

endorsement is to facilitate its reference to a committee by the President and for entry on the Journal; but any petition or memorial may be entered in full upon the Journal by a majority vote of the Senators present.

COMMITTEES.

(See Rules XV to XX.)

JOINT COMMITTEES.

A request for the appointment of a joint committee is embodied in a message from one house to the other. It embraces the subject and names the committee upon the part of the House originating or concurring in the request. The committee is appointed by the presiding officer, and consists usually of two members of the Senate and three of the House.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES.

(See Rule XVII.)

A conference committee usually consists of three members of each House, and is usually asked where one House disagrees to amendments of its bills made by the other; but may be asked in cases of difference of opinion on all matters pending between them. The request for a conference must always be by the House which is possessed of the papers, and said papers must always accompany the message requesting the appointment of a conference committee, and be retained by the conferees of the other. The report of a committee of conference must be made in writing and signed by the conferees. It is a question of the highest privilege, and the report may be made even during the pendency of a motion to adjourn. A conference committee may be instructed like any other committee, but their report cannot be amended or altered, but it may be laid on the table, and its effect will be to lay the bill also on the table.