

THE LEGISLATIVE CODE

Section 1 - General Provisions

1. Short Title
 - a. This Act may be cited as the *Legislative Code*.
2. Purpose
 - a. The purposes of this Act are to:
 - i. replace older legislation pertaining to legislative procedure with a single act
 - ii. simplify the process of looking up policy
3. Definitions
 - a. Speaker: Defined as the leader of the Legislature as defined in the constitution
 - b. Vice-Speaker: The Position directly below that of the Speaker
 - c. Secretary: The third position in the Cabinet below the Speaker and Vice-Speaker
 - d. Legislative Cabinet: The combined positions of the Speaker, Vice-Speaker and Secretary
 - e. Lower Cabinet: Used in reference to only the Vice-Speaker and Secretary
 - f. Right of Approval: Is defined as approving any motion which requires a vote by legislature (motion to adjourn, motion to propose, motion to amend, etc.) to be pushed to a vote
 - g. Right to Table: The power to push a motion to be considered during the next session
 - h. Motion: Is defined as anything requiring a vote by legislature to be approved (motion to adjourn, motion to propose, motion to amend, etc.)
4. Interpretation
 - a. In this Act:
 - i. “Legislature” uses the definition as Article 1 of the Democraciv Constitution.
 - ii. “Legislation” includes bills and acts
 - iii. “Legislator” means any Legislator or their legal proxy
 - iv. “Speaker” means the *Speaker of the Legislature* as defined by Article 1 Section 1.2 (a) of the Democraciv Constitution.
 - v. “simple majority” is defined as passed with $\frac{1}{2}+1$ of valid votes
 - vi. “supermajority” is defined as passed with $\frac{2}{3}$ of valid votes

Section 2 - Participation

1. The Legislative Cabinet
 - a. As per the constitution, the Cabinet consists of three positions:

- i. The Speaker
 - ii. The Vice-Speaker
 - iii. the Secretary
- 2. Hierarchy of The Legislature
 - a. The Speaker is the highest level of Legislature, the Vice-Speaker directly below them, and the Secretary is below the Vice-Speaker, below them is the rest of legislature.
- 3. Further definition of Legislative Cabinet Responsibilities
 - a. The Speaker
 - i. The Speaker is the leader of the Legislature, their responsibilities include;
 - 1. Ensuring the smooth operation of Legislature
 - 2. Creating and maintaining the official document for the list of enacted legislation as well as maintaining the official document for the Legislative Code, the Executive Code, the Penal Code, the Electoral Code and the Game Code.
 - 3. Posting each individual legislators votes in a clear conscience manner of the Speakers choosing
 - 4. Represent the Legislature in court cases or, to appoint a willing representative
 - b. Vice-Speaker
 - i. The Vice-Speaker exists to aid the Speaker in their responsibilities.
 - 1. The Vice-Speaker has the same powers and responsibilities as the Speaker however, the Speaker may overrule any action performed by the Vice-Speaker.
 - c. The Secretary
 - i. The Secretary primarily exists to document attendance (including proxies), record vote results, post the results of voting within twenty four hours of a sessions completion, and communicate to the Ministry/Moderation which votes have passed.
 - 1. The Secretary shall handle the responsibilities mentioned above however, the Speaker and Vice-Speaker may handle these duties if necessary.
 - 2. The Secretary has all of the powers and responsibilities of the Speaker however, the Speaker may overrule any action performed by the Secretary.
 - d. Universal Responsibilities
 - i. The Cabinet must uphold and enforce the laws of the constitution and active legislation
 - ii. The Cabinet must uphold and enforce all active legislation regarding legislative procedure

- iii. The Cabinet must uphold fairness in legislative sessions, undue censorship and abuse of powers are grounds for recall
 - iv. Any member of Cabinet which has motioned for a proposal must recuse their right of approval [Sec. Three, 5. (a), (ii)]
 - v. Official statements on behalf of the Legislature may be issued by any member of the Cabinet
- e. Defined Powers
 - i. The Cabinet have the following powers to enforce fairness and the smooth running of the Legislature
 - 1. Right of Approval (motion to propose, motion to amend, etc.)
 - 2. Right to Table (table any bill for good reason)
 - ii. The Speaker may override any action performed by the Lower Cabinet
- 4. Elections and Appointments
 - a. Henceforth, an election to appoint the speaker will be held at the beginning of each legislative term, this election will use the First-Past-The-Post voting method.
 - b. It is the responsibility of the legislature to conduct the vote in a transparent AND unbiased manner, methods include but are not limited to:
 - i. An open vote inside of the discord channel or a reddit post.
 - ii. An election manned by a third-party moderator deemed to be free from conflicts of interest
 - c. It is the Cabinet's duty to decide which system will be used for electing his successor.
 - d. The Vice-Speaker shall be appointed by the Speaker upon the Speaker taking office
 - e. The Secretary shall be appointed by the Speaker upon the Speaker taking office
 - f. The Speaker reserves the right recall the positions of Vice-Speaker and Secretary at any time
 - g. The Lower Cabinet is subject to the same recall conditions as that which is laid out in the constitution for the Speaker
- 5. Miscellaneous
 - a. All powers and responsibilities are shared amongst the Cabinet however, certain positions are intended to prioritize some over others (such as the Secretary)
 - b. Any action performed by the Lower Cabinet may be overruled by the Speaker

Section 3 - Administration

1. Bill Requirements

- a. All bills to be presented to the legislature shall be posted to the /r/DemocracivLegislature subreddit before the beginning of the session in which it is proposed and contain the following information
 - i. The post titles must contain the name of the bill, AND
 - ii. The post must contain the full text of the bill, OR
 - iii. The post must contain a link to the full text
 - b. All bills must have a minimum number of sponsors set at 10% (rounded up, minimum 1 maximum 4) +1 of the current Legislature size. Therefore, a Legislature of 10 will require 2 sponsors per bill, a Legislature of 20 requiring 3, and a Legislature of 33 requiring 5 (3.3 rounds up to 4, +1). This does not include the main author of the bill. Sponsorship must be done before the start of the voting session in order to be on the voting agenda, provided at least one sponsor or author is a legislator. Sponsors may be any of the following: a)Legislators, b)Presidents/vice-presidents c)Councillors and d) Governors
 - c. Bills failing to adhere to the requirements of this section shall be automatically tabled until such time as these requirements are met
2. Voting Records
- a. Pursuant to subsection 2(5)(a) of the Democraciv Constitution, the secretary shall ensure that the results of legislative voting are made clear to the public, including
 - i. Which legislators voted
 - ii. How they voted, and
 - iii. The outcome of the votes
 - b. The precise means by which this is achieved are left up to the legislative cabinet.

Section 4 - Legislative Procedure

1. Legislative Sessions
 - a. Legislative sessions shall consist of two separate 24 hour periods, which shall take place at a location and time decided upon by the legislature as a whole (for example, a designated Discord channel)
 - b. Pursuant to subsection 1(2)(2.) of the Democraciv Constitution, these sessions shall occur twice a week.
 - c. The first of these periods shall be a designated “Open Floor” discussion period during which Game actions, legal motions and bills are proposed and debated, and amendments are discussed
 - d. Any objects proposed during the open floor period and meeting the requirements of its category shall be added to the voting agenda.
 - e. Amendments to new legislations that have never passed the legislature can be proposed at anytime during the debate session and do not require any sponsors in order to be on the agenda.

- f. The second of these periods is an “Active Voting” period, during which legislators shall cast their votes upon those bills which have been added to the voting agenda and the votes shall be recorded, the beginning of a call for a vote shall initiate a period during which legislators may enter their votes as “yea”, “nay”, or “abstain” for the acts of legislation in question. This voting period shall end if
 - i. 24 hours passes since the opening of the period; or
 - ii. All legislators or their proxies have entered votes
- g. It shall be the duty of the legislature to ensure that the public has access to view the transcripts of these discussions (for example, by allowing viewing access to the discord channels)
- h. If voting on a specific motion results in the number of “abstain” votes being greater than or equal to the number of “yea” votes and “nay” votes combined, the motion is tabled, which means that the results of this vote are not binding, instead the motion is automatically added to the voting agenda on the next session of Legislature. If the second vote also results in the same situation, the results of the second vote are binding.
- i. The speaker (or a deputy thereof) shall submit a text post in r/democracivlegislature before an Active Voting period [as defined in LC Section 4, 1.d.] with the respective voting agenda.
- j. To vote on bills, amendments etc. that are on the voting agenda, a legislator OR his proxy has to comment on the text post [as defined in (LC Section 4, 1.f.)] with his respective votes.
 - i. The vote of a legislator does not count and is not legitimate if he OR his proxy didn’t comment it under the respective subreddit post.

Section 5 - Modification of Legislation

1. Unapproved Amendments
 - a. Enacted legislation, legislation awaiting approval from the President, or legislation being considered by the legislature during a session may only be changed or amended by a vote from the legislative branch and subsequent approval by the ministry, except
 - i. The author of the legislation may make grammatical corrections or other alterations to improve legibility provided that the meaning remains unchanged, the legislature must be notified of any such changes to allow for updates to be made to all copies of said legislation
2. Alterations
 - a. Changing a bill that is not currently law is simply the alteration of a bill and not the alteration of a law. It is not applicable to the normal process of amendments. If an amendment is passed that alters a pending bill, the

amendment is automatically applied to the bill and the bill is considered a new bill. The amendment version is presented to the President for veto vote, not the bill and the amendment separated"

- b. In the event that the bill is tabled but the amendment is passed, the amendment still added onto the bill as per Chapter 5, and is added to the agenda with the specified changes.
3. Special Cases
 - a. In the case that an amendment to a bill is passed at the same time as a bill, the amendment is applied to the bill automatically and the bill is considered a new bill, freshly passed by the legislature. A reordering of this process may be made if the specific amendment vote stipulates an alternative processing. For example, an amendment to a bill may be written such that 'This amendment is only to be processed should the 'XXXX act' be passed, and this amendment shall be processed as an amendment to law'"

Section 6 - Legislative Committees

1. Requirements
 - a. A Legislative Committee must have the need for permanent existence.
 - b. The Committee needs a bill of its own, that must include its statute.
 - c. It needs to be composed of at least two legislators at creation and beyond. One of which must be the chairman.
 - d. It may or may not have members that are not legislators serve on it [To be decided by each Committee's statute]. These members that aren't legislators must have a specific valid reason to serve on it [Subject to analysis by the Judicial Branch, but not requiring prior approval].
 - e. It may have an advisory or legally binding role, to be decided by each Committee's statute. The Legislature is advised to heavily scrutinize Legally Binding Committees.
2. Creation Process
 - a. Any Legislator can propose a new Committee. To do that, they must write up the bill stating the purpose of the Committee and why it needs to exist permanently. The bill also needs to have its initial statute and list the two founding members and who's the first chairman.
 - b. The Committee will then be subject to approval by the Legislature and constitution like any other bill. The Legislature is advised to not approve Committees if they don't absolutely need to be permanent.
 - i. Legally binding committees require a $\frac{2}{3}$ supermajority vote to be approved.
 - c. Changing the Committee's statute works like amending any other bill by the Legislature and constitution.

- i. Changing the statute of Legally binding committees require an approval of a 2/3 supermajority vote.
- 3. The Statute
 - a. The Committee's statute must include:
 - i. Its rules for accepting new members.
 - ii. Its rules for removing members.
 - iii. Its rules for selecting its Chairman.
 - iv. Its positions and rules for selecting who will fill those, if any.
 - v. Its voting and decisions processes.
 - vi. Its mission statement and why it exists.
- 4. Dissolving a Legislative Committee
 - a. Per [Chapter 5, 1, C] any Committee that drops below two members from the legislature is automatically dissolved.
 - b. Any Committee that has its creation bill repealed is automatically dissolved.
 - i. Any Committee can strongly advise the Legislature to repeal its creation bill by unanimous votes of its members.
- 5. Obligations of a Legislative Committee and of others related to it.
 - a. The chairman of each Committee is required to provide a monthly report of all its actions to the Legislature.
 - b. All governmental officials are required to give access to any information necessary for the Committees to function correctly. They can refuse to give it by taking the request for information to the Judicial Branch under intragovernmental dispute, the access shall not be given until the Judicial Branch has ruled if a case is filled.required

Section 7 - Legislative Task Forces

- 1. Requirements
 - a. A Legislative Task Force is a temporary Committee to solve a particular problem.
 - b. Each Task Force needs a bill of its own to be created. The bill must specify a date in which it will auto repeal itself.
 - c. It needs to be composed of at least one legislator at creation. One of which must be the Head of the Task Force.
 - d. It may or may not have members that are not legislators on its roster. [To be decided by the creation bill].
 - e. It may have an advisory or legally binding role, to be decided by each Task Force's statute. The Legislature is advised to heavily scrutinize Task Forces that are legally binding.
- 2. Creation Process

- a. Any Legislator can propose a new Task Force. To do that, they must write up the bill stating the purpose of the Task Force. The bill also needs to have its initial statute and list the founding members and who's the first Head.
- b. The Task Force will then be subject to approval by the Legislature and constitution like any other bill.
 - i. Legally binding Task Forces require a $\frac{2}{3}$ supermajority vote to be approved.
- c. Changing the Task Force's statute works like amending any other bill by the Legislature and constitution.
 - i. Changing the statute of Legally binding task forces require an approval of a $\frac{2}{3}$ supermajority vote.

3. The Statute

- a. The Task Force's statute must include:
 - i. Its rules for accepting new members.
 - ii. Its rules for removing members.
 - iii. Its rules for selecting its Head.
 - iv. Its positions and rules for selecting who will fill those, if any.
 - v. Its voting and decisions processes.
 - vi. Its goal, meaning, what is the Task Force being created to accomplish.
 - vii. The breakdown of the main goal into subgoals that can be achieved.
 - viii. Dates in which the subgoals have to be completed.
 - ix. An end date for the expiration of the Task Force when its goal has to be completed.

4. Dissolving a Legislative Task Force

- a. Per [Chapter VI, Art. 1, C] any Task Force that drops below one member from the legislature is automatically dissolved.
- b. Any Task Force that has its creation bill repealed is automatically dissolved.
 - i. Any Task Force can strongly advise the Legislature to repeal its creation bill by unanimous vote of its members.
- c. Any Task Force that finishes its goal is automatically dissolved and its bill repealed.
- d. Any Task Force that reaches its end date determined at creation is automatically dissolved and its bill repealed.
 - i. The Task Force Head can petition the Legislature to extend its duration, effectively amending the original bill if they deem it necessary.

5. Obligations of a Task Force and of others related to it

- a. The Task Force head is required to provide a monthly report of all its actions to the Legislature.
- b. The Task Force has to meet its defined deadlines and goals in its creation bill, and may not dedicate itself on anything else but that goal.

- c. All governmental officials are required to give access to any information necessary for the Task Force to function correctly. They can refuse to give it by taking the request for information to the Judicial Branch under intragovernmental dispute, the access shall not be given until the Judicial Branch has ruled if a case is filled.