

CHAPTER 11

PETITIONS

51 Petitions.

A Petition shall:-

- (a) be fairly written or printed and shall before presentation, be forwarded for examination not less than one hour before the time of meeting of the House to the Clerk of the House, who, in returning the Petition to the Member in charge thereof, may require its amendment, in accordance with the Rules of the House;
- (b) contain a request at the end thereof;
- (c) be signed by at least one person on the sheet on which the Petition is written or printed;
- (d) be in the English language, or be accompanied by a translation, certified by the Member who presents it; and
- (e) be signed by the parties whose names are appended thereto, by their names or marks, and by no one else, except in the case of incapacity by sickness.

52 Signatures to be written, not attached.

Every signature shall be written upon the Petition itself, and not pasted upon, or otherwise transferred thereto.

53 Petitions of Corporations.

Petitions of Corporations aggregate shall be under their Common Seal.

54 Petition of a Public Meeting, signed only by Chair.

A Petition signed by the Chair of a Public Meeting on behalf of such meeting, shall be received as the Petition of the person signing it only.

55 No letters, affidavits, &c., shall be attached.

Letters, affidavits, or other documents shall not be attached to any Petition.

56 Debates shall not be referred to.

References shall not be made in a Petition to any Debate in Parliament conducted within the previous twelve months, except that a request to repeal a Bill or a vote be rescinded may be made.

57 Petitions for losses contingent on passing of Bills may be received.

Petitions requesting that provision may be made for the compensation of the Petitioners for losses contingent upon the passing of Bills pending, may be received.

58 Member responsible.

A Member presenting a Petition to the House shall:-

- (a) affix the Member's name at the beginning thereof;
- (b) take care that the same is in conformity with the Rules and Orders of the House; and
- (c) ensure that such Petition is respectful, decorous, and temperate in its language, and free from any disrespectful reference to the Sovereign or the Governor, of offensive imputations upon the character or conduct of either House of Parliament, or the Courts of Justice, or other tribunal or constituted authority.

59 Petition presented by a Member only.

A Petition shall only be presented to the House by a Member.

60 Petition from a Member.

A Petition from a Member shall not be presented.

61 Member presenting Petitions confined to statement of certain facts.

A Member offering to present a Petition to the House shall state the number of signatures attached to it and certify that such Petition complies with the Standing Orders.

62 No Debate upon proceedings on presentation.

When a Petition is presented which contains no matters in breach of the privileges of the House and which is in accordance with the Rules and Practice of the House, it shall be read by the Clerk of the House, without a Question first put; after which a Question shall be put, "That the Petition be received", but no other Question relating to such Petition shall be then entertained.

63 Government response to Petitions.

- (1) The text of each Petition which the House has received shall be communicated to the Premier by the Clerk of the House.
- (2) A Government response to each Petition shall be laid before the House within 15 sitting days of its communication to the Premier.

64 Electronic petition ('E-petition').

- (1) An E-petition is a petition:
 - (a) in the correct form, stating a grievance and containing a request for action by the House;
 - (b) sponsored by a Member and lodged with the Clerk for publication on the Parliament's Internet Website for a nominated period ("posted period");
 - (c) persons may elect to indicate their support of ("join the petition") by electronically providing their name, address

(including postcode) and signifying their intention to join the petition.

- (2) The posted period for an E-petition is to be a minimum of one week and a maximum of six months from the date of publication on the Parliament's Internet Website.
- (3) The Member sponsoring the E-petition must provide the Clerk with the details of the petition in the correct form; the posted period and a signed acknowledgment that they are prepared to sponsor the E-petition.
- (4) Once published on the Parliament's Internet Website an E-petition cannot be altered.
- (5) Only one E-petition dealing with substantially the same grievance and requesting substantially the same action by the House shall be published on the Parliament's Internet Website at the same time.
- (6) Once the posted period for an E-petition has elapsed, a paper copy of the petition shall be printed by the Clerk in full (including the details of the persons who joined the petition) and presented to the House by the Member who sponsored the E-petition.
- (7) An E-petition published on the Parliament's Internet Website, but not presented to the House prior to the dissolution of the Parliament, may be presented to the subsequent Parliament to become a petition of the subsequent Parliament.
- (8) An E-petition cannot be sponsored after the dissolution of the Parliament and until the new Parliament has been summoned and Members sworn.

65 General Rules for E-Petitions.

- (1) Persons must join an E-petition by filling out their correct details and personally agreeing to join the e-petition, and by no one else, except in case of incapacity from sickness.
- (2) A person cannot sign or join the same e-petition more than once.

66 Duties and powers of the Clerk and Speaker regarding E-petitions.

- (1) The Clerk may decline to publish an e-petition on the Parliament's Internet Website not in conformity with these Orders and advise the sponsoring Member accordingly.
- (2) The Clerk or a Member may seek a ruling from the Speaker about the conformity of any petition with these Orders.
- (3) The Clerk is authorised to create and maintain an appropriate Internet Website on which to publish electronic petitions, responses to petitions and explanatory information and do all things necessary in order to give effect to these Orders.
- (4) The Clerk must dispose of all electronic personal data related to the posting and joining of an e-petition within six months after an electronic petition is printed and presented to the House.

- 67 Application of Standing Orders to E-Petitions.**
The Standing Orders and Rules for Petitions apply to E-petitions in-so-far-as they can be applied.