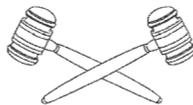

HOUSE PRACTICE

**A Guide to the Rules,
Precedents, and
Procedures of the House**

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Special-order speeches may be granted by designation of party leaders for up to one hour or 30 minutes per Member. Limits on the number and duration of such speeches are enforced by the exercise of the Speaker's power of recognition, which follows a policy announced by the Speaker on opening day.

B. Privileged Business

§ 4. In General; Under the Constitution

Privileged business is business of such importance as to enjoy precedence over the regular order of business. It is business that can supersede or interrupt other matters that might otherwise be called up or be pending before the House. *Manual* §§ 853-857, 870, 871.

Privileged questions are to be distinguished from what are termed "questions of privilege." A privileged question is any question given priority under the rules of the House, whereas "questions of privilege" pertain to the safety and dignity of the House, to the integrity of its proceedings, or to the rights or reputation of its members under rule IX. 3 Hinds §§ 2654, 2718; see QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGE.

Privilege may derive from the Constitution, from the rules and practices of the House, and from statutes enacted pursuant to legislative rulemaking power. For example, a veto message from the President is privileged for consideration when received by the House. This privilege arises from article I, section 7, clause 2 of the Constitution. See VETO PROCEDURE. Likewise, because the exclusive power of the House in the impeachment of civil officers arises from article I, section 2, clause 5 of the Constitution, the House has determined that propositions to impeach, and reports from a committee investigating charges of impeachment, are highly privileged. See IMPEACHMENT. Similarly, because article VI, clause 3 of the Constitution provides that Representatives shall take an oath, the administration of the oath to Members is privileged. A Member-elect appearing during a session may be administered the oath as a matter of the highest privilege that may interrupt other business. See OATHS.

Certain propositions are privileged for consideration because of indirect constitutional mandates. Examples include concurrent resolutions for adjournment *sine die* or to a day certain and motions incident to establishing a quorum, which are discussed in ADJOURNMENT and QUORUMS. However, privilege is not conferred merely because the question is one committed to the House under the Constitution. *Manual* § 702. For example, a resolution to confirm the nomination of the Vice President, a duty committed to the