

A Quick Guide to the Law-making Role-play House of Representatives

Role-play stages	<i>Interpretation</i>
<p>Entrance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Clerk rings the bell and asks members to stand. 2. The Serjeant-at-Arms leads the Speaker into the chamber, announces the Speaker and places the Mace on the table end. 3. The Speaker sits and asks everyone in the chamber to sit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Standing is a sign of respect.</i> • <i>Traditionally the Serjeant-at-Arms protects the Speaker.</i>
<p>Commencement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Speaker makes announcements and asks the Clerk to read the rules. 2. The Clerk reads the rules. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The rules ensure that an orderly atmosphere is maintained in the chamber.</i>
<p>The first reading</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Speaker asks the Clerk to read the title of the bill. 2. The Clerk reads the title of the bill for the first time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The first reading introduces the bill to the chamber.</i> • <i>The bill becomes a public document.</i>
<p>The second reading speech</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Speaker calls the minister responsible for the bill to introduce the bill. 2. The minister makes a speech explaining its purpose. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The majority of bills are introduced in the House of Representatives by government ministers.</i> • <i>After the minister's speech the bill is usually 'parked' to give members time to prepare for the debate.</i>
<p>Optional: Party meeting to plan position and speeches for second reading debate.</p>	
<p>The second reading debate</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Speaker asks members to stand if they wish to speak. 2. The Speaker chooses a member to speak. The member delivers a speech on the bill and returns to his or her seat. 3. The Speaker repeats steps 1 to 2 until the debate is exhausted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Speeches are rotated between government, opposition and Independent members.</i>

<p>The vote on the voices</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Speaker asks members to vote <i>for</i> or <i>against</i> the bill by saying 'aye' or 'no'. 2. The Speaker declares the vote in favour of the government. 3. The Speaker asks if a division is required. 4. The Opposition Whip says a division is required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The vote on the voices is an uncounted vote to determine whether the chamber wishes the bill to be read a second time. Any bill that is not read a second time cannot proceed.</i> • <i>The opposition is free to agree or disagree with the government bill.</i>
<p>The division</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Speaker announces the division. 2. The Clerk rings the bells. 3. The Speaker tells members to vote <i>for</i> or <i>against</i> the bill by sitting to the right or left of the Speaker's chair. 4. The Independents move to vote. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A division is a counted vote, recorded in Hansard.</i> • <i>The 'bells' are rung through 2,700 APH clocks which call members to the chamber to vote with their team.</i> • <i>Crossing the floor is rare in federal parliament.</i>
<p>The division result</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The whips count the vote. 2. The Speaker announces the result of the vote. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The government must always maintain the support of the majority of members in the House of Representatives. This means that most government bills will pass the House of Representatives.</i>
<p>The second reading</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Speaker asks the Clerk to read the title of the bill a second time. 2. The Clerk does this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A second reading means that the majority of members in the House of Representatives agree with the main idea of the bill.</i>
<p>Adjournment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Speaker announces that the House is adjourned. 2. The Clerk asks members to stand. 3. The Serjeant-at-Arms leads the Speaker from the chamber. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Standing is a sign of respect.</i> • <i>By tradition, the Serjeant-at-Arms protects the Speaker.</i>