

House of Delegates Motions

Order of Precedence ¹	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. Close debate	No	No	No
5. Limit or extend debate.....	No	Yes ²	Yes ²
6. Postpone to a certain time	No	Yes ²	Yes ²
7. Refer to committee	No	Yes ²	Yes ²
8. 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 action.....	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

¹ Motions 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.

² Restricted.

³ Is not debatable when applied to an undebatable motion.

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

The Chief Purposes of Motions

Purpose	Motion
Present an idea for consideration and action	Main motion Resolution Consider informally
Improve a pending motion	Amend Division of question
Extend, limit or cut off debate	Limit or extend debate Close debate
Delay a decision	Refer to committee Postpone to a certain time Recess Adjourn
Meet an emergency	Question of privilege Suspend rules
Gain information on a pending resolution	Parliamentary inquiry Request for information
Question the decision of the presiding officer	Point of order Appeal from decision of chair
Enforce rights and privileges	Division of assembly Parliamentary inquiry Point of order Appeal from decision of chair
Consider a question again	Reconsider Rescind Amend a previous action Ratify
Change an action already taken	Reconsider Rescind Amend a previous action
Terminate a meeting	Adjourn Recess