

Make a Law Role Play

Master Script

Introduction and First Reading

Members and the Clerk are in their seats. Sergeant-at-Arms and Speaker stand outside.

They walk in. Sergeant-at-Arms carries Mace, and says:

Sergeant-at-Arms: **“Honourable Members, Mr/Madam Speaker.”**

Everybody stands up. The Sergeant-at-Arms puts the Mace in the hooks.

The Speaker reads the prayer:

Speaker: **“Our father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.”**

The Speaker nods once to the Government and once to the Opposition to acknowledge that they are there. The Speaker takes his/her seat. Everyone sits down.

Speaker: **“I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which Parliament meets.
I call the Minister for (relevant portfolio area).”**

Minister: (Minister stands) **“Mr/Madam Speaker, I present a Bill for an Act to (outline terms of the Bill).
I present the Explanatory Notes and Statement of Compatibility with Human Rights. I nominate the (choose a Committee) to consider the Bill.”**

Minister proceeds with First Reading Speech.

Minister: **“I move that the Bill be now read a first time.”**

Speaker: **“The question is: ‘That the Bill be now read a first time.’ Those who are of that opinion say ‘Aye.’**

Government Members say “Aye”.

Those against ‘No’.”

Opposition Members say ‘No’.

Minor Parties and Independents say “Aye” or “No” depending on their decision.

Speaker: **“I think the Ayes have it. Clerk read the title of the Bill.”**

Clerk: (Stand and reads Bill title).

Speaker: **“In accordance with standing order 131, the Bill is now referred to the** (name of nominated Committee).”

Following Committee consideration

Second Reading Debate

Speaker: **“I call the Minister for** (relevant portfolio area).”

Minister: (Minister stands)

“Mr/Madam Speaker, I move— ‘That the Bill be now read a second time.’

Minister makes their second reading speech.

After this, the Minister sits down and the Second Reading debate continues with the Shadow Minister.

Speaker: **“Order! I call the Shadow Minister for** (relevant portfolio area).”

Shadow Minister makes their speech.

After this, the Shadow Minister sits down and the Second Reading debate continues.

Speaker: **“Order! Do any other Members wish to speak to the Bill?”**

Call any Member who wishes to speak in the following format:

Speaker: **“I call the Member for** (name of Electorate).”

After all Members have made their speeches:

Speaker: **“I call the Minister for** (relevant portfolio area).”

Minister stands and responds to close Second Reading debate. The Minister may summarise or rebut the arguments, then say:

Minister: **“I thank all Honourable Members for their contributions. I particularly thank Government Members for their excellent speeches. This Bill is of vital importance to the State of Queensland. This has been a very profitable debate. I commend the Bill to the House.”**

Second Reading of the bill

Speaker: “The question is ‘That the Bill be now read a second time.’ Those who are of that opinion say ‘Aye’.

Government Members say “Aye”.

Those against ‘No’.”

Opposition Members say ‘No’.

Minor Parties and Independents say “Aye” or “No” depending on their decision.

Shadow Minister: “Divide!”

Speaker: “The question is ‘That the Bill be now read a second time’ for which a division has been called. Ring the bells.”

The Clerk signals for the bells to be rung for four minutes. When the bells cease ringing:

Speaker: “Close the bars. I call on the Government Whip to act as Teller for the Ayes and the Opposition Whip to act as Teller for the Noes.”

Whips count Members’ votes and report the numbers to the Speaker.

Speaker: “Honourable Members, the result of the division is

Ayes: (the number of Ayes counted)

Noes: (the number of Noes counted).

The division is resolved in the affirmative (if the majority of votes are ‘Ayes’)/**negative** (if the majority of votes are ‘Noes’).”

If resolved in the affirmative, the Clerk reads the short title of the Bill.

If resolved in a tie:

Speaker: “Honourable Members, the result of the division is a tie. As Speaker I exercise my right to cast the casting vote. I vote with the Government. The division is resolved in the affirmative. Clerk read the title of the Bill.”

Clerk: (Stands and reads Bill title).

Speaker: “I call the Leader of the House.”

Leader of the House: “I move that the House do now adjourn.”

Speaker: “The question is ‘That the House do now adjourn.’ All those of that opinion say ‘Aye’.

Government Members say “Aye”.

Those against ‘No’.”

Opposition Members say ‘No’.

Minor Parties and Independents say “Aye” or “No” depending on their decision.

Speaker: “I think the Ayes have it.”

Consideration in detail

After the Second Reading debate, the House goes into the consideration in detail stage. The Speaker leaves the Chair and presides from the table, calling Members to speak to each clause of the Bill. Amendments may be proposed and voted on – successful ones become part of the Bill. When this is completed, the Speaker returns to the Chair and the Bill proceeds to the Third Reading stage:

Speaker: “I call the Minister for (relevant portfolio area).”

Minister: “I move: ‘That the House do now consider the Bill in detail.’”

Speaker: “The question is: ‘That the House do now consider the Bill in detail.’ All those of that opinion say ‘Aye’.

Government Members say “Aye”.

Those against ‘No’.”

Opposition Members say ‘No’.

Minor Parties and Independents say “Aye” or “No” depending on their decision.

Speaker: “I think the Ayes have it. Does any Member wish to speak to Clause 1?”

Members raise their hand to speak and may speak.

The Speaker then calls the next clause.

When all clauses have been considered:

Speaker: “I call the Minister for (relevant portfolio area).”

Minister: “I move: ‘That the Bill be now read a third time.’”

Speaker: “The question is: ‘That the Bill be now read a third time.’ All those of that opinion say ‘Aye’.

Government Members say “Aye”.

Those against ‘No’.”

Opposition Members say ‘No’.

Minor Parties and Independents say “Aye” or “No” depending on their decision.

Speaker: “I think the Ayes have it.”

At this point there may be another division in which case an Opposition Member would call “divide”.

Otherwise the Clerk should proceed in reading the short title of the Bill.

Clerk: (Stands and reads the short title of the Bill)

Minister: **“I move: ‘That the long title of the Bill be agreed to.’”**

Speaker: **“The question is: ‘That the long title of the Bill be now agreed to.’ All those of that opinion say ‘Aye’.**

Government Members say “Aye”.

Those against ‘No’”

Opposition Members say ‘No’.

Minor Parties and Independents say “Aye” or “No” depending on their decision.

Speaker: **“I think the Ayes have it.”**

Clerk: (Stands and reads the long title of the Bill)

Speaker: **“I call the Leader of the House.”**

Leader of the House: **“I move that the House do now adjourn.”**

Speaker: **“The question is ‘That the House do now adjourn.’ All those of that opinion say ‘Aye’, those against ‘No’.”**

All Youth Members vote ‘Aye’.

Speaker: **“I think the Ayes have it. The House is now adjourned.”**

The Sergeant-at-Arms collects the Mace from the table and leads the Speaker out of the room.