provincial governments and the government of Buenos Aires city the vacancies produced as a consequence of the body renewal, according to section 56 of the National Constitution and the partial vacancies mentioned in section 62 in the case of absence of a provisional member.

## TITLE II

### GENERAL SESSIONS

#### Committees members

Section 14.- In its first session, the Senate per se or through its President shall appoint the members of the standing committees mentioned in section 60.

#### Tolerance

Section 15.- At the fixed hour, the president shall call the session and if the quorum is not constituted after 30 minutes, the session shall be immediately adjourned.

#### Quorum

Section 16.- The absolute majority of the constitutional number of senators shall constitute quorum.

#### Ordinary and special sessions. Homage

Section 17.- Ordinary sessions are held on the days and hours established according to the provisions of section 1.

The term “special sessions” include secret sessions and those held on other days and hours.

In those sessions in which homage is paid to present events, each speech shall not exceed ten minutes. If the Senate determines that there shall be only one speaker, his speech may extend up to twenty minutes. Homages previously paid to past events shall be limited to bills of declaration.

#### Public and secret sessions

Section 18.- Sessions shall be public. Exceptionally, they may be secret.

Secret sessions shall be held:

- a) When the Senate determines the secret nature of the issue dealt with and approves it by a majority of two thirds of its members;
- b) By a grounded resolution of the President;
- c) By petition of the Executive Power;
- d) By a founded petition submitted by five or more senators.

### Special sessions

Section 19. – The Senate may hold special public sessions at the request of five or more senators or at the request of the Executive Power, stating its purpose. If the request is made by senators, the subject must be related to a project already registered at the reception office.

### Summons

Section 20.- The president, upon receiving the request, shall determine the day and time of the special session -in case they have not been already determined by the Senate- according to the circumstances of the case.

#### Public session following a secret one

Section 21.- If the request refers to a secret session, its purpose may be kept in secret. A secret session may be continued by the Senate in a public way if this body deems it convenient.

#### Confirmation of executive nominations

Section 22. – Nominations submitted by the Executive Power asking for Senate agreement shall be considered in public sessions. Within two working days the Parliamentary Secretariat shall report the nominations through the journalists office of the Senate in order to entitle citizens to assess the qualifications and merits of the persons proposed.

Citizens may exercise that right within the following seven working days, after the confirmation requested is considered at the Senate floor. The

committee can also receive comments about the nominees while the nominations are being considered.

The Committee in charge of confirmations shall send to all Senators a copy of the nominations together with the corresponding background information.

The Senate, at a public session, shall consider nominations and shall make a decision about them.

#### Summons for agreement

Section 23.- The President shall summon the Senate for a confirmation session through a notification signed by the Secretary of the Senate. The President shall report this circumstance to the corresponding Minister.

#### Attendance to secret sessions

Section 24.- Secret sessions may be attended, apart from secretaries and assistant secretaries, by the Ministers of the Executive Power and the

short-hand writers appointed by the president when the Senate so determines. The latter shall take a special secrecy oath before the president. National representatives may attend legislative secret sessions.

### Leave

Section 25.- Those senators who may not attend a session shall report this circumstance to the President; if they intend to be absent to more than three consecutive sessions, they shall ask for a leave. The Senate shall decide in each case through a special voting if the leave shall be granted with or without pay.

Maternity leaves shall be granted with pay and during the period established by law.

### Period of leave

Section 26.- Leaves are always granted for a fixed period after which the right to earn a legislative salary shall extinguish.

The leave granted to a senator shall end with his presence at the legislative floor.

#### Summons of absent members

Section 27.- When quorum to an ordinary session is not constituted during one of the days established for that purpose, the present minority members –an hour after the summons for the second session- may meet and call the absent members by a special summons to the following session. The summons shall be made by the president in two newspapers of the capital city of the Republic, mentioning the absent members by their names, if it is so determined by the minority assembled.

#### Compulsory attendance

Section 28.- If after that summons, quorum is not constituted, minority members shall be empowered to compel the attendance of absent members by the application of fines that shall be discounted from the monthly salaries paid to senators or, ultimately, by the public power.

### Absence of warned senators

Section 29.- If once the quorum is constituted, the absence of some of the warned senators still persists, the president shall report this circumstance to the Senate and this body shall take the actions it deems appropriate.

### Sessions room

Section 30-. Senators shall constitute quorum at the sessions room for the purposes of their offices, except in serious institutional circumstances.

### Executive Power assignments or tasks

Section 31.- Permissions granted by the Senate to some of its members to perform a task or assignment of the Executive Power that is inconsistent with the attendance to sessions shall not exceed the legislative year in which they were granted.

### TITLE III

#### PRESIDENCY

##### President powers

Section 32.- The president shall have the following powers and duties:

- a) To call the Senators to the floor and open the sessions;
- b) To assign the registered files and report them at the first session held in the order established by section 187;
- c) To keep order at sessions, to guide debates, to call to order and to propose breaks, according to the standing rules;
- d) To propose voting and report the results;
- e) To receive and open the nominations addressed to the Senate;

- f) To summon ordinary, special and extraordinary sessions;
- g) To provide for the best management of Secretariats;
- h) To provide for the safety and supervision of all the Senate offices;
- i) To submit Senate expenditures and salaries budgets for their approval ;
- j) To appoint, according to the regulations in force, all the employees and to remove them in case of incompetence, negligence or disobedience. In the event of criminal behavior, the Senate shall refer the case to the Justice together with all the antecedents.

Vacancies shall be covered by promotion within the respective categories, according to competence, skills and seniority.

In case of creation of new offices, they shall be covered through a contest, the bases of which shall be established by the Senate;

k) To sign the Record of Sessions which will serve as minutes and, if necessary, every action, order and procedure of the Senate;

l) To erase from the Record of Sessions those expressions which are considered inappropriate or controversial;

In such cases, the President shall notify in writing the Parliamentary Secretariat, sending a copy to the Senator who has made the erased expressions and the short hand writers office shall file it together with the corresponding original version;

m) To submit the Records of Sessions for the approval of the Senate;

n) To assign tasks among secretaries in the most convenient way according to the needs of the service;

ñ) To issue -with the cooperation of the information technology office, the rules for the use of internet and the internal network within the Senate- the minimum contents to be made available through the official site of the

Senate in the open networks and the pages corresponding to its structural areas which may be found in its server, regulating style aspects.

o) To provide for audio and video facilities, sessions broadcasting and communication policy of the Senate;

p) In general, to enforce these rules in all its aspects and to exercise the other powers therein established.

#### Role of the President during the debate

Section 33.- The President shall not express his opinion about the subject analyzed. He shall only vote in case of a tie. When the Presidency of the Senate is exercised by a Senator, he shall vote with respect to the items submitted to the decision of the Senate, being entitled -in case of a tie- to decide it according to the provisions of section 213.

The President may call to a recess according to the powers mentioned in section 32, subsection c.

#### Absence of members

Section 34.- In case of absence of the President, Assistant President, Vice-president and first and second vice-presidents of the Senate, they shall be replaced by the presidents of the committees in the order established in section 60.

#### Delegation of President duties

Section 35.- When the Senate is presided by a senator and he has the intention to take part in a debate, this senator shall delegate his President duties to the person it may correspond according to these regulations and shall not hold the Presidency again until the issue in debate is analyzed.

#### Senate representation

Section 36.- Only the President shall speak in the name of the Senate and shall report to this body, at the first session, any resolution or communication issued in representation of the Senate

#### Official events

Section 37.- Whenever the Senate is invited to attend official ceremonies or events in its corporate character, it shall be duly represented by its President alone or together with one of its committees.

TITLE IV  
SECRETARIES

Appointment

Section 38.- The Senate shall appoint two external secretaries by absolute majority who shall take oath before this body to duly perform their duties prior to taking office. They shall be under the authority of the President, who shall determine their respective functions.

Duties of the secretaries

Section 39.- The Secretaries shall have the following duties:

a) To draft reports and other communications to transmit the resolutions of the Senate and the President, to notify in written and to send a copy of all the Presidency orders to the Presidents of the parliamentary caucuses, to organize and print the Record of Sessions, national acts and other publications ordered by the Senate;

- b) To read all the material dealt with at the Senate;
- c) To make the written counting of nominal votes, determining the names of the voters;
- d) To compute and verify the result of votes by signs;
- e) To announce the result of every voting and, at the request of any senator, the number of votes for or against;
- f) To promptly send to senators the agendas and the records of sessions;
- g) To report to the president any modification of the short hand version in the case of section 32, subsection 1;
- h) To inform the press about the contents of the sessions;
- i) To draw up the minutes of public sessions if the Senate so determines; in other cases, they shall be replaced by the record of sessions;

j) To legalize the president signature upon the authentication of the record of sessions that shall serve as minutes as well as other orders and proceedings of the Senate if necessary;

k) To distribute the staff at the different offices of their respective areas and to propose to the President competent persons to fill the existing vacancies according to the provisions in force;

l) To perform the other functions the President may delegate to them in the exercise of his powers.

## Chapter I

### Parliamentary Secretary

#### Communications

Section 40. - Official communications are issued by the parliamentary secretary and submitted to the President for their signature.

### Record of Sessions Collection

Section 41. - At the end of each parliamentary period, the parliamentary secretary shall organize an archive with volumes of the daily records of sessions.

### Secret sessions minutes

Section 42. - The parliamentary secretary shall draw up the minutes of the secret sessions not attended by short-hand writers on the basis of the material provided by the parliamentary Assistant Secretariat, trying to write down the debates in the most accurate way. The parliamentary secretary shall read the minutes at the same session and shall sign them once they are approved by the Senate and signed by the President.

The parliamentary secretary shall make up books with these minutes and the versions of secret sessions attended by short-hand writers and shall keep them in a special archive.

### Publications

Section 43. - The parliamentary secretary shall be in charge of the printing of the Record of Sessions, the Record of Registered Issues and the Gazette of Pending and Handled Issues, performing the necessary formalities and tasks for a prompt publication.

#### Web page publications

Section 44. - The parliamentary secretary shall provide for the prompt publication at the Internet site of the Senate of the following information:

- a) Parliamentary orders issued by the Presidency of the Senate.
- b) Day and hour of sessions and their corresponding agenda.
- c) Bills entered, the description of their administrative steps and their respective agenda.

d) Day, hour and place where the different committees shall meet, stating the subjects to be dealt with.

#### Record of sessions

Section 45.- The Record of Sessions shall:

a) Mention the names of senators that have made up the Senate, as well as those that have been absent with or without notice or with or without leave if the granted one has expired; objections, corrections and approval of the previous Record of Sessions; the issues, communications and projects entered and their status.

b) Include the full version of the session and of the resolutions made.

c) Clearly express resolutions fully complying with title XV stating the hour of adjournment of sessions or recess.

#### Consultations to the Presidency

Section 46.- Whenever the parliamentary secretary faces a doubt or obstacle in the course of these procedures, he shall consult it with the Presidency and shall comply with its resolutions.

#### Confidential archive

Section 47.- The parliamentary secretary shall be in charge of the confidential legislative archive of the Senate. Every year secret or confidential documents with a seniority of more than fifty years shall be made available to the public.

### Chapter II

#### Administrative Secretary

#### Budget

Section 48.- The administrative secretary shall organize the Secretariat and Senate budgets of salaries and expenditures and shall refer them to the President.

#### Affidavits custody

Section 49.- The administrative secretary shall have the custody of affidavits submitted by senators, authorities and other officials of the Senate with respect to their wealth according to the rules in force, providing their publishing in the conditions established by regulations.

#### Information available at Internet

Section 50.- The administrative secretary shall provide for the publication at the Senate internet site of the following information:

- a) The budget assigned to the Senate and its monthly execution.
- b) Hirings, biddings and adjudications made.
- c) The administrative orders issued by the Presidency of the Senate.

Likewise, he shall provide for the live audio and video broadcasting of the Senate sessions from its Internet site.

TITLE V  
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES  
Appointment

Section 51.- The Senate shall have three assistant secretaries, who shall be appointed in the same way that secretaries; they shall be under the immediate supervision of the President who shall determine their respective functions, including parliamentary, administrative and operational coordination areas. They shall take their oath before the Senate.

Assistant secretaries shall replace secretaries in case of inability of the latter and shall cooperate with them in the compliance of their duties.

Parliamentary Assistant Secretary

Section 52.- The parliamentary assistant secretary shall process the documentation necessary to draft the minutes of the secret sessions of the Senate without a short hand version and shall monitor the tasks related to Senate enactments.

### Administrative Assistant Secretary

Section 53. – The administrative assistant secretary shall have the exclusive responsibility for the organization of the surveillance service within the legislative floor. For this purpose, he shall have the necessary number of employees to perform those tasks notwithstanding the cooperation that he may request to the Federal Police.

### Operational Coordination Assistant Secretary

Section 54. The operational coordination assistant secretary shall be in charge of the surveillance of the functions developed by the organic units assigned to him by the Presidency with the purpose of methodizing institutional relationships in an operational way.

## TITULO VI

### PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUSES

#### Caucuses

Section 55.- Two or more senators may organize themselves in caucuses according to their political affinity. A political party or electoral alliance formed before the senators election with only one representative in the Senate, may also act as a caucus.

## TITLE VII

### PARLIAMENTARY PLENARY MEMBERS

#### Members and meeting days

Section 56.- The president of the Senate and the president of the parliamentary caucuses –or the senators replacing them- under the presidency of the former shall be the parliamentary plenary members.

Plenary members shall meet at least once a week during the periods of sessions or otherwise at the request of any of them.

#### Functions

Section 57.- The functions of the plenary members shall be the following: to prepare parliamentary action plans; to organize the agenda; to take knowledge of the status of the issues within the committees; to promote practical measures for debates streamlining and to propose measures tending to a better performance of the Senate.

A committee report shall only be included in the action plan if at least seven consecutive days have elapsed since the date of distribution.

### Action plan

Section 58.- The action plan shall be prepared and distributed by the plenary members at least twenty four hours prior to the time fixed for the beginning of the respective session. This plan shall be considered by the Senate in the order established by section 187. For its analysis, each senator shall take the floor only once and for a maximum of five minutes.

In case of challenges made by any senator, they shall be voted at the floor.

### Lack of Agreement at the Parliamentary Labor Plenary

Section 59.- If at the Parliamentary Labor plenary there is no agreement about the subjects to be considered in the agenda, the President of the Senate or any other senator may make a proposal which shall be analyzed by the Senate, unless any other senator proposes alternative labor plans.

In this case, each caucus shall be entitled to explain its position during a maximum period of five minutes. Immediately afterwards, the proposals shall be voted in the order that they were made.

TITLE VIII  
COMMITTEES

Chapter I  
Standing Committees

List of Committees and their competence

Section 60.- The Senate has twenty-four standing committees made up of fifteen members each one, namely:

1. Constitutional Affairs
2. Foreign Affairs and Worship
3. Justice and Criminal Affairs
4. General Legislation
5. Budget and Finance
6. Administrative and Municipal Affairs
7. National Defense

8. Domestic Security and Drug Trafficking
9. National Economy and Investment.
10. Industry and Trade
11. Regional Economies, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
12. Labor and Social Security
13. Agriculture, Cattle Raising and Fishing
14. Education, Culture, Science and Technology.
15. Rights and Guarantees
16. Mining, Energy and Fuels
17. Health and Sports
18. Infrastructure, Housing and Transport.
19. Systems, Media and Freedom of Speech
20. Environment and Human Development
21. Population and Human Development
22. Agreements
23. Federal Tax Coparticipation
24. Tourism

## Constitutional Affairs

Section 61. The Committee on Constitutional Affairs shall determine every affair directly or indirectly linked to the construction and enforcement of the National Constitution and its principles, citizenship and naturalization, admission of new provinces, annexing or division of the existing ones, inter-provincial boundaries, reforms to the Constitution, electoral regime and political parties, ministries organization, expropriations, federal intervention in the provinces or in the city of Buenos Aires, issues related to the relationships with the governments of the province and city of Buenos Aires and exercise of the powers granted by section 75, subsection 30 of the National Constitution, state of siege, privilege items, questions concerning the authorization mentioned in act 23.732 and its amendments or constructions. It shall also decide about the cases mentioned in section 70 of the National Constitution and about every issue linked to science and constitutional law.

Likewise, it shall decide about the amendments to procedural acts on impeachment, the amendments to internal procedural regulations on impeachment, the actions which involve the responsibility of the President, Vice-president, the cabinet chief and judges of the Supreme Court of

Justice of the Nation subjected to impeachment and the complaints submitted against them at the Senate.

### Foreign Affairs and Worship

Section 62.- The Committee on Foreign Affairs and Worship shall decide about the relationships of the Republic with other countries, diplomatic and consular staff, international treaties, conventions, pacts, conferences and congresses, declaration of war or other measures accepted by international law, international boundaries, peace adjustments, extraditions, entry and transit of foreign troops, legalization of documents from and for abroad, foreign relations files, libraries, collections, publications of treaties and geographical maps, spreading of reports, books and data about the Nation abroad, oil international policy, international trade policy, labor international policy, concordats, worship of churches established at the Republic, admission of new religious orders and any other issue related to foreign affairs and worship. Likewise, it shall decide about anything linked to the relationships of the National Senate with the international parliamentary bodies and the parliaments of the other countries.

It shall also establish “Friendship Groups of Argentine Parliamentarians” with parliamentarians of other countries.

### Justice and Criminal Affairs

Section 63.- The Committee on Justice and Criminal Affairs shall decide upon any matter related to the organization, functioning and administration of the Judicial Power, establishment of courts, Judiciary Council, Trial Jury and Attorney’s General Office and any other matter related to justice, notwithstanding the jurisdiction of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs.

Likewise, it shall decide upon everything related to the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedures Code of the Nation, special criminal acts and every matter related to the prisons system as well as any sanction contained in any branch of law. It shall also decide upon any issue related to Youth Criminal Law.

### General legislation

Section 64.- The Committee on General Legislation shall decide upon any matter related to codes –except the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedures Code of the Nation- and every general legislation issue not specifically assigned by this regulation to other committee.

#### Budget and Finance

Section 65.- The Committee on Budget and Finance shall decide upon anything related to the general budget of the government and the autarchic departments, tax and customs system, public debt, supplies of the National Government, insurance and reinsurance monitoring, financial system of social welfare institutions and everything related to the branch of budget and finance.

#### Administrative and Municipal Affairs

Section 66.- The Committee on Administrative and Municipal Affairs shall decide upon every issue related to the legal regime of centralized and decentralized public administration, Audit Office of the Nation, government companies, legal regime of government agents, administrative contracts,

public domain of the national state, public utilities, administrative police and exercise of the police power, expropriations and any other restriction to domain, notwithstanding the jurisdiction of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, public charges, administrative and jurisdictional remedies and any other system of administrative supervision, responsibility of the Nation and its representatives, administrative planning and any other matter related to administrative and municipal law, except the issues of law ensuring the interests of the Nation insofar as the City of Buenos Aires is the Capital of the Nation.

#### National defense

Section 67.- The Committee on National Defense shall decide upon anything related to the organization, equipment and discipline of the armed forces of land, sea and air of the Nation and their auxiliary services, issues linked to the missions of those forces and those related to awards, honors and any other matter of the branch of national defense.

#### National Security and Drug Trafficking

Section 68.- The Committee on National Security and Drug Trafficking shall decide upon any project or matter related to the preservation of national security and the enforcement of the National Constitution and the rules issued accordingly; organization, equipment and discipline of police institutions and national security forces as well as the missions assigned to these forces; their actions coordination; the awards and honors granted to them; the cooperation of the Nation with provincial governments as regards domestic security and other issues related to domestic security as it is defined by sections 2 and 3 of Act 24.059.

Likewise, it shall decide upon the preparation, production, delivery, possession, spreading and use of drugs; the prevention, control, and domestic and international punishing of drug trafficking and the agreements and conventions notwithstanding the jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Worship and any other legislation about the subject.

National Economy and Investment

Section 69. -The Committee on National Economy and Investment shall decide upon the promotion and implementation of the financial economic policy of the country, the study and execution of economic development plans, the defense of the currency value, the regulation of the credit and the systems of payment, the authorization and establishment of banking interest rates, the regime and supervision of the banking activity, of the bearer securities market and of the capital movements, agreements, settlements and international arrangements of financial and commercial nature, notwithstanding the jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Worship, external and internal credit operations, public loans and other obligations of the government of the nation, coining and money printing, and any other matter related to finance.

Likewise, it shall decide upon the strategies and tactics directed to attract foreign investments to Argentina; upon the operative links to the programs for the promotion of foreign investments abroad, with respect to the coordination and participation in the promotion activities to maximize the participation of different national and international sectors in the programs for the promotion of investments. It shall also decide upon the

establishment of registers of foreign capital investments in the national territory.

### Industry and Trade

Section 70. – The Committee on Industry and Trade shall decide upon the promotion of industry, the supervision of industrial elaboration processes, the quality certifications, licenses and trademarks, notwithstanding the jurisdiction of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs about the subject, the economic organizations and professional associations linked to industrial production analysis and control of the credit policy for industrial promotion, the activities for industrial promotion and any other matter related to the industry sector.

It also decides upon the regime of internal supply and marketing, the rationalization of consumption and goods distribution in the domestic market, the establishment and control of the prices of consumption goods, forbidding of illegal trusts and monopolies, normalization and identification of goods in the domestic market, application and supervision

of the system of weights and measures, legal provisions that ensure commercial loyalty and any other matter related to the branch of trade.

#### Regional Economies, Micro, Small and Medium Companies

Section 71.- The committee on Regional Economies, Micro, Small and Medium Companies shall decide upon the economic financial promotion of regional economies and its products, characteristics, study and execution of regional development plans and any other matter related to regional economies.

Likewise, it shall decide upon any matter related to the promotion, strengthening and development of micro, small and medium companies.

#### Labor and Social Security

Section 72. – The Committee on Labor and Social Security shall decide upon anything related to labor legislation, inspection, statistics and census, labor police, committees on conciliation and arbitration, relationships between employees and employers, wages and working

conditions, union and mutual associations, social insurance, unemployment insurance, pensions, retirements of the Governmental staff, social health plans and any other matter related to the branch of labor, social security or any other particular petition that does not correspond to other committee.

#### Agriculture, Cattle raising and Fishing

Section 73.- The Committee on Agriculture, Cattle Raising and Fishing shall decide upon anything related to the administration, measuring and sale of public lands, colonization, teaching of farming practices, fostering of agriculture in the provinces, rural and agricultural legislation, sanitary, animal and vegetable control, agricultural statistics and information, agricultural hydraulics, systems of irrigation and drainage, crops subsidies; improvement, development and protection of cattle raising, relationships with private farming and cattle raising corporations, forests, hunting and any other matter related to the branch of agriculture and cattle raising. It shall also decide upon anything related to the exploitation, preservation and development of renewable and non renewable natural resources of the sea, the administration and use of economic resources

deriving from the latter, the implementation and development of the harbor system and waterways, harbor and shipping policy, development of industrialization linked to the fishing potential of the Argentine continental platform, sanitary control, fishing information and statistics, policies for the promotion of fish farming and shipping industry at national level and any other matter related to fishing or maritime exploitation.

#### Education, Culture, Science and Technology

Section 74.- The Committee on Education, Culture, Science and Technology shall decide upon the promotion of instruction and education at national and provincial level in all its expressions, school subsidies in general, subsidies, acquisition of study material, publications and any other matter related to the branch of education. It shall also decide upon the organization, administration, orientation and promotion of the national culture with special emphasis on provincial and local cultural standards of the country and any other matter related to this area. Likewise, it shall decide upon awards granting and works publishing. Declaration and preservation of historical monuments, notwithstanding the jurisdiction of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development. It shall

decide upon the creation, research, spreading and scientific and technological application originated in private or public agencies, the development and promotion of scientific and technological policies and any other matter related to the branch of science and technology.

### Rights and Guaranties

Section 75. – The Committee on Rights and Guaranties shall decide upon anything related to human rights and their constitutional guaranties.

Likewise, it shall decide upon the implementation of programs and information spreading and education policies related to consumption and any other matter or project directed to promote the rights of consumers and users, to balance their situation with that of the providers of goods and services. It shall also decide upon any matter related to the implementation of procedures directed to ensure in the consumption relationship the rights stated by Section 42 of the National Constitution – notwithstanding the jurisdiction of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs- in favor of users and consumers with respect to the protection of

health and security, the quality of goods and services and the participation in the agencies of supervision.

### Mining, Energy and Fuels

Section 76. – The Committee on Mining, Energy and Fuels shall decide upon the regime and promotion of mining in all its expressions, including the primary activity, elaboration, supervision of related processes, quality certifications, procedures and volumes of production, needs of the market, analysis and control of the credit policy and mining promotion, installation, development and activities of mining promotion and marketing, installation and operation of the mining park, the economic and professional organizations linked to mining production, mining cooperatives, their increase and development, mining exhibitions, publications, exchanges and other activities that favor mining promotion and any other matter related to mining.

To decide upon the use and promotion of the sources of hydroelectric, water, wind and solar energy, and other options that may be developed in

the future, as well as the regime of their organization, production and supply, and any other matter related to the branch of fuels.

### Health and Sports

Section 77.- The Committee on Health and Sports shall decide upon the health and social welfare, hygiene, preventive medicine and nutrition, subsidies and grants to hospitals, societies, corporations or institutions related to the matters specified in this section and any other matter related to the branch of health. Likewise, it shall decide upon the matters or projects related to the drugs policy, its unlawful use, psychotropic substances and any other element the consumption of which produces alterations in the social behavior of persons; prevention, assistance and treatment of drug abuse and other addictions, both at individual and collective level. It shall also decide upon anything related to the organization, development and promotion of sports, study and elaboration of permanent or temporary plans for the promotion of that activity and any other matter related to the branch of sports.

### Infrastructure, Housing and Transport

Section 78. – The Committee on Infrastructure, Housing and Transport shall decide upon the adjudication, authorization, regulation and execution of architectural, urban, sanitary, road, hydraulic or irrigation works, grants or subsidies for provincial, municipal or private institutions works and any other matter related to the branch of public works. It shall also decide upon the prevention of overflows and the execution of works for the prevention of floods, technical questions related to the use of shared water resources, grants or subsidies for national, provincial or municipal water undertakings and any other matter related to the branch of river and lake resources except questions related to hydroelectric power. Likewise, it shall decide upon any matter related to the problems of the water system known as “Paraguay-Parana”. It shall also decide upon anything related to the promotion, guidance and implementation of the policy for the promotion of housing, study and elaboration of permanent plans for its promotion based on credits for building or purchase of housing units and any other matter related to this subject. It shall also decide upon the organization, administration and rendering of the transport service - including land, sea, river and air transport- at national level and any other matter related to the branch of transport.

### Systems, Media and Freedom of Speech

Section 79.- The Committee on Systems, Media and Freedom of Speech shall decide upon anything related to the organization, promotion and development of the media in the whole territory of the country, the administration, supervision, coordination and rendering of postal services, telecommunications, broadcasting, video and graphic media, the treatment of the new communication technology as the area of information technology and the expansion of Internet and the electronic mail. It shall also decide upon anything related to the freedom of speech, previous censorship, the secret nature of journalistic sources, habeas data, the right to reply and any other matter related to the branch of information and communications, notwithstanding the jurisdiction of the committees on Constitutional Affairs and Rights and Guarantees.

### Environment and Sustainable Development

Section 80.- The Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development shall decide upon anything related to the multiple and rational use of natural resources, notwithstanding the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture, Cattle Raising and Fishing, the subjects related to the preservation of the natural and cultural heritage and any matter related to the environment and territorial ordering, as well as the urban and rural development. Particularly, the preservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity, the prevention of any kind of pollution, the adoption of measures against situations of pollution and its immediate consequences, the assessment, prevention and mitigation of environment impacts, the environmentally adequate management of wastes, the rational use of energy, notwithstanding the jurisdiction of the Committee on Mining, Energy and Fuels and the implementation of policies related to available resources; the use and preservation of surface and underneath water resources and the conservation of the ecological balance. It shall also decide upon the declaration and preservation of historical monuments, conservation and management of protected natural areas, environment information and education and any other matter tending to the elaboration of an environment policy directed to a sustainable development, mainly complying with preventive and readjusting policies.

## Population and Human Development

Section 81.- The Committee on Population and Human Development shall decide upon the national organization of social assistance, family consolidation, education, protection and reinsertion of children and teenagers as well as integration and socialization of young people except those matters related to youth criminal law. It shall also decide upon matters related to the elderly and anything related to the condition of women. It shall particularly decide upon the subjects mentioned in the second paragraph of section 75, subsection 23 of the National Constitution, as regards population and human development policies, migration, statistics and census, human resources, demographic planning, urban growth, population settlements, prevention and control of territory depopulation, quality of life, poverty and social marginality and specially the study of all matters related to aboriginal communities, including the provisions of subsection 17 of section 75 of the National Constitution. Likewise, it shall decide upon anything related to the defense of the rights of the disabled population and any matter related to its global problems,

promoting policies to foster integration and to discourage any kind of discrimination or social marginality derived from the latter.

### Agreements

Section 82.- The Committee on Agreements shall decide upon the agreements required by the Executive Power for the appointment or removal of public officials.

This Committee shall rule the procedures to be followed with respect to the agreements submitted to its decision.

### Federal tax co-participation

Section 83.- The Committee on Federal Tax Co-participation shall decide upon the tax co-participation regime, tax regimes affecting co-participated resources, regarding the provisions of section 75, subsection 2 of the National Constitution and upon any other matter related to federal tax co-participation.

### Tourism

Section 84.- The Committee on Tourism shall decide upon the promotion and development of tourism as a socioeconomic activity, the elaboration and assessment of permanent or temporary plans to foster this activity in all the National territory, especially in deprived zones or priority areas according to the Federal Council of Tourism, the promotion of the country abroad, the preservation and development of tourist circuits in each region and any other subject related to this matter.

## Chapter II

### Special, Joint, Mixed and Research Committees

#### Special Committees

Section 85.- Notwithstanding the standing committees, the Senate may determine the establishment of special or special mixed committees in order to compile precedents and to decide upon a specific matter. Mixed committees are those made up of legislators as well as experts, scholars and professionals specially trained in the matters dealt with by the

committees. Such decision shall establish the term that in no case shall exceed one year from the date of its effective establishment. The Senate with two thirds of the votes of its members may establish on only one occasion a maximum extension of six months.

Any special committee established by a Senate resolution shall cease to exist if its members are not appointed after a period of two months following its creation.

#### Joint Committees

Section 86. – The Senate may propose the creation of joint or mixed joint committees –or accept the proposal of the House of Representatives- for the study of subjects of common interest or of special importance or complexity.

In any of these cases, once the proposal is accepted and the number of members and representation of each body is agreed, the members of these committees shall be elected complying with provisions of section 91.

## Research Committees

Section 87. – The Senate may order the creation of research committees in the exercise of its supervising and monitoring powers.

The resolution establishing these committees must contain the scope of their jurisdiction as well as their term, which –by means of a resolution of two thirds of the Senate members- may be extended for six months as a maximum on only one occasion,

## Required Majorities

Section 88. – For the creation of special, mixed special, joint, mixed joint and research committees, the votes of two thirds of the Senate members shall be necessary.

## Chapter III

### Common provisions

### Assignment of Subjects

Section 89. – Each subject or project shall be assigned to only one committee. The Presidency or the Senate, according to provisions of Section 90, may decide that the subject shall be studied by more than one committee according to its nature. In this case, the committees shall work jointly.

The summons requested by section 71 of the National Constitution shall be assigned to the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and other committees that may correspond.

When the importance of the matter or any other special reason so requires, the committee where the summons was submitted may request the appointment of new members or the study of the matter together with other committee, subject to the decision of the Senate.

Doubts about the assignment of a matter

Section 90. – In case of doubts about the assignment of a matter to a particular committee, the Senate shall decide this issue.

Once an issue has been submitted to the Reception Desk and since its publication in the List of Entered Issues in the Intranet site of the Senate, senators shall have seven working days to make comments about the assignment of files.

These comments shall be made in writing and shall be duly founded. They shall be addressed to the President who shall decide them in a period of three working days. In case they are not decided within this term, the issue shall be submitted to the consideration of the Senate in its first session.

The term established in the second paragraph shall extinguish if the committee to which the issue has been assigned makes a report prior to the petition for a new assignment or prior to the respective resolution.

Proportional representation of political sectors. Participation in the  
standing committees

Section 91. – The appointment of the senators who shall make up the standing, special, joint or research committees shall ensure that political sectors are represented in the same proportion that at the Senate.

Each senator shall be member of five standing committees.

#### Committees Authorities

Section 92. – The members of each committee shall annually appoint a president, a vice-president and a secretary who may be re-elected. The senator who presides a standing committee shall not preside another committee of the same kind.

Until these appointments are made, those offices shall be held by the first, second and third voting member respectively appointed.

In case two or more committees are involved in an issue, meetings shall be chaired by the President of the committee to which the senator was firstly

assigned. In case of disability, he shall be replaced by the president of the committee to which the issue has been secondly assigned and so on.

#### Terms of office of committee members

Section 93. Except in case of resignation, members of standing committees shall hold their offices until the next renewal of the Senate. Members of special and research committees shall hold their offices until the end of the term established in the resolution of their creation or until the end of the term established in the extension granted by the body, unless the committee has fulfilled its purpose before the established term.

#### Powers

Section 94. – The committees -through their chairmen- shall be empowered to require reports and to take all the steps necessary for the study of the issues submitted to them.

Likewise, they may issue their internal regulations and organize themselves in no more than two sub-committees due to work reasons

during a specific period and with the only purpose of deepening the study of the matter concerned.

#### Term of office. Powers during the recess.

Section 95. – Committees shall begin their activities immediately after the appointment of their members. They shall decide about the issues under their jurisdiction during the whole period of ordinary sessions. In case of an extension of the ordinary sessions period or a call to extraordinary sessions, committees may hold new meetings and decide about the matters submitted to them.

During the recess, they may meet and assess the matters under their jurisdiction but they shall only decide about the internal questions of the Senate.

#### Documents and reports

Section 96. - Committee members who are in possession of reports or documents which may exert influence on decisions must immediately

make them available to the rest of the members. Otherwise, they shall not be allowed to submit them at the floor.

#### Senate authorities

Section 97. – The interim president, the vice-president and the first and second vice-presidents of the Senate may be members of the committees of the Senate.

Place of meeting. Public nature of meetings. Attendance of Senators.

Section 98. – Committees shall meet and decide the matters submitted to them at the Senate. However, in case of special circumstances, meetings may be held at the place considered most convenient for the achievement of the purposes pursued.

Committee meetings shall be public. Their confidential nature may only be declared by the vote of two thirds of their members and only when matters to be considered require a strict confidential treatment.

Senators who are not members of committees may attend meetings and take part in debates but shall have no vote. The authors of the bills shall be specially summoned.

Confidential meetings shall only be attended by senators and by those persons specially summoned by the committee.

In every case, the meetings of the Committee on Agreements shall be public.

### Public Hearings

Section 99.- Committees may hold public hearings in order to consider bills or matters of public importance.

In order to enforce these regulations, a public hearing is defined as an instance of citizenship participation in the process of legislative decision making, which provides persons and non governmental organizations concerned a space to express their opinions. This instance shall allow the committee in charge of the study of a matter or project to have access to

different opinions about the matter in a simultaneous and fair way through the direct contact with interested parties.

If necessary, committees may require the assistance of experts on the subjects to be dealt with in order to enhance the understanding, development and assessment of these subjects.

#### Quorum

Section 100.- “Standing”, “special” or “research” committees require the presence of more than half of their members to hold sessions but, once half an hour has elapsed from the commencement of sessions, they may consider the matters included in the corresponding summoning with the attendance of at least the third part of their members.

#### Absence of members

Section 101.- If after two summons, a committee does not reach quorum, any of its members may report this circumstance to the Presidency of the

Senate. Once this proceeding is fulfilled and if the absence of quorum still persists, the committee may hold sessions and make decisions with the presence of one third of its members.

### Sanctions

Section 102.- If a senator does not attend two meetings of the committee without justification, the Senate shall proceed to warn him. If he does not attend four consecutive committee meetings he shall be sanctioned with a discount in his wages. The president of every committee must report to the president of the Senate the before-mentioned absences at the first session and submit the issue to the consideration of the plenary members, who shall decide about the enforcement of the sanction.

### Summons and agenda

Section 103. – Committees shall meet at least once every fifteen days, notwithstanding the extraordinary meetings that they may hold. Every committee shall determine the day and hour of its ordinary meetings which must be different from those of the Senate sessions.

Summons shall include the matters to be considered. Members shall be duly notified about these matters through the sending of the corresponding documentation or through the indication in the agenda of the number of publication of the Bulletin of Entered Issues (DAE) if they have been already published.

If possible, summons to ordinary meetings shall be made at least 48 hours in advance.

With the same anticipation, each committee shall notify the Committees General Office about the day, hour, place and agenda to be considered in order to ensure the fulfillment of the provisions of section 44, subsection d).

At the request of at least three senators who are members of any committee new issues may be incorporated to the agenda of the meeting.

Records

Section 104.- At the meetings, the Secretariat of the Committee shall write down a record of the attendance which shall contain the agenda and the matters decided. Likewise, it shall register the resolutions adopted mentioning -at the request of any Senator- the foundations of his vote about the matter considered.

Records shall be available for the public and the press for their publication within a period of seventy two hours after every meeting.

#### Majority and minority decisions

Section 105.- In order to issue a decision about a matter submitted to the consideration of one or more committees, it shall be necessary to obtain the signature of at least more than a half of the members that -according to the regulations- make up every committee.

Any committee or plenary of committees, after considering a matter and agreeing about the points of its decision, shall decide if the respective report should be oral or written. In the first case, it shall appoint the member who shall submit the report and sustain the debate. In the second

case, it shall appoint the person who shall write down the report and, once the text is approved, it shall be added to the text of the decision.

If a committee or plenary of committees does not reach a uniform decision, each part of it shall make a separate report –oral or written- and shall sustain the respective debate.

If both parts are made up of an equal number of members, the majority decision -for the purposes of section 150- shall be the one sustained by the president of the committee.

#### Communication of decisions

#### Bills of communication and declaration

Section 106.-Committees shall communicate the matters decided to the president of the Senate.

Once the committee decisions are registered in the Reception Office, senators shall not be authorized to withdraw their signatures from them.

Committees that issue a decision –whether to approve communication bills requiring reports or declaration bills related to events or activities to be developed at an specific date, with the signature of at least two thirds of its members– shall submit it under the name of “Committee Dispatch” to the Presidency of the Senate to be directly reported to whom it may concern, informing the Senate at the first of its sessions.

Decisions of standing committees, already reported to the Senate or included in the pending agenda, shall remain in force up to the next renewal of the Senate, except they have extinguished according to the provisions of Act 13.640 and its amendments.

Decisions of special committees shall cease to apply according to the provisions of the beforementioned act.

### Publishing

Section 108. – Every decision or written report made by a committee shall be communicated to the press for its publishing after it has been reported to the Senate.

### Committee projects proceedings

Section 109. Projects submitted by all the members of a committee about matters of its jurisdiction shall be directly registered in the Agenda of the committee.

### Decisions

Section 110.- Committee decisions shall be directly registered in the Agenda if the committee so determines.

### Resignations

Section 111.- Resignations of the members of the internal committees may be submitted to the president who shall inform about this circumstance to the Senate on the first opportunity in order to follow the corresponding procedure.

### Public hearings

Section 112.- Committees may summon a public hearing for the treatment of projects or matters submitted to their consideration through a decision adopted by the absolute majority of its members.

### Consulting nature of opinions

Section 113.- Opinions collected during a public hearing shall have a consulting and non binding nature. If the committee issues a decision about the matter or project considered during a public hearing, it shall have to found its decision explaining the way in which it has taken into account the opinions of citizenship and/or of experts in the matter and, in its case, the reasons of the rejection.

### Requirements of summons

Section 114.- Summons to a public hearing shall specify:

a) The committee which shall hold the hearing;

b) The date of the hearing;

c) A brief summary of the subject of the hearing;

d) The media to be used to inform about the hearing. The committee which shall hold the hearing shall try to inform citizenship in general and interested non governmental agencies about the summoning. If possible, it shall be published in the two main newspapers of the Nation during two days at least fifteen days prior to the hearing. Likewise, it shall be published in the internet site of the Senate.

Notwithstanding the requirements established in the summons, the publication shall also contain: a) hour and place of the public hearing, b) address, phone, fax and mail of the committee; c) day, hour and conditions of registrations and submission of documents.

Record

Section 115.- Every committee that summons a public hearing shall open a record in which all the citizens and agencies which shall take the floor and/or submit relevant documents during the hearing shall be registered. The committee shall give a certificate as proof of the registration and of the receipt of the documentation. Likewise, if requested, it shall provide a copy of the files linked to the subject in question.

#### Term of the Record

Section 116. – The record shall be opened during the twelve days previous to the hearing and shall be closed 48 hours before it.

The registration in the record shall be free and open to any person or non governmental agency that declares its domicile of choice and invokes particular, diffuse or collective interests linked to the subject to be considered.

#### Archive

Section 117. – The committee shall organize an archive to file all the documents, studies, reports, proposals and opinions submitted by the participants and technicians consulted. The archive shall be available to the public for its consultation at the committee headquarters.

#### Hearing site

Section 118. – The public hearing shall be held at the Senate offices or, if necessary, at an easily accessible place according to the interest of the case. The hearing shall be held at a date and time different from those of the Senate sessions.

#### Closing of the Record

Section 119. – Once the record is closed, the committee that holds the hearing shall establish:

a) The length of each speech. Only registered persons may make oral interventions and shall be afforded the same time to do it.

- b) A coordinator who organizes the interventions of participants and enhances the development of the hearing.
- c) The time and way to include the reading of the documents submitted.
- d) The extension of the hearing.

#### Agenda

Section 120. – Once the conditions of the preceding section have been fulfilled, the committee shall prepare the agenda that shall be available to interested parties twenty four hours prior to the hearing and shall include:

- a) A list of the participants registered in the record.
- b) A brief description of the documentation, reports, studies or proposals submitted.
- c) The order and extension of the respective speeches.

d) The name and position of the persons who shall preside and coordinate the hearing.

Powers of the President of the hearing.

Section 121. The president of the hearing shall be widely empowered to preside and supervise the course of the hearing and may:

a) Order the interruption, suspension or adjournment of the hearing as well as its resumption when he deems it convenient.

b) Expel from the floor, with the assistance of the police of the Senate, if necessary, any person who alters the normal course of the hearing.

c) Determine the convenience of the interruptions requested by the public.

d) Appoint a coordinator for the best development of the hearing.

Shorthand record

Section 122. – All public hearings shall have a shorthand record of every intervention, which shall be available to all interested parties at the headquarters of each committee.

End of the hearing

Section 123. – After the intervention of the participants, the president shall close the public hearing and the respective minutes shall be signed by the secretary of the committee, the president and all interested participants and speakers.

## TITLE IX

### INTRODUCTION AND DRAFTING OF PROJECTS

#### Procedure

Section 124. – Except the provisions of Title XI and the provisions of sections 174 and 175, every issue submitted or promoted by a senator shall be introduced as a project.

#### Classification

Section 125. – Projects may be: bills, draft decrees, draft resolutions, draft communications or draft declarations.

#### Projects demanding expenditures

Section 126. – Every project demanding expenditures shall include in its foundations the assessment of such expenditures and shall mention the funding source, in order to justify its feasibility. On the contrary, it shall

not be discussed at the sessions of the Senate until the authors of the project comply with this requirement.

No project demanding expenditures shall be considered without the opinion of the committee.

#### Bills

Section 127. – Any proposal which must follow the procedures established in the Constitution for the enactment of laws shall be introduced as a bill.

#### Draft decrees

Section 128. – Any proposal directed to obtain a special decision of administrative nature shall be introduced as a draft decree.

#### Draft resolutions

Section 129. – Any proposal directed to obtain a special resolution of the Senate shall be introduced as a draft resolution.

### Draft communications

Section 130. – Any proposal directed to reply, recommend or request something, or to express an expectation of the Senate, particularly requests for reports, shall be introduced as a draft communication.

### Draft declarations

Section 131. – Any proposal directed to ratify the constitutional powers of the Senate or to express an opinion of this body shall be introduced as a draft declaration.

### Writing

Section 132. – Every project shall be introduced in writing and shall be signed. Likewise, it shall be accompanied by a copy of the same in digital support in order to provide for its rapid incorporation to the information network.

## TITLE X

### BILLS PROCESSING

Section 133. – Bills are founded in writing and directed to the corresponding committee without any special proceeding, and they must be announced by the Secretariat in the respective session.

#### Draft decrees, resolutions, communications or declarations

Section 134. – Any draft decree, resolution, communication or declaration shall be verbally founded and the speaker shall have ten minutes – extendable to another ten minutes in only one occasion- following a resolution of the Senate.

#### Order of precedence

Section 135. – Projects shall be enunciated during sessions in the order in which they were introduced and registered in the Reception Desk.

### Publication

Section 136. – Every project introduced in the Senate shall be included, with the corresponding foundations, in the Bulletin of Entered Issues and shall be made available to the press for its publication.

### Withdrawal

Section 137. – Any project, message or other issue introduced in the Senate may not be withdrawn or filed without the agreement of this body.

### Bills from the Executive Power or Under Revision

Section 138. – Any project submitted by the Executive Power or that, after its enactment or amendment, is returned by the House of Representatives, shall be directly submitted to the respective committee and shall be announced in the respective session and published in the Bulletin of Entered Issues.

The Senate shall decide by the vote of two thirds of its present members the preference to be assigned to the bills submitted by the Executive Power on an urgent basis, establishing the term provided to the committees to which the bills are assigned to render a decision. During the debate each senator shall be afforded only fifteen minutes.

The same proceeding applies to urgent bills of the Executive Power submitted under revision by the House of Representatives.

## TITLE XI

### MOTIONS

#### Motion

Section 139. – Any proposal made by a senator or a minister in a loud voice from its bench is a motion.

#### Motions of order

Section 140. – A motion of order is any proposal made with any of the following purposes:

- 1°. To adjourn the session.
- 2°. To call to a recess.
- 3°. To declare a debate free.

4°. To close the list of speakers or to put an end to the debate.

5°. To proceed to the fulfillment of the labor plan.

6°. To raise a matter of privilege. Once the matter has been considered for a period of ten minutes, the president shall refer the matter to the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, unless the Senate, with the vote of two thirds of its present members, decides to give the matter a preferential treatment.

7°. To postpone the consideration of the matter to a certain day or indefinitely.

8°. To refer the matter or return it to the committee.

9°. To set up a committee.

10°. To refer the matter to the committee or the committees that considered it for its treatment according to the provisions of section 79 of the National Constitution.

11°. To return the matter referred to the committee according to the provisions of section 79 of the National Constitution to the consideration of the Senate.

12°. To instruct the Senate to depart from the prescriptions of the regulations as regards the way of discussion of the matters.

#### Precedence

Section 141. – The consideration of the motions of order comes before any other matter, even if the matter is under debate, and they shall be dealt with in the order of precedence established in the previous section.

Motions mentioned in the first seven subsections shall be voted without discussion; those mentioned in the last five subsections shall be briefly discussed and each senator may only speak about them once and during no more than five minutes, except for the author, who may speak twice.

The motion to close the debate may not be voted if any of the senators wants to speak according to the provisions of section 163.

### Majority and Repetition

Section 142. – In order to be approved, motions of order need an absolute majority of the votes cast, except for the motions mentioned in subsections 10 and 11 of section 140, which require an absolute majority of all the members of the Senate.

Motions of order may be repeated in the same session without being reconsidered.

### Motion of preference

Section 143. – A motion of preference is any proposal made with the purpose of determining the moment in which a matter should be considered.

### Order of preference

Section 144. – Matters which were granted preference without fixing a specific date shall be dealt with in the following session or sessions held by the Senate, in the order in which they were proposed.

Preferences of the same class shall be dealt with according to their order.

#### Expiry

Section 145. – The matter or matters which were granted preference, fixing a specific date, shall be dealt with in the session held by the Senate in the date fixed, in the first place after the printed agenda; the preference expires if the matter is not dealt with in that session or the session is not held.

#### Approval

Section 146. – Motions of preference, with or without date fixing, may not be stated before all the entered issues have been mentioned.

These motions shall be considered in the order in which they were proposed and to be approved they require:

a) If, at the moment in which the motion is stated, the committee has already issued a decision about the matter and this decision has been printed in a distributed agenda, the absolute majority of the votes cast.

b) If, at the moment in which the motion is stated, the committee has not issued a decision about the matter or the decision has not been printed in the agenda, two thirds of the votes cast.

#### Motions of urgent treatment

Section 147. – A motion of urgent treatment is any proposal made with the purpose of considering a matter immediately, with or without a decision of the committee.

These motions may not be stated before all the entered issues have been mentioned, unless the motion is in favor of one of them; but in this last

case the motion shall only be considered by the Senate once the entered issues have been mentioned.

Once a motion of urgent treatment has been approved, the matter involved shall be immediately considered, before any other matter or motion.

Motions of urgent treatment shall be considered in the order in which they were proposed and they require two thirds of the votes cast in order to be approved.

#### Motions of reconsideration

Section 148. – A motion of reconsideration is any proposal made with the purpose of reviewing a general or particular enactment of the Senate or a request for agreement of the Executive Power.

Motions of reconsideration may only be stated while the matter is pending or during the session in which the matter is concluded and, in order to be approved, they require two thirds of the votes cast and they may not be repeated.

Motions of reconsideration are considered immediately after their formulation.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

### Discussion

Section 149. – Motions of preference, motions of urgent treatment, and reconsideration shall be briefly discussed and senators may not speak about them more than once and for no more than five minutes, except for the author, who may speak twice.

## TITLE XII

### SPEECH ORDER

#### Order

Section 150. – Senators shall be given the floor in the following order:

- a) To the reporting member of the committee that has decided upon the matter under discussion;
- b) To the reporting member of the minority of the committee, if the committee is divided;
- c) To the author or the authors of the projects under discussion;
- d) To the presidents of the parliamentary caucuses or to the senators representing them;
- e) To the remaining senators in the order in which they ask for the floor.

### Reporting member

Section 151. – Reporting members of the committees shall always be entitled to take the floor in order to answer statements or comments that have not been still answered by them.

In case of opposition between the author of the project and the committee, the author may take the floor in the last term.

### Precedence

Section 152. – If two senators ask for the floor at the same time, precedence shall be given to the senator opposing the idea under discussion, if the senator who came before him has supported it, or vice versa.

### Granting of the floor

Section 153. – If two or more senators not included in the case foreseen by the previous section ask for the floor, the president shall grant it in the order he deems it convenient, giving preference to those senators who have not spoken yet.

TITLE XIII  
GENERAL DISCUSSION AT THE SENATE

Acting as a committee

Section 154.- Before considering an issue, the Senate as a deliberative body, may act as a committee and consider that issue in such character with the purpose of exchanging ideas or obtaining information about the subject.

Petition

Section 155.- In order to act as a committee, one or more Senators must make the corresponding petition to that end, which shall be immediately decided.

Appointment of President and Secretaries

Section 156.- The committee shall appoint a President and Secretaries who may be the same persons that hold those offices at the Senate.

### Focus of the debate

Section 157.- At a committee discussion, each speaker may refer to different points or matters included in the bill or issue, without being forced to respect the focus of the debate.

### Floor

Section 158.- Each speaker may take the floor all the times he deems it convenient. The president shall give the floor to the first senator who requests it. If two or more senators ask for the floor at the same time, it shall be given to that one that has not spoken yet; but if none of them has spoken or all of them have already done it, the president shall give the floor to whom he deems convenient.

### Vote

Section 159.- At these debates, senators shall not vote.

### Closure

Section 160.- At the request of the president or of a senator, and with the support of at least five senators, the conference may be closed. Immediately afterwards, the bill shall be voted in general and in particular, subject to the provisions of section 170 and title XIV, second section.

## TITLE XIV

### DISCUSSION IN SESSION

Section 161. – At a session, every project or matter, having been decided upon by the corresponding committee, shall undergo two discussions: the first one, in general, and the second one, in particular.

#### FIRST PART

##### FIRST DISCUSSION OR DISCUSSION IN GENERAL

###### In general

Section 162. – A discussion in general shall deal with the project or matter taken as a whole, or with its main idea.

###### Privilege of the Floor

Section 163. – Except for the cases established in section 151, in a discussion in general each senator may take the floor only once and for a

period of twenty minutes. He may also take the floor to rectify those assertions he considers to be wrong, made about his previous statements. In this case, he will have ten unextendable minutes.

Reporting members of majority and minority decisions, the author of the project and the senator taking on the representation of the parliamentary caucus may take the floor during forty minutes.

The president by himself or at the request of any senator shall notify the speaker of the end of the term of his statement, which may only be extended by decision of the Senate and for the term granted by this body.

In any case, the Senate may authorize the inclusion of speeches, works or documents referring to the subject under discussion in the Record of Sessions.

If the importance of the matter to be considered requires it and before the opening of the debate, the Senate may modify the extension of the terms established in this section fixing the maximum term to take the floor.

Once the list of speakers mentioned in the second paragraph of this section has been closed, the Senate may fix the time in which the debate shall be closed in order to proceed to the ballot, respecting the right of registered speakers.

#### Free debate

Section 164. – Notwithstanding the provisions of section 163, at the request of a senator, the Senate may, without debate and in an urgent character, declare a debate free and, in this case, each senator may speak as many times as he wants, but the President must respect –as regards the order of the speeches- the provisions of Title XII.

#### Submission of projects

Section 165. – During the general discussion of a project, a new project about the same subject may be submitted to replace the first one.

Section 166. – Once a new project has been read, founded and supported, it shall not be immediately considered or submitted to the respective committee.

#### Discussion of the project

Section 167.- If the project under discussion is discarded or withdrawn, the Senate shall decide through the vote of its members if the new project has to be submitted to the committee or considered immediately, adopting the corresponding steps according to the result of the votes cast.

#### Order

Section 168.- If new projects are submitted during the general discussion of a project, it shall be necessary to follow the order established in the two previous sections; but, if it is decided that they must be immediately considered, the first one read shall be the first one to be considered and only in the case of its withdrawal or rejection, the second one read shall be considered and so on.

## Procedure

Section 169.- Once the debate is concluded and the votes cast, if the general project is rejected every debate about it shall be concluded; but, if it is approved, it shall be discussed in detail or it shall be necessary to follow the procedure established in section 79 of the National Constitution.

## Omission of the debate

Section 170.- The general debate shall be omitted when the project or issue has been previously considered at a Senate committee, in which case the Senate, at one of its sessions, shall limit itself to vote if the general project is approved or not.

## SECOND PART

### SECOND DISCUSSION OR DISCUSSION IN PARTICULAR

#### In particular

Section 171.- Discussions in particular shall be made in detail, by section, period or part, and members shall vote each of them.

### Discussion

Section 172.- In a discussion in particular, senators may take the floor a first time during five minutes and a second one during the same period with respect to each of the rules under consideration. In the case of the reporting member of majority and minority decisions, the author of the project and the senator who takes on the representation of a parliamentary caucus, the maximum time to take the floor shall be ten minutes. The order established in title XII shall be followed.

### Focus of the debate

Section 173.- Members shall focus on the issues of the debate and, in consequence, if they remarkably digress from them they shall be reminded to focus on these issues according to provisions of title XVII.

### Amendments

Section 174.- During the discussion in particular of a project, members may submit other projects that replace completely the section under

discussion or remove or add a part of the text. If the committee accepts the replacement, modification or removal, this amendment shall be considered a part of the decision.

### Consideration

Section 175. – In any of the cases mentioned in the previous section, the new sections shall be submitted in writing; if the committee does not accept them, its decision shall be voted and in case it is rejected, the new sections shall be considered in the order that they have been proposed.

### Reconsideration

Section 176. – The resolution made about the last section of the project shall close any discussion about it, except in the case foreseen in section 148.

### Procedure

Section 177. –If the resolution approves the whole text of a project sent by the House of Representatives, the Executive Power and the mentioned House shall be notified of this circumstance.

If a bill returns to the Senate as the House of origin with additions or amendments, the Senate may approve or reject all the additions or amendments, or approve some of them and reject other ones but, it may only introduce amendments made by the reviewing house. In such a case, the general voting shall be omitted.

If the bill returns to the house of origin, the reports of the enactments of the reviewing house shall include the results of the voting for each section in order to determine if the additions or amendments were made by the absolute majority of the members present or by two thirds of them.

If a bill, after its enactment in general or in general and partially in particular, is sent back to a committee, the House shall follow the ordinary proceeding as if it has never been enacted.

### THIRD PART

#### REFERRAL OF A PROJECT TO A COMMITTEE

Referral of a project to a committee

Section 178. After the approval of a project in general, the Senate may send it for its approval in particular to one or more of the corresponding committees, indicating the sections to be voted. To issue such resolution, the vote of the absolute majority of the total members of the Senate shall be necessary and the same majority shall be required to resume the ordinary procedure at any stage of the proceedings.

Only the bills with a resolution issued by the corresponding committee shall be considered according to this section.

#### Participation – Time of exposure

Section 179. Senators who are not members of the committee to which the issue to be considered is sent may attend the meetings and take part of the debates but shall have no vote. The authors of the bill shall have the same right but they should be specially invited.

At the committee session, each participant must take the floor during ten minutes per section and this period may be extended by decision of the majority of the committee members.

### Plenary Meeting of Committees – Presidency

Section 180.- The Committee meeting shall be chaired by its president.

If the bill has been sent to more than one committee, they shall hold a plenary meeting and its president shall be the chairman of the committee to which it was firstly sent. In this case, the absolute majority shall be computed with respect to all the members of all the participating committees.

The chairman of the committee shall establish the places, days and times of the meetings to consider the sections the enactment of which has been delegated, according to the provisions of subsections a) d) and e) of section 32. The meetings may be held at the floor of the Senate, provided that the Senate is not holding sessions.

### Procedure of the Committee

Section 181.- Committee sessions shall be attended by the secretary of the Senate who shall write down the corresponding record, with the assistance

of the body of shorthand writers. The shorthand version shall be included in the Record of Sessions. Likewise, committees shall have a special register of the bills debates. Meetings shall be public. At the beginning of the first session, the secretary shall report the number of votes required to constitute the absolute majority quorum of the whole members.

#### Tolerance

Section 182. – An hour after the time fixed for the beginning of the meeting, it shall be adjourned if there is no quorum, except that the President decides to grant an extension of half an hour.

#### Discussion – Amendments

Section 183. –The discussion in particular shall be made in detail, by section, period or part, being necessary to vote each one of them. In every case, votes shall be nominal.

During the discussion, new sections introducing total or partial amendments to those under consideration may be proposed; for this purpose the provisions of sections 174 and 175 shall apply.

#### Term

Section 184. -The committee or committees shall make a decision within a term of fifteen days after which the bill shall be sent back to the plenary members of the Senate for its consideration.

#### Approval

Section 185.- The approval in particular by the committee shall be decided by the vote of the absolute majority of the whole members.

If that majority is not achieved in one or more sections, they shall be sent back for their consideration by the plenary members, together with the bill.

In case of approval of all the sections in particular, the bill shall follow the ordinary course.



## TITLE XV

## ORDER OF THE SESSION

## Opening of the Session

Section 186.- The president shall call the attention of the members with a bell and if at least the number of senators established in Section 16 is present, he shall proclaim: "The session is open".

## Entered Issues

Section 187.- Thereupon, the President, through the Secretariat shall report to the Senate:

- a) All the official communications;
- b) Committee decisions and projects of communication and declaration approved according to the third paragraph of section 106;

- c) Petitions or particular affairs;
- d) Projects submitted;
- e) The parliamentary labor plan.

#### Agenda

Section 188.- Once the provisions of the previous section have been fulfilled, the labor plan shall be considered. If there is not a labor plan, the order of consideration of the issues shall be the following:

1. Homages.
2. Consideration of agreements.
3. Cases in which it acts as impeachment court.
4. Consideration of agendas.
5. Consideration of previously voted preferences.
6. Requests for urgent treatment.
7. Reserved issues, including:

- a) Requests for immediate dispatch.
- b) Requests for urgent treatment.
- c) Requests for preferences.

#### Other issues

Section 189.- Before considering the agenda, or after considering an issue, other projects may be submitted or other motions may be made provided they are not related to the agenda, fulfilling the provisions of Title XI.

## TITLE XVI

### GENERAL PROVISIONS ON SESSIONS AND DEBATES

#### Senators attendance

Section 190.- The president shall require the attendance of the Senators who are at the floor before proceeding to the vote.

#### Absence of quorum

Section 191.- If the Senate has to make a decision and there is not quorum to vote, the session shall be adjourned fifteen minutes after it was summoned.

#### Distribution of the agenda

Section 192.- Agendas shall be distributed among Senators in advance.

#### Permission to be absent

Section 193.- No senator shall be authorized to leave the session without giving notice to the president.

#### Speaker

Section 194.- The speaker shall address the president or senators in general and shall avoid, if possible, mentioning members of the Senate by their names.

#### Prohibitions

Section 195.- Disrespectful comments and bad faith assertions specially about both Houses of Congress and their members shall be absolutely forbidden.

#### Readings

Section 196.- No written or printed material shall be read at the Senate. The following are exceptions to this rule: the reading of the record, if any,

communications and other issues mentioned in section 187 and expositions of Senators for no more than five minutes in cases foreseen by section 163.

## TITLE XVII

## INTERRUPTION AND CALL TO ORDER

## Interruptions

Section 197.- The speaker shall not be interrupted without his consent; the President shall not allow any kind of interruptions.

## Call to order

Section 198.- However, a speaker may be interrupted by the President, by himself or at the request of a Senator, if he departs from the focus of the issue or from order.

## Vote

Section 199.- If the speaker denies having departed from the focus of the issue, the Senate shall immediately proceed to vote the question without

debate and, in case of an affirmative resolution, the speaker shall take the floor again.

#### Agreed interruptions

Section 200.- Interruptions shall only be included in the record of sessions if they have been authorized or accepted by the President and the speaker.

#### Misbehavior

Section 201.- A speaker shall misbehave when he incurs in personalizations, insults, offensive comments or expressions.

#### Call to order

Section 202. – In any of the cases mentioned in section 195 or 201 or in case of unfulfillment of the provisions of section 197, the president, by himself or at the request of any Senator, if he deems it appropriate, shall invite the speaker who has generated the incident to explain or withdraw his words.

If the speaker accepts the invitation, the session shall continue, but if he refuses to give explanations or if the explanations are not satisfactory, the President shall require authorization of the Senate to call him to order.

If the Senate refuses to give such authorization, the Session shall continue; in an affirmative case, the president shall say in a loud voice the following: "Mr. Senator.....: the Senate calls you to order".

Calls to order shall be registered in the record, if any.

#### Prohibition to take the floor

Section 203. -If a senator is called to order twice during the same session and he commits a third misbehavior, the president shall propose the Senate to forbid him to take the floor during the rest of the session.

#### Serious misbehaviors

Section 204.- If a Senator incurs in more serious misbehaviors than those mentioned in this Title, the Senate, at the request of the President or at the request of any member, shall decide by a vote, without debate, if it is adequate to use the power granted by section 66 of the National Constitution and in an affirmative case the president shall appoint a three-member committee to propose the corresponding actions.

## TITLE XVIII

## VOTE

## Kind of votes

Section 205.- Any bill shall be voted both in general and in particular by electromechanical means or in a nominal way in order to register the way in which each senator has voted. The Senate may decide by an absolute majority of its present members to omit this procedure if there is a unanimous committee decision or if no objection has been made.

Draft decrees, resolutions, communications or declarations may be voted:

1. By signs, which means to stand up or to raise the hand.
2. In a nominal way or through electromechanical means if the Senate so decides by the absolute majority of its present members.

## Elections

Section 206.- Any election shall be decided by a nominal vote and an absolute majority.

#### Vote by section

Section 207.- Any vote in particular shall be limited to only one section, except for the case mentioned in section 171 if a Senator so requires.

#### Result of the vote

Section 208.- Every vote shall be affirmative or negative according to the terms of the section, proposal or period to be voted.

#### Absolute majority

Section 209.- The vote of the absolute majority of the present Senators, in legal quorum, shall be definite, except for the cases in which the National Constitution or other provision requires special majorities or different computation bases, depending on the need to take into account all the members of the Senate or only the present ones. The results of each vote

shall be included in the record. An absolute majority means more than half of present members

#### Rectification

Section 210.- In case of doubts about the result of the vote, immediately after its proclamation, any senator may request the corresponding rectification, which shall be made with the present senators that have voted; senators who have not voted shall not be in a position to take part in the rectification process.

#### The vote of the President

Section 211.- If the Senate is presided by a senator, in those cases in which his vote is required by the Constitution or this code to make a resolution, he shall vote in the last term.

#### Abstention – Objection

Section 212.- The vote shall be affirmative or negative. The present senator, with the authorization of the body, may refrain from voting. In this case, the computation of the quorum and the computation of the vote shall be made with respect to the quantity of votes cast. No senator may object the resolution of the Senate but shall be entitled to request the recording of his vote in the register and the Record of Sessions.

#### Tie

Section 213.- In case of a tie, a new debate shall be opened, the vote shall be immediately repeated and in case of a new tie, the vote of the president shall prevail. On the second occasion, only senators who have been present at the new debate may vote.

## TITLE XIX

## MINISTERS ATTENDANCE

## Ministers and Chief of Cabinet attendance

Section 214.- When according to provisions of section 71 of the Constitution, Ministers attend the Senate at its request, the order of the floor shall be the following:

- a) The examining senator or senators, for a maximum period of sixty minutes.
- b) The Minister or the Chief of Cabinet for the same period.
- c) Any other senator for five minutes each of them, having the possibility of sending their questions in writing to the Minister or the Chief of Cabinet, which shall be answered immediately or during the final exposition.
- d) The examining senator or senators to make the observations they deem appropriate, for a maximum period of thirty minutes.
- e) The Minister or the Chief of Cabinet, for their final exposition, for a maximum period of thirty minutes.

The above-mentioned terms may only be extended with the approval of the Senate.

Chief of Ministers Cabinet. Procedure previous to the information session

Section 215.- When according to the provisions of section 101 (first part) of the National Constitution the Chief of the Ministers Cabinet must attend the Senate, the procedure shall be the following:

a) Information sessions of the Chief of the Ministers Cabinet take place during the last week of the months corresponding to his visit. The Chief of the Ministers Cabinet shall agree with the plenary members of parliamentary labor, the day and time in which the special session shall be carried out.

If for any reason such session may not be carried out on the agreed day, the plenary members of parliamentary labor shall fix a new date.

For these purposes, the Chief of the Ministers Cabinet shall send to the political caucuses –through the Presidency of the Senate- a list of all the

issues to be exposed, the first working day of the month corresponding to the information session.

b) Political caucuses shall submit to the Chief of the Ministers Cabinet, through the Presidency of the Senate, the requirements, reports and extensions they deem appropriate both on the subjects proposed by the Chief of the Ministers Cabinet and on those proposed by the Senate, within five working days after receiving such material.

Likewise, the plenary members of parliamentary labor within three working days prior to the information session, may include a maximum of three additional subjects to those proposed by the Chief of the Ministers Cabinet.

c) In case of a serious institutional event taking place since the due date of the terms indicated in subsection b) of this section up to the beginning of the information session, senators may authorize the consideration of such event as a new subject for its debate in the information session before the regular report.

d) The Chief of the Ministers Cabinet, through the Presidency of the Senate, shall submit the report, as well as the written answers compiled by political caucus or by the subjects proposed by the Senate, two working days before the one established for the information session.

e) The Chief of the Ministers Cabinet may attend the Senate accompanied by the ministers and secretaries of state he deems convenient, notwithstanding the right granted to the Ministers of the Executive Power by section 106 of the National Constitution. Likewise, political caucuses may request to the Chief of the Ministers Cabinet the presence of certain officers in charge of areas related to the subjects to be exposed during the information session.

In any case, it shall be the exclusive power of the Chief of the Ministers Cabinet to accept this last requirement and to order the expositions of the ministers and secretaries of state who are present at the floor, with the consent of the Presidency of the Senate.

f) The Chief of the Ministers Cabinet shall expose his report and the subjects proposed to the Senate, if any, during a maximum period of forty minutes. This period shall extend to an hour in the case foreseen in subsection c) of this section.

The exposition can not be read. It is authorized to use notes and to read short documents or quotations directly related to the report and the subjects to be exposed.

g) Caucuses as a whole shall have one hundred and eighty minutes to request clarifications and explanations or to make questions exclusively about the report exposed and as regards the requirements and subjects previously requested according to subsections b) and c) of this section. The time granted to the different caucuses shall be distributed proportionally to the number of members, establishing a minimum of ten minutes by caucus.

h) The Chief of the Ministers Cabinet shall have twenty minutes to immediately answer to the caucuses each clarification, explanation or

question, identifying clearly those ones that he shall exceptionally answer in writing within ten working days after the session.

i) The Chief of the Ministers Cabinet shall be empowered to ask for brief recesses in order to organize answers.

j) At a duly founded and supported request of a senator, the Senate may immediately declare a free debate, in which case, every senator, the chief of the Ministers Cabinet and his assistants, may take the floor so many times as they deem appropriate.

## TITLE XX

### POWERS OF THE SENATE

#### Powers of the Senate

Section 216. -If the parliamentary activity of Senators is in any way hindered, the Senate, with the vote of two thirds of the present members, may order the detention of the person who committed the infringement which shall not exceed seventy two hours and, if necessary, the Senate shall report these circumstances to the competent judge. Previously, the accused shall have the opportunity of defending himself through an effective subpoena.

## TITLE XXI

## EMPLOYEES AND POLICE

## Access to the Floor

Section 217. – Only directors and committee secretaries shall have access to the floor and, without the authorization of the president and with the consent of the Senate, access shall be forbidden to any person except legislators and agents of the Executive Power.

## Police

Section 218. -The police of the Senate shall be headed by the police captain, who shall be responsible for the implementation of the provisions adopted.

## Disorder

Section 219. – Any noisy expression of approval or disapproval shall be forbidden.

### Expulsion

Section 220. – The president shall expulse from the floor any person who from the balconies infringes the provisions of the previous section. If the disorder is general, he will call to order and, in case of a new misbehavior, he shall immediately suspend the session until the balconies are completely emptied.

## TITLE XXII

## SHORTHAND WRITERS BODY

## Director

Section 221. – The director of the shorthand writers body shall be appointed by the President of the Senate according to the provisions of these regulations and shall be directly under the parliamentary secretary.

He shall have the following duties:

- a) To direct the shorthand service;
- b) To deal with the immediate publishing of debates and the compilation of the Record of Sessions;
- c) To authorize shorthand versions;

d) To consult with the Secretary any change of the shorthand version notwithstanding the provisions of section 32, subsection 1.

### Appointment

Section 222.- The director, assistant director and shorthand writer of first class shall be appointed by promotion; short-hand writers of second class shall be appointed by promotion or by contest, as the president deems it convenient; auxiliary employees shall be appointed by contest according to the rules determined by the Director, which shall be approved by the President of the Senate

### Promotion

Section 223.- In order to promote an employee, competence, background and seniority shall be taken into account. Promotion shall be proposed in each case by the director of the body.

## TITLE XXIII

## REGULATIONS COMPLIANCE AND REFORM

## Regulations compliance

Section 224.- Any senator may require the compliance of these regulations should he consider that they have been violated and the President shall enforce their fulfillment.

## Vote

Section 225.- If the alleged violator or other person claims that the violation did not occur, this circumstance shall be immediately solved through a vote without debate.

## Introduction of amendments

Section 226.- If revisions or corrections are introduced to these regulations, these reforms shall be therein included.

## Procedure

Section 227.- The provisions of these regulations may not be modified or repealed by an immediate resolution but only through a duly submitted project which shall follow the same procedure as any other project and shall require for its approval a majority of two thirds of the members of the Senate.

TITLE XXIV  
FINAL PROVISIONS

Consideration

Section 228.- All references made in these regulations to Senators shall be extensive to female Senators. Likewise, references to the president or vice-president of the Senate and committees shall be extensive to a female president and vice-president.

Staff

Section 229.- All the powers of the president and secretaries related to the appointment, promotion or removal of staff, as well as the creation of new offices, shall be consistent with the provisions of act 24.600.









