

# PARLIAMENT RULES OF MODEL NEW ZEALAND

Enacted on 12/24/2023

## Part 1 | Formation of Government

1. After the release of the election results, there will be a period no longer than ten days for the formation of a government.
2. If a party or coalition can demonstrate to the Governor-General that they have the confidence of the House, then the Governor-General may invite them to form a government and appoint the leader as Prime Minister.
  - a. The Prime Minister will then be responsible for appointing Ministers to the Executive Council and Cabinet.
  - b. If no party or coalition has majority support in the House, then the Governor-General may invite the largest party or coalition to form a minority government.
  - c. If no government can be formed in the ten days, another election must be held.
3. If at any time during the parliamentary term the government is dissolved, then a new government may be formed within a ten day period as above.

## Part 2 | Formation of Opposition

1. After the formation of the government, the next largest party or coalition will form the Official Opposition.
2. The leader of this party or coalition shall be appointed the Leader of the Opposition and they will form a Shadow Cabinet composed of Official Opposition Spokespersons.
  - a. Shadow Cabinet positions must correspond with positions in the government's Cabinet.

3. If at any time during the parliamentary term the Official Opposition is dissolved or another party or coalition becomes larger than the Official Opposition, a new Official Opposition may be formed.
4. Any political party or coalition which is not the government, granting confidence or supply, or the Official Opposition may form a Crossbench Opposition composed of Crossbench Opposition Spokespersons.

## Part 3 | Opening of Parliament

1. Following the formation of a government, the new government will have no longer than two days to draft and submit a Speech from the Throne to the Governor-General.
  - a. If no Speech from the Throne is submitted within the two days, the Governor-General must call for a new government-forming period or a general election.
  - b. If the conditions of 1(a) are met, the presumptive government which was obliged to submit the Speech from the Throne will be dismissed.
2. The Governor-General will swear in all Members of Parliament at a time after the submission of the Speech from the Throne but before the Speech from the Throne is posted.
3. Parliament will officially open for business with the reading of the Speech from the Throne in the House, with subsequent debate to be posted by the Speakership.
  - a. If the government resigns and a new government is formed without an election, the new government will present their Speech from the Throne.
4. Members of Parliament, subsequently known as MPs, may not vote or move amendments without swearing into their position.
5. The Speech from the Throne will be posted by the Governor-General.

## Part 4 | Legislative Procedure

1. Bills must be submitted through the Legislation Submission Google Form or any other method approved by the Speakership.

- a. Unless mentioned, the title and default commencement clauses will be inserted by the Speakership as follows when passed as an Act.
  - b. Bills are officially published under the authority of the House.
  - c. The Speakership requires the author of a Bill to provide explanatory notes (A general policy statement) for the Bill's provisions before it can proceed to a First Reading.
  - d. The Speakership reserves the right to refuse a Bill that does not follow a prescribed format, or to make minor changes to achieve the proper format, grammar, and convention of legislation.
  - e. Three types of bills may be submitted; Government Bills which are sponsored by ministers; Member's Bills which are sponsored by members who are not ministers; and Party Bills which are sponsored by parties with parliamentary representation. Collectively, Member's and Party Bills may be known as 'Private Bills'.
    - i. Each member may have a total of two Member's Bills in the Member's Tin at any one time.
    - ii. Each party may have one Party Bill in the Member's Tin at any one time.
  - f. In addition to its sponsor, the author of each bill must be declared. A bill may have more than one author.
2. After submission, the Speakership is to place the bill on the order paper or in the Member's Tin in the case that it is a Private Bill.
  3. Bills will progress through the standard process, outlined below:
    - a. First reading
      - i. The introduction of the bill.
    - b. Committee of the whole House
      - i. Opportunity to propose and debate amendments.
      - ii. Scrutiny of the bill to ensure its merit in becoming actual law.
    - c. Final reading
      - i. Considering the bill as a whole before becoming an Act.
    - d. Royal assent
      - i. Given by the Governor-General as the representative of the Sovereign.
      - ii. Assumed to be granted following passage in the Final reading vote.

4. Where no amendments have been submitted during Committee of the whole House, the bill shall bypass Final reading and go to Final reading vote.
5. In the course of House business, four new bills may begin its reading on each day, except during Christmas Break or for an extraordinary reason announced by Speakership.
  - a. To gain diversity in the proceedings of the House, the Speakership will attempt to avoid:
    - i. a first reading of a bill being introduced immediately after the first reading of another.
    - ii. a reading of a bill being submitted immediately after the reading of a bill with the same author.
    - iii. a reading of a bill being submitted immediately after the reading of a bill with the same party or coalition affiliation.
    - iv. not submitting a reading.
  - b. In the case where there is a vacancy for a Private Bill to be read a first time, the Speakership will randomly select from the Member's Tin as many bills as are required to fill the vacancies.
6. Readings, committee of the whole house, and votes last for a duration of at least 72 hours from the time of posting.
7. A sponsor of a bill may withdraw a bill at any time.
8. When a bill is introduced and is a taxation or supply bill, the bill may be considered under urgency.
  - a. The first stage is an urgent reading, where amendments may be introduced. This reading lasts 24 hours.
  - b. If there are any amendments, MPs then vote on the amendments. This vote lasts 24 hours.
  - c. Finally, MPs vote on the final bill. This vote lasts 24 hours.
9. Any leader of an Opposition party, including but not limited to the Leader of the Opposition, can present a vote of no confidence against the Government.
  - a. The Speakership can reject such a vote of no confidence if there is insufficient reason for a vote.
  - b. If more than fifty percent of the votes cast are against the government, then the Governor-General will invite the Leader of the Opposition to form a government

pursuant to the Meta Rules; however, formation of a new government is not limited to the Official Opposition.

10. Any simulation member may submit a Supplementary Order Paper (SOP) to amend a bill during Committee of the whole House.
  - a. This must be done as a motion under either the appropriate Section, or under the bill as an amendment which spans multiple Sections.
  - b. A simulation member may amend their SOP prior to the question being put, so long as the amendment made falls into line with the intended purpose of the SOP.
  - c. A simulation member may not withdraw an SOP once the question has been put.
  - d. A simulation member may pose more than one SOP to a question.
  - e. A SOP to correct typological mistakes and small errors may be approved by the original bill author and as such will not require a vote.
  - f. SOPs will be labelled according to the bill they amend. For example, SOPs on a fictional B.743 would be labelled *B.743-A*, *B.743-B*, and so on.
11. Any simulation member may move a motion.
  - a. Motions are to be used by MPs to seek a majority of the House's permission to move an action in the House.
  - b. A motion requires only a simple majority vote in the House.
  - c. During the motion's reading, amendments to correct typological mistakes and small errors may be approved by the motion sponsor.
  - d. A motion may only be read after at least one day has passed following the introduction of a prior motion.
12. The House will not consider business or sit on the following days:
  - a. The period from 24 December to 2 January, which will be known as the Christmas Break.
  - b. From the date of dissolution before a general election and the opening of Parliament after a general election.
  - c. The period determined by the Ministry of Education and tertiary institutions in New Zealand for end of year secondary and tertiary exams to occur rounded up to the highest week.
13. All votes in the House are personal votes.
  - a. On government bills and issues of confidence and supply, if an MP fails to vote, their vote will be recorded as the same as their party whip.

- b. A party whip may specify a personal vote of their own different to the party vote.
  - c. All sitting MPs have the right to vote on bills and motions.
  - d. A sitting MP may make a request for leave from the Speaker of the House and appoint a proxy for a period of no more than two weeks at a time with the agreement of the Speakership.
14. Parliamentary votes will be posted following the conclusion of the bill or motion's reading.
- a. Votes will be posted to /r/ModelNZMP
  - b. Each parliamentary vote will receive its own thread.

## Part 5 | Other Debates

1. An Address in Reply Debate is to be held in response to the Speech from the Throne following the opening of Parliament.
2. An Adjournment Debate is to be held on the day of the dissolution of each Parliament, until the date of the general election.
  - a. Adjournment debates allow for any Simulation Member to reflect on the progress of the Government, and their campaigns for the general election.
  - b. It is convention for adjournment debates to be somewhat informal.
3. A budget may be presented to the House of Representatives alongside any supply bill once in each term.
  - a. Budgets must use realistic figures wherever possible.
  - b. Following the submission of a budget, the budget statement will be debated for six days.
  - c. Budgets are to give an outline for the next three years from the publication of the budget.
  - d. Budgets are to be considered akin to spending and taxation plans rather than an instrument which has a guaranteed impact on canon outcomes. Debt levels and the progress on capital investments shall follow the pace of real life despite the passage of any budget in canon.

4. Legislative instruments, international treaties, and other Parliamentary papers of public interest may be tabled by a Minister for debate within the House of Representatives following submission to the Speakership.
  - a. Such a debate may involve crossposting a thread from /r/ModelNZBeehive.
  - b. A debate of this nature shall last 72 hours.
5. Ministers can make oral statements to the house on any issue relating to their portfolio.
  - a. Such a debate may involve crossposting the thread to /r/ModelNZBeehive.
  - b. A debate of this nature shall last 72 hours.

## Part 6 | Question Time

1. Question Time is to be held every week until the next week.
  - a. Question Time allows for any Simulation Member to ask any Minister a question of which they hold ministerial responsibility for.
  - b. Questions are to be brief and shall not contain expressions of opinion.
  - c. Any Minister on agreed leave of absence may nominate an Acting Minister to answer any question asked of the Minister on their behalf.
  - d. Simulation members are given the following allocation of questions—
    - i. Each simulation member has two (2) primary questions per session of Question Time.
    - ii. Each Official Opposition Spokesperson who is an MP gets an additional one (1) primary question for each portfolio they hold, to direct to the Minister(s) who they shadow.
      1. The Leader of the Opposition shadows the Prime Minister.
      2. No Shadow Minister shall receive more than 4 additional primary questions this way.
    - iii. Each Crossbench Spokesperson who is an MP gets an additional one (1) primary question for each portfolio they hold, to direct to the Minister(s) who they are a spokesperson for.
      1. Crossbench Party Leaders shadow the Prime Minister.

2. No Crossbench Spokesperson shall receive more than 2 additional primary questions this way.
- iv. Every simulation member has two (2) supplementary questions which can be used to follow-up on each primary question they have per Part 6.

## Part 7 | Members of Parliament and Ministers

1. All Members of Parliament are to swear in during the opening of Parliament to be considered as holding their seats.
  - a. Members of Parliament appointed after the opening of Parliament are required to provide consent to the Speakership following their appointment.
2. Any ministerial appointment must be announced on /r/ModelNZBeehive or another medium approved by the Governor-General to be valid.
3. After every three weeks since either the first vote of the term, the formation of a new Government or the date that the last activity check was concluded, the Speakership will conduct an activity check over the preceding three weeks.
  - a. If an MP has a vote attendance below 66% but above 33% for the preceding three weeks, they will receive a warning.
    - i. If an MP was not an MP for all of the preceding three weeks, they shall be exempt from the activity check.
    - ii. Votes on SOPs are not to be counted for activity checks.
    - iii. Votes held while an MP is on leave and without a proxy are not to be counted for activity checks.
  - b. If an MP has a vote attendance below 33% for the preceding three weeks they will be removed from Parliament.
  - c. If an MP receives two warnings in the same parliamentary term, they will be removed from Parliament.
2. If an MP vacates their seat;
  - a. List seats will be filled by the respective party leader within 7 days, otherwise the seat will be removed from Parliament until the next General Election.
  - b. Electorate Seats will go immediately to a By-election in accordance with (4).



3. List MPs are allowed to change parties while in Parliament provided that they have the permission of their party leader.
4. If an electorate seat is vacated under Section 2(a), it will trigger a by-election for the electorate seat.
  - a. At least two weeks' notice preceding the election date must be provided for a by-election.
  - b. If there is a general election scheduled within the next three weeks of the first possible by-election date, then no by-election will be held. If the three week period intersects the Christmas Break, this period will be extended to four weeks.
  - c. If a by-election cannot be held due to proximity to a general election, the party who holds the seat may fill the seat temporarily.
  - d. If the seat is vacated before the opening of Parliament, the electorate seat may be filled by a member who was on the party list of the same party during the immediately preceding election. If there are no members on the party list who do not hold an electorate seat or if the seat was held by an independent, then the seat will go to a by-election.
5. Parties may expel MPs from their caucus or remove List MPs from their seats.
6. If MPs fail to swear in within 1 week after the swearing-in thread has been posted, they will forfeit their seat.

## Part 8 | Calling Elections and Term Length

1. Elections, including by-elections, will be called by the Governor-General.
  - a. Details regarding elections and by-elections are in the Electoral Regulations.
2. A General-Election must be held between ten and fourteen weeks after the previous election.
3. At least two weeks' notice must be provided before a General Election.

## Part 9 | Amendments

1. Any simulation member eligible to vote in a meta vote may submit an amendment to the Parliament Rules by posting it on r/ModelNZMeta.

2. Amendments must be considered by the community on r/ModelNZMeta for at least four days before being put to a simulation-wide vote.
3. To proceed to a vote, the following requirements must be adhered to:
  - a. an amendment either requires four seconders in addition to the author within four days of being initially proposed,
  - b. an amendment must not be materially similar to, or address the same topic as, any amendment proposal voted on within the same parliamentary term, and
  - c. an amendment must not be satirical or frivolous.
4. Despite the requirements in (3), an amendment proposal may proceed anyway with the permission of the Governor-General.
5. During the consideration period for an amendment, simulation members may submit counter-proposals to amend the Parliament Rules to address the same matter as the amendment.
6. During the consideration period for an amendment, the author of the proposal may make minor modifications to the initial proposal as is needed.
7. When an amendment goes to vote, it must achieve a simple majority to pass.
8. If there are amendments with counter-proposals, any counter-proposal also goes to vote alongside the amendment using instant runoff voting where "none of the above" is an option.
9. Minor edits to the Parliament Rules to address grammatical and spelling errors may be made by the Governor-General without a vote, and the Governor-General must notify the simulation when this takes place.

## Schedule 1 | Amendments

- 1.