

This provision is obsolete, clauses 1-4 of rule XXII providing an entirely different method of introducing bills. The introduction of bills by leave was gradually dropped by the practice of the House, and after 1850 the present free system of permitting Members to introduce at will bills for printing and reference began to develop (IV, 3365).

SEC. XXIV.—BILLS, FIRST READING.

When a bill is first presented, the Clerk reads it at the table, and hands it to the Speaker, who, rising, states to the House the title of the bill; that this is the first time of reading it; and the question will be, whether it shall be read a second time? then sitting down to give an opening for objections. If none be made, he rises again, and puts the question, whether it shall be read a second time? *Hakew.*, 137, 141. A bill cannot be amended on the first reading, *6 Grey*, 286; nor is it usual for it to be opposed then, but it may be done, and rejected. *D'Ewes*, 335, col. 1; *3 Hats.*, 198.

§ 399. Obsolete requirements as to first reading of bills.

This provision is obsolete, the practice under clause 1 of rule XXI now governing the procedure of the House of Representatives.

SEC. XXV.—BILLS, SECOND READING.

The second reading must regularly be on another day. *Hakew.*, 143. It is done by the Clerk at the table, who then hands it to the Speaker. The Speaker, rising, states to the House the title of the bill; that this is the second time of reading it; and that the question will be, whether it shall be committed, or engrossed and read a third time? But if the bill came from the other House, as it always comes engrossed, he states that the

§ 400. Obsolete parliamentary law as to second reading.

question will be, whether it shall be read a third time? and before he has so reported the state of the bill, no one is to speak to it. *Hakew.*, 143, 146.

In the Senate of the United States, the President reports the title of the bill; that this is the second time of reading it; that it is now to be considered as in a Committee of the Whole; and the question will be, whether it shall be read a third time? or that it may be referred to a special committee?

The provisions of this paragraph are to a large extent obsolete so far as the House of Representatives is concerned, the practice under clause 1 of rule XXI now governing.

SEC. XXVI.—BILLS, COMMITMENT.

If on motion and question it be decided that the bill shall be committed, it may then be moved to be referred to Committee of the Whole House, or to a special committee. If the latter, the Speaker proceeds to name the committee. Any member also may name a single person, and Clerk is to write him down as of the committee. But the House have a controlling power over the names and number, if a question be moved against any one; and may in any case put in and put out whom they please.

This paragraph is to a large extent obsolete under the rules and practice of the House of Representatives. Bills are referred in the first instance by the Speaker to standing committees as prescribed by the rules (rules X and XXII), and references of reported bills to the proper calendar of the House are also made under direction of the Speaker (clause 2 of rule XIII). Reference of a matter under consideration is made by a motion to refer which specifies the committee and may provide for a select committee

§ 401. Parliamentary law (largely obsolete) as to reference of bills to committees.