

Modified Closed Rule: Permits general debate for a specified period of time, but limits amendments to those designated in the special rule or the House Rules Committee report accompanying the special rule. May preclude amendments to particular portions of a bill.

Modified Open Rule: Permits general debate for a specified period of time, and allows any member to offer amendments consistent with House rules subject only to an overall time limit on the amendment process and a requirement that amendments be pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*.

Morning Business: In the Senate, routine business transacted at the beginning of the Morning Hour, or by unanimous consent throughout the day.

Morning Hour: In the Senate, the first two hours of a session following an adjournment, rather than a recess.

Obligation: Binding agreement by a government agency to pay for goods, products, or services.

Official Objectors: House members who screen measures on the Private Calendar.

Official Title: Statement of a measure's subject and purpose, which appears before the enacting clause. *See also Popular Title.*

Omnibus Bill: A measure that combines the provisions related to several disparate subjects into a single measure. Examples include continuing appropriations resolutions that might contain two or more of the thirteen annual appropriations bills.

Open Rule: Permits general debate for a specified period of time and allows any member to offer an amendment that complies with the standing rules of the House.

Ordered Reported: Committee's formal action of agreeing to report a measure to its chamber.

Original Bill: A measure drafted by a committee and introduced by its chair when the committee reports the measure back to its chamber. It is not referred back to the committee after introduction.

Outlays: Payments to liquidate obligations.

Papers: Documents passed back and forth between the chambers, including the engrossed measure, the amendments, the messages transmitting them, and the conference report. *See also Custody of the Papers.*

Parliamentary Inquiry: Member's question posed on the floor to the presiding officer, or in committee or subcommittee to the chair, about a pending procedural situation.

Pass Over without Prejudice: A request in the House to defer action on a measure called up from the Private Calendar without affecting the measure's position on the calendar.

Passed: Term for approval of bills and joint resolutions.

PAYGO (Pay-As-You-Go): Process by which direct spending or revenue legislation must be offset so that a surplus is not reduced or a deficit increased.

Perfecting Amendment: Amendment that alters, but does not completely substitute or replace, language in another amendment.

Pocket Veto: Act of the president in withholding approval of a measure after Congress has adjourned *sine die*.

Point of Order: Objection to a current proceeding, measure, or amendment because the proposed action violates a rule of the chamber, written precedent, or rule-making statute.

Popular Title: The name by which a measure is known. *See also Official Title.*

Postpone: There are two types of motions to postpone: to postpone (indefinitely) kills a proposal, but to postpone to a day certain merely changes the day or time of consideration.

Preamble: Introductory language in a bill preceding the enacting clause. It describes the reasons for and intent of a measure. In a joint resolution, the language appears before the resolving clause. In a concurrent or simple resolution, it appears before the text.

Precedence: Order in which amendments or motions may be offered and acted upon.

Precedent: Previous ruling by a presiding officer that becomes part of the procedures of a chamber.

President Pro Tempore: Presiding officer of the Senate in the absence of the vice president; usually the majority-party senator with the longest period of continuous service.