



Examples of Rules about Proportional Representation on Standing Committees
(as of November 2022)

Alaska

Uniform Rule 1

... (e) The presiding officer shall announce, not later than the day following election, the appointment of a Committee on Committees consisting of five members including the presiding officer. The presiding officer chairs the Committee on Committees. The committee is responsible for nominating the members of the standing committees as set out in Rule 20 and the member who is to chair each standing committee to serve for the two-year duration of the legislature. The membership of each committee shall total to an uneven number. On each standing committee the minority is entitled to the number of seats that is proportional to the number of minority members compared to the total house membership or to one seat, whichever is greater. In calculating the number of seats the minority is entitled to, fractional numbers that represent the minority proportional entitlement to a seat shall be ignored. The report of the Committee on Committees is subject to approval by a majority vote of the full membership of the house. For purposes of this subsection "minority" means a group of members who have organized and elected a minority leader and who constitute at least 25 percent of the total house membership. ...

Colorado

Senate Rule 21

... The party representation of such committees shall be in proportion, as nearly as practicable, as determined by the majority leader, to the relative number of members of the two major political parties in the Senate. The majority leader of the Senate shall determine the number of members, shall designate the number from each political party, shall appoint the majority members to the committees of reference, and shall designate the chair and vice-chair of each committee of reference. In addition, the majority leader shall appoint any member of the Senate who is not affiliated with either of the major political parties in the Senate to the committees of reference. The minority leader shall appoint the minority members to such committees. ...

House Rule 25

(h) The party representation on committees shall be in proportion generally to the relative number of members of the two major political parties in the House.

Hawaii

Senate Rule 13

(1) Standing Committees: The membership of each Standing Committee shall be appointed by the President subject to action by the Senate. The respective Chairs and Vice Chairs of each Standing Committee shall be appointed by the President, subject to action by the Senate. The majority and minority parties shall to the extent practicable be represented on all Standing Committees on a proportional basis or on such basis as may be prescribed by the Senate. ...

House Rule 11.2

The composition of the standing committees shall be as follows:

... (2) The membership of each standing committee, including the designation of the chair and vice-chair shall be provided for by resolution, provided, however, that the composition of the committee shall be on a proportional basis with the members of the majority party designating the chair, vice-chair, and majority party members, and the members of the minority party designating the minority party members; and ...

Kansas

Senate Rule 7

... (f) The two major political parties shall have proportional representation on each standing committee other than the Committee on Organization, Calendar and Rules. In the event application of the preceding sentence results in a fraction, the party having a fraction exceeding .5 shall receive representation as though such fraction were a whole number. ...

Kentucky

Senate Rule 39

... The Committee on Committees shall select members of committees and standing subcommittees in proportion to the representation of each political party in the Senate. ...

House Rule 39

... The Committee on Committees shall select members of each standing and special committee in proportion to the representation of each political party in the House. ...

Massachusetts

Senate Rule 13

(b) Except as provided above or unless the Senate shall otherwise specially order, committees shall be appointed by the President, with exception of the chair whose nomination and ratification shall be governed by paragraph (a). The President shall in making such appointments give consideration to representation of both the majority and minority parties relative to their respective representation in the Senate and in any event shall reserve at least 3 positions on the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and at least 1 position upon each standing or special committee for a Senate member of the minority party and appointments to such positions shall be made by the Senate minority party leader. For the purposes of this rule and rule 56, the term "minority party" shall mean the political party of those members of the Senate who, in the aggregate, constitute the second largest group of members of the Senate affiliated with a political party.

House Rule 18A

There shall be 1 member of the minority party on all committees of conference and 1 on the committee on Bills in the Third Reading. On all other standing and joint committees, the percent of minority party membership shall be at least equal to the percent of minority party membership in the House of Representatives as of the first day of the session; provided, further, that where such percentage results in a fraction of a number, the fraction shall be rounded off to the nearest whole; provided, however, that the minority party shall under no circumstances have less than 4 members on the committee on Ethics, 4 on the committee on Human Resources and Employee Engagement , 3 on the committee on Rules and 7 on the committee on Ways and Means. In no case shall minority party representation be less than 2 members on all other standing and joint committees. ...

Minnesota

Senate Rule 10.1

The majority and minority groups must each be represented on all standing committees of the Senate substantially in proportion to their numbers in the Senate. The majority group shall assign the number of positions the minority group will hold on each committee. The minority group must be given adequate notice of its positions before the session begins.

Missouri

Senate Rule 26

The membership of all standing committees and of all other committees and commissions, unless otherwise provided by the act or resolution creating them, shall be composed, as nearly as may be, of majority and minority party members in the same proportion as the number of majority and minority party members in the senate bears to the total membership of the senate. The president pro tem, the majority floor leader, and the minority floor leader shall be ex-officio members of all standing and statutory committees of the senate for the purpose of a quorum and discussion but shall have no vote unless they are duly appointed members of such committee.

House Rule 21

... (3) The membership of all regular standing committees and all other committees and commissions, unless otherwise provided by the act or resolution creating them, shall be composed as nearly as may be, of majority and minority party members in the same proportion as the number of majority and minority party members in the House bears to the total membership of the House, except for the Ethics Committee. The Ethics Committee shall consist of an equal number of members from the majority and minority party. ...

New Hampshire

House Rule 29

The membership on all standing committees and special committees of the House shall be divided between the two major political parties in the same proportion that the House membership of the majority party bears to the House membership of the minority party. No member shall serve on more than two standing committees; membership on the Rules Committee and special committees shall not be included for purposes of this calculation. The appointments to committees for the majority party shall be made by the Speaker and appointments to committees for the minority party shall be made by the Speaker with the advice of the duly appointed minority party leader. Membership on committees shall reflect a broad diversity of experience and interests. Notwithstanding the provisions of this rule, the Speaker and the minority party leader may agree on a different proportion for the membership of any particular committee.

New York

Senate Rule VII

... c. Conference membership of committees. The membership of all committees, except the Ethics and Internal Governance Committee, and unless otherwise provided by the act or resolution creating them, shall be composed, as nearly as may be, of Majority Conference and Minority Conference members in the same proportion as the number of Majority Conference and Minority Conference members in the Senate bears to the total membership of the Senate. For purposes of committee composition, in the event that the proportion of Majority Conference members would result in a fractional amount, the number of Majority Conference members shall be rounded up to the next whole number. Further, in the

case of an excused absence of any committee member on either the Finance or the Rules Committee, the Conference Leader(s) for the conference which has an excused absence on such committee may designate an alternate member of the conference for meetings of such committees provided written notice is provided and accepted by the Temporary President at least one hour prior to the commencement of such committee meeting. ...

North Carolina

House Rule 26

... (b) The Speaker shall establish the number of members of each standing committee and appoint the members in a manner to reflect the partisan membership of the House, except that the Committee on Ethics shall have an equal number of members of the majority and minority. ...

Ohio

House Rule 13

The Speaker shall name all committees and subcommittees, and shall appoint all members and chairs thereto. The Speaker shall appoint members to a standing committee so that its membership is proportional to the partisan composition of the House. The chair and the vice-chair of the Finance Committee and the Rules and Reference Committee shall not be included in making this calculation. The Minority Leader, in a manner to be determined by the minority caucus, may recommend for the Speaker's consideration minority party members for each committee.

Oregon

House Rule 8.05

... (2) The Speaker shall appoint majority party and minority party members to all committees, in no lesser than the same proportion as the number of minority party members in the House to the total membership of the House. Except as otherwise provided by law, the Speaker shall determine the number of members of each committee. ...

South Carolina

Senate Rule 19B

... The total membership of each Standing Committee shall be composed of members of the two major political party caucuses in proportion to the number of Senators of each of such political party caucuses as nearly as possible and ensuring that the majority party as defined in these Rules contains a majority of the membership within each Standing Committee. For purposes of determining committee composition, percentages shall be rounded as follows: percentages of .49 or below shall be rounded down and percentages of .50 and above shall be rounded up. ...

Virginia

House Rule 16(a)

Except for the Committee on Rules, membership on all standing committees and subcommittees will be contingent upon membership or nonmembership in the majority party caucus. The apportionment of members will be according to the same ratio of members in the House of Delegates who are members or nonmembers of the majority party caucus. If such ratio would represent a fractional number of the committee or subcommittee membership assigned to the majority party caucus, then the number of majority party caucus members will be the next highest whole number of committee or subcommittee members. For the purposes of this rule only, members who do not caucus with the majority party caucus or the largest minority party caucus will be deemed part of the majority party caucus. ...

Wisconsin*Senate Rule 20 (2)*

(c) The majority and minority parties of the senate shall be represented on all senate standing committees and on all joint standing committees on the basis prescribed by the chairperson of the committee on senate organization, but at least in proportion to the representation of the 2 major political parties in the membership of the senate unless, for the senate membership of a joint committee, such proportional representation places the senate majority party in a minority position on the joint committee. ...

Wyoming*Senate Rule 2-7*

Membership on committees shall be apportioned as nearly as possible as to reflect the percentage of the elected membership of the majority and minority parties of the Senate. ...

House Rule 2-3

Membership on committees shall be apportioned as nearly as possible to reflect the percentage of the elected membership of the majority and minority parties of the House. ...