

The Chief Purposes of Motions

Purpose	Motion
Present an idea for consideration and action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main motion Resolution Consider informally
Improve a pending motion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend Division of question
Extend, limit or cut off debate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit or extend debate Close debate
Delay a decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to committee Postpone to a certain time Recess Adjourn
Meet an emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Question of privilege Suspend rules
Gain info on a pending resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parliamentary inquiry Request for information
Question the decision of the presiding officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point of order Appeal from decision of chair
Enforce rights and privileges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Division of assembly Parliamentary inquiry Point of order Appeal from decision of chair
Consider a question again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconsider Rescind Amend a previous action Ratify
Change an action already taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconsider Rescind Amend A previous action
Terminate a meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjourn Recess

House of Delegates Motions

Order of Precedence¹

		Interrupt?	Debatable?	Amendable?
Privileged Motions				
1	Adjourn	No	Yes ²	Yes ²
2	Recess	No	Yes ²	Yes ²
3	Question of privilege	Yes	No	No
Subsidiary Motions				
4	Table	No	No	No
5	Close debate	No	No	No
6	Limit or extend debate	No	Yes ²	Yes ²
7	Postpone to a certain time	No	Yes ²	Yes ²
8	Refer to committee	No	Yes ²	Yes ²
9	Amend	No	Yes ³	Yes
Main Motions				
10	a The main motion	No	Yes	Yes
	b Specific main motions			
	Adopt in-lieu-of	No	Yes	Yes
	Amend a previous motion	No	Yes	Yes
	Ratify	No	Yes	Yes
	Recall from committee	No	Yes ²	No
	Reconsider	Yes ⁴	Yes ²	No
	Rescind	No	Yes	No
Incidental Motions				
	Appeal	Yes	Yes	No
	Suspend the rules	No	No	No
	Consider informally	No	No	No
Requests				
	Point of order	Yes	No	No
	Parliamentary inquiry	Yes	No	No
	Withdraw a motion	Yes	No	No
	Division of question	No	No	No
	Division of assembly	Yes	No	No

¹Motions are in order only if no motion higher on the list is pending. Thus, if a motion to close debate is pending, a motion to amend would be out of order, but a motion to recess would be in order, since it outranks the pending motion.

²Restricted

³Is not debatable when applied to an undebatable motion

⁴A member may interrupt the proceedings but not a speaker.

©2012 McGraw-Hill Education. Reprinted from *Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure* by the American Institute of Parliamentarians. Used with permission.