

ROLE PLAY SCRIPT

Who: Speaker of the House

What:

- You run the proceedings in the House
- You call on Representatives to speak
- You decide whether amendments offered during the debate are germane

Where: House Chamber

Setting: S.238 has passed in the Senate. The bill has had first reading in the House. The House Health and Welfare committee has held hearings and has passed the bill out favorably. We are entering the House for the second reading of the bill and floor debate.

ASK THE REPORTER OF THE BILL TO SPEAK

1. Call the House to order and ask Reporter of the bill to speak:

“Please come to order (bang gavel). I am calling the House to order to discuss S.238, An Act to Increase the Legal Age for Purchase And Use Of Tobacco to 21. Would the Reporter of the bill, House Member _____ from _____, please rise and explain the Committee’s recommendation?”

You listen to the Reporter. When the Reporter is finished, you say:

“Thank you Representative _____. Are there any questions for the Reporter?”

This is the time for Representatives to ask questions if they don’t understand the bill.

Debate and amendments come later. You call on the Representatives that have questions. You call on the Reporter to respond.

WHEN A LEGISLATOR RISES TO SPEAK IN THE HOUSE, THEY SPEAK TO YOU, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, EVEN WHEN THEY ARE ASKING QUESTIONS OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE

DEBATE AND AMENDMENTS

2. You ask for debate on the bill:

“Would any House Member like to comment on the bill or offer any amendments to the bill?”

You call on the Representatives one at a time. Make sure they stand up while they are active on the floor. If a Member of the House offers an amendment and another member raises ‘a point of order’, it is your job to decide whether or not the amendment is germane.

GERMANE MEANS "RELATED TO." AN AMENDMENT IS NOT GERMANE IF IT IS UNRELATED TO THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL

If you decide the amendment is not germane, you say so and ask again for comments and amendments.

If you decide the amendment is germane, you say:

“The House Member from _____ has proposed to amend the bill by (you describe the proposed amendment). I have determined that this proposed amendment is germane. Is there any discussion about this proposal?”

IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THERE IS NO NEED TO SECOND MOTIONS TO AMEND.

You call on Representatives who have comments on the amendment. After everyone who has a comment has spoken, you call for a vote on the amendment.

You say:

“We will now vote on whether to amend the bill as proposed by the Representative from _____. (You restate the amendment.) All in favor of the amendment signify by saying ‘Aye’. (You listen to the vote.) All opposed say ‘Nay’.” (You listen to the vote and decide which vote won.)

You say:

“The (Ayes/Nays) have it. The amendment (passes or fails).”

CLOSING DEBATE AND VOTE ON BILL

3. "Are there any further amendments or any further debate on S.238?"

If there are, call on the House Members and repeat the process. If not, move on to vote.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS ROLE PLAY, WE ARE GOING TO SKIP THE THIRD READING OF THE BILL. THIS WILL BE THE FINAL READING.

You say:

"We will now vote on S.238. All in favor please signify by saying 'Aye'. You listen to the vote. "All opposed say 'Nay'. The (Ayes/Nays) have it, the bill (passes/fails).

SIGNING THE BILL

4. For the purpose of the role play, assume the bill passes, sign the back, send it on to the Governor.