

Commonwealth of the Chesapeake Bylaws

These bylaws shall include all things meta-related that are prohibited from being changed by all parties barring the State Clerk, and those ranking above them. These shall supercede anything stated in the Commonwealth of the Chesapeake Constitution and passed laws, but not meta-wide rules. The State Clerk may change any portion of the bylaws, but shall make an announcement at least one week in advance.

Scheduling and Voting

- Unless otherwise stated by these bylaws or the clerk, the following will happen for **bills.**
    - The bill shall be read on the Monday of that week.
    - The amendment period for the bill shall be a length of two days between Tuesday and Thursday.
        - Amendments to bills just need a simple majority of those voting to pass.
            - If an amendment to a bill is proposed in the last six hours of an amendment period, then it shall require a quorum of three people to pass.
        - The person that proposed an amendment in the amendment period must vote on the amendment for their vote to count.
        - Should any two passed amendments conflict with each other, the clerk shall work out the best solution, usually done by merging the text as accurately as possible.
    - The voting period for the bill shall be a length of two days between Thursday and Saturday.
        - It will always take a simple majority quorum of those voting to pass a bill; the Lieutenant Governor, if available, is allowed to break ties.
            - If no quorum exists, then ignore the word “quorum”.
        - Votes shall be functionally archived as “Yea”s, “Nay”s, and “Abstain”s.

            - If a vote is different than the three words above, then it is at the State Clerk's discretion to assign the vote the proper archivable function.
        - Votes may be closed early at any time by the State Clerk if all voting members have voted.
- Unless otherwise stated by these bylaws or the clerk, the following will happen for **resolutions.**
    - The resolution shall be read on the Monday of that week.
    - The amendment period for the resolution shall be a length of two days between Tuesday and Thursday.
        - Amendments to resolutions just need a simple majority of those voting to pass.
            - If an amendment to a resolution is proposed in the last six hours of an amendment period, then it shall require a quorum of three people to pass.
        - The person that proposed an amendment in the amendment period must vote on the amendment for their vote to count.
        - Should any two passed amendments conflict with each other, the clerk shall work out the best solution, usually done by merging the text as accurately as possible.
    - The voting period for the resolution shall be a length of two days between Thursday and Saturday.
        - It will always take a simple majority quorum of those voting to pass a resolution; the Lieutenant Governor, if available, is allowed to break ties.
            - If no quorum exists, then ignore the word "quorum".
        - Votes shall be functionally archived as "Yea"s, "Nay"s, and "Abstain"s.
            - If a vote is different than the three words above, then it is at the State Clerk's discretion to assign the vote the proper archivable function.
        - Votes may be closed early at any time by the State Clerk if all voting members have voted.
    - Ratifying or Unratifying Federal Amendments fall under as a Resolution.
- Unless otherwise stated by these bylaws or the clerk, the following will happen for **Amendments.**
    - The Amendment shall be read on the Monday of that week.
    - The amendment period for the Amendment shall be a length of two days between Monday and Wednesday.
        - Amendments to Amendments need a simple majority quorum to pass.
            - If no quorum exists, then ignore the word "quorum".
        - The person that proposed an amendment in the amendment period must vote on the amendment for their vote to count.

        - Should any two or more passed amendments conflict with each other, the clerk shall work out the best solution, usually done by merging the text as accurately as possible.
            - If there is no way to merge the text without changing the fundamental structure of any of the amendments, then the amendment with the most seniority, aka the one posted first, shall take priority.
    - The voting period for the Amendment shall be a length of three days between Wednesday and Saturday.
        - It will always take a 2/3rds vote quorum of those voting to pass an Amendment.
            - If no quorum exists, then ignore the word "quorum".
        - Votes shall be functionally archived as "Yea"s, "Nay"s, and "Abstain"s.
            - If a vote is different than the three words above, then it is at the State Clerk's discretion to assign the vote the proper archivable function.
        - Votes may be closed early at any time by the State Clerk if all voting members have voted.
- Unless otherwise stated by these bylaws or the clerk, the following will happen for **leadership elections.**
    - Upon the start of a new term, or upon the call from an Assemblyperson in the event of a vacancy, nominations will open for said leadership for a length of two days between Monday and Wednesday.
    - The voting period for the leadership elections shall be a length of two days between Wednesday and Friday.
        - It will always take a plurality of a vote to elect a candidate.
        - Votes shall be functionally archived as the candidate's reddit username.
            - If a vote is different from the candidate's reddit username, then it is at the State Clerk's discretion to assign the vote the proper archivable function.
        - Votes may be closed early at any time by the State Clerk if all voting members have voted.
- Unless otherwise stated by these bylaws or the clerk, the following will happen for **confirmation hearings.**
    - Upon the nomination of a candidate to an executive or court position, the candidate will have a nomination hearing for a length of two days between Monday and Wednesday.
    - The voting period for the confirmation hearings shall be a length of two days between Wednesday and Friday.
        - It will always take a simple majority of those voting to elect a candidate.

        - Votes shall be functionally archived as “Yea”s, “Nay”s, and “Abstain”s.
            - If a vote is different than the three words above, then it is at the State Clerk’s discretion to assign the vote the proper archivable function.
        - Votes may be closed early at any time by the State Clerk if all voting members have voted.
- If a comment is edited, the clerk has the discretion to nullify it.
- At any time an action is done after the determined time created by the State Clerk set on any legislative action, the State Clerk may nullify such action(s).

Elections, Proxies, and Removals

- Any Assemblyperson at any time may request a proxy for themselves for a period of up to two weeks.
    - The proxy must be requested by either modmailing the /r/modeleasternstate subreddit or discord messaging the State Clerk (Kingthero #6184).
    - The person that has requested the proxy may not carry out any function in the Commonwealth of the Chesapeake during their time utilizing a proxy.
    - A proxy may only be renewed a month after the end of the previous proxy.
        - The only exception to this is if the new proxy’s length added on to the previous proxy is still under two weeks.
- If the Governor fails to act on three voting periods worth of legislation, then they shall be removed from office.
- If the Lieutenant Government fails to act on three voting periods worth of tiebreaking on legislation, or fails to act in place of the Governor when needed three times, then they shall be removed from office.
- If a Cabinet position (including AG) fails to post a directive or other activity (including relevant legislation) within thirty days, their office shall become vacant.
    - If it is the member’s first time, while in a Cabinet position, to reach the inactivity cutoff, they shall be given a one week extension alongside a formal warning.
- If an Assemblyperson fails to act on three consecutive voting periods worth of legislation, then they shall be removed from office.
    - In the event of a vacancy, parties have exactly one week from either the moment they are notified of the vacancy or the moment they create the vacancy by force.
        - If the vacancy is not filled in this time frame, then the Governor may appoint a replacement to complete the rest of the term.
            - The Governor’s replacement will own their seat as an individual.
    - In the event of a vacancy where an Independent Assemblyperson loses their seat, the Governor may appoint a replacement to complete the rest of the term.
        - The Governor’s replacement will own their seat as an individual.

        - If the Independent joins a Party, they still own their own seat, and that Party may not replace them.
    - In the event of a vacancy where an Assemblyperson fails to swear in for over a week, the Governor may appoint a replacement to complete the rest of the term.
        - The Governor's replacement will own their seat as an individual.
    - Nobody that has been removed via inactivity may replace anybody in the Assembly during the same term they were removed.
- If the Speaker fails to act on three poison pill investigations, they shall be removed from the Speaker position.
- If the Court fails to respond to a petition within one week of submission, or fails to transition procedure within one week of a necessary transition, or fails to conclude a case within two weeks of the last input, then the Justices shall each get one strike.
    - If a Justice has three strikes, then they shall be removed.
        - One strike is removed per fully present appearance, determined by the State Clerk.
    - If a case is hindered due to this bylaw, then the case shall be mistrialed.
    - After the conclusion of a Court Case, the State Clerk shall discuss with the active Justice the participation of the other Justices, and shall decide within reason if an individual deserves a strike based on inactivity relative to this bylaw.
- If an Assemblyperson is replaced during the voting period, and they voted, their vote shall remain valid. This means that you can not replace somebody to change a vote.

Legislation

- All pieces of legislation shall be submitted by either modmailing the /r/modeleasternstate subreddit or discord messaging the State Clerk (Kingthero #6184).
    - Anyone can submit legislation.
    - Legislation that is not properly Reddit formatted may be rejected by the State Clerk.
        -   may not be used in any legislation.
    - Legislation that does not distinct itself from similar legislation may be rejected by the State Clerk (Usually in the case of Constitutional Conventions, Ratifying Amendments, and various Assembly procedures).
    - Legislation that is unrealistic, has a meta conflict, or has some other circumstance discovered by the State Clerk to be of issue may be rejected by the State Clerk.
    - Legislation that purposefully extends the length of the bill by including entire pieces of existing law may be rejected by the State clerk, especially if unamended pieces are included.
    - Legislation that is copied from real life legislation is not allowed except in cases allowed by the State Clerk.

    - The Speaker can change the docket order up until the Sunday at 11:59 PM EST before the Monday's posting.
        - Changes may be made after the bill postings are completed and posted.
        - Any arbitrary changes, such as moving arbitrary amounts of old bills to the current term's docket, may be rejected by the Clerk.
        - Old term bills can not be moved within or into anything but the current term.
    - Legislation that is not currently on the schedule (meaning on the Floor for debate, amendments, or a vote) may be withdrawn by the author(s) at any time.
- All pieces of legislation submitted with references to other bills, Amendments, or a Chesapeake law code shall have the appropriate hyperlinks included.
    - Failure to do so may result in the legislation being rejected.
- All pieces of legislation will be considered as "Bills", "Resolutions", or "Amendments", with Bills representing any law that does not change the Chesapeake Constitution, and Amendments representing changes to the Chesapeake Constitution.
    - Bills are categorized by B.xxx
    - Resolutions are categorized by R.xxx
    - Amendments are categorized by A.xxx
    - Implementing an Amendment of the U.S. Constitution shall be considered a Bill, and only requires a simple majority.
        - Upon the passage of a U.S. Amendment by Congress, the State Clerk shall be responsible for putting the first vote of the Amendment on the docket, with the author marked as Meta.
- All pieces of legislation that pass the Assembly and reach the Governor can be signed, vetoed, or abstained on.
    - Signatures and abstains will result in the legislation being put into law.
    - Vetoes will result in the legislation not being put into law.
        - The only veto allowed is a full veto.
- No legislation shall be made to change the name of the legislature or State, the flag of the State, the motto of the State or the seal of the State without approval from the State Clerk.
    - Based on precedent, the name of the legislature shall remain as "Assembly".
- Any amendment to legislation in the amendment phase that the Speaker deems "Poison Pilled" through the official process shall be nullified.
- Budgets shall have the following restrictions:
    - Revenue
        - The change of any tax rates need to be done by either formally amending the laws that implemented such taxes, or by the consent of the State Clerk for taxes with no clear rates set.

        - The repeal of any taxes need to be done by formally repealing the laws that implemented such taxes.
        - Any new taxes need to be approved through the State Clerk first in order to audit them correctly.
    - Expenditure
        - Any expenditure change that exceeds a change of +/- 5% must be approved through the State Clerk in order to authenticate the purpose and evidence used to make such changes.
        - Additionally, the hard caps of 50% and 100% shall be established, and only broken by the consent of the State Clerk.
        - The repeal of any expenditures needs to be done by formally repealing the laws that implemented such expenses.
        - Some expenses may be deemed ineligible to be removed by the State Clerk.
        - Any new expenditures need to be approved through the State Clerk first in order to audit them correctly.
    - Template
        - No dollar values can be changed except by the State Clerk.
        - Variations to the Template are allowed, but the State Clerk has final discretion upon Budget submission to accept or deny it.
        - The dollar values will be updated per Budget term based on inflation or any other future values.
    - The State Clerk ultimately has authority over the submission of the budget, but may not deny a budget if all bylaws are reasonably followed.
- Only one non-graded resolution and one non-graded bill will be allowed per individual on the State docket per name month.
    - Use of separate individuals to circumvent this policy will result in temporary termination of all non-graded submission privileges.
    - Only Chesapeake Executives and Assemblypeople may submit non-graded material.
    - Non-graded material will be held under strict scrutiny for being relevant, among other previous restrictions, meaning that the State Clerk has more power to reject it.
    - Non-graded material will not be utilized for any modifiers whatsoever, including event mods.
- Legislation resubmitted during the same term or the following term of the Assembly after its submission to the docket, barring anything greater than minor changes as deemed by the State Clerk, shall not be allowed unless given explicit permission by the State Clerk.
    - If a piece of legislation sees the Assembly floor, regardless of its original submission term, this bylaw applies for the current term as well.
- The Docket order will always be to the State Clerk's discretion.

    - Currently, the system is "newest term first", with the Speaker being able to move bills out of the older terms to a newer term.

Prestige

- All Assembly candidates that get elected, serve a full term, and then proceed to get elected the next term are able to change the name of their district to whichever city in that district they please.
    - Along with this, the candidates will also be able to get a special prestige color on the assembly map.
    - By the consent of another Assemblyperson, the name of another District can be changed.
- If the Governor serves at least half of a term, then they get to rename a district to whichever city they please.
    - This renews at a once-per-term basis.
    - Assembly prestige has priority over Governor prestige.
        - If the author of an Assembly name change is still in the Assembly consecutive to the previous term(s) that the change was made, the Governor may not override such change.
- Due to the system set up in the First Assembly, Republicans will always be the first party listed on the sidebar/spreadsheet, followed by the Democrats, followed by the Bull Moose Party, and then followed by the Socialists.
    - This applies to the Spreadsheet and the Assembly List on the sidebar and the wiki.
    - This does not apply to the Assembly Map, which is done by ideology from left to right, left to right.
    - Independents will always be on the bottom.
- Order of which candidates are listed on the sidebar/spreadsheet is based on previous term length, followed by whoever swears in first.
    - This does not apply to the wiki, which is purely based on swearing in.
    - If the swear in dates differ, those that are on an earlier swear in date take precedent over previous term length.

Court Provisions

- State Justices will be in charge of deciding the Rules, Policies and Procedures of their own state's court.
- State Justices will have one (1) week in order to either grant or deny cert on a case.
- State Justices will have two (2) weeks upon the closure of a case to deliver a ruling unless the Justices indicate an extended deadline is necessary due to the length of the opinion.

Miscellaneous

- The main Chesapeake subreddit may not house Press; all Press must go on the main Press subreddit, /r/ModelUSPress.
- Any attempts by the Assembly to establish any form of rules or procedure must be approved by the clerk, or otherwise be denied.