

the resolution making the appropriation. Indeed, where the order consequent on a resolution has only been commenced and not yet executed in full, strict parliamentary law deems it improper to move a reconsideration, although the completion of the order may be prevented by a resolution to discharge or rescind so much of it as yet remains unexecuted. But this would not be technically a reconsideration of the question.

There are several rules in relation to motions for reconsideration which require notice:

1. A motion for reconsideration is not debatable, if the question proposed to be reconsidered is not. Cushing (1272) lays down a different rule, but in the House of Representatives, where the practice of reconsideration first arose, it has been frequently decided that debate cannot be allowed on a motion to reconsider a question that was not itself debatable.

2. Although an original proposition may require for its adoption a vote of two-thirds or three-fourths, the motion for its reconsideration may be carried by mere majority.

3. When a motion for reconsideration is made within the proper limit of time, and the consideration of it is postponed to a day beyond that time, if then it is withdrawn by the mover, it cannot be renewed: the time for making such a motion has passed. But here it must be remarked, that if the session of the body, in which such motion for reconsideration has been postponed should terminate without any action on such postponed motion, it will fail. Thus in a Grand Lodge, if a motion to reconsider a question should be postponed to the third day of the session, and the Grand Lodge should close without acting on the motion for reconsideration, it would fall to the ground, and the original proposition would remain in force. This is founded on an opinion expressed by two speakers of the House of Representatives, that "where the term of the members expires without acting on the motion to reconsider, for the want of time or inclination, the motion of course fails and leaves the original proposition operative." (Barelay, 164.)

4. When a motion for reconsideration has been decided either in the affirmative or negative, or while it is still pending, no second motion for reconsideration of the same proposition can be made. But if, on reconsideration, the proposition has been altered in form by new amendments, a motion for reconsideration will then be in order. To permit the same proposition, after reconsideration, to be again reconsidered, would be an idle waste of time, and an unprofitable renewal of altercation.

5. A motion for reconsideration may be postponed, definitely, or indefinitely, or laid upon the table. If postponed definitely, or to a day certain, it is subject to the provisions already mentioned in a preceding paragraph. If postponed, indefinitely, or laid upon the table, the effect is to kill it, and to leave the original proposition in force. Indeed, in the House of Representatives, when it is desired to put a measure out of all reach of danger, it is an expedient often resorted to for the friends of the measure to move a reconsideration, and immediately thereon to move to lay the motion for reconsideration on the table. The effect of this proceeding is, that no second motion for reconsideration can be made, and the first cannot be taken up out of its order, which it is not probable will be reached, and the original proposition is thus secured as