

## **§27: Division of a Question**

**CSAP Sigma Chi Sigma -- January 22, 2015**

### **§27: Division of a Question: An Incidental Motion**

When a motion relating to a **single subject** contains several parts, each of which is capable of standing as a complete proposition if the others are removed, the parts can be separated to be considered and voted on as if they were distinct questions – by adoption of the motion to divide the question. (P. 270)

1. Must be seconded, can be amended, cannot be debated, previous question is in order, and requires a majority to adopt. (Same as Seriatim)
2. During the amendment of a motion, a motion to divide the main question cannot be made. The main motion can be committed, postponed, or laid on the table.
3. This motion is in order when a motion, the amendment it seeks to divide, or Postponed Indefinitely is immediately pending, even if Previous Question has been ordered. (Same as Seriatim)
4. Though this motion is generally adopted by unanimous consent, another member can propose a different division. Different proposals should be treated as filling the blanks (voted on in the order they were proposed), unless different number of questions were suggested (largest number first).
5. **Vote:** Once the motion to divide a question is made, the assembly must vote on whether to divide the question, and then on each separate part as if each were a separate motion.

### **Example of motions that cannot be divided:**

A motion (1) to establish a committee, (2) to study an issue.

- **Example of a motion that must be divided:**

- **(Consent Calendar, different subjects, or a series of amendments)**

The content of a consent calendar (one or more issues can be removed upon the demand of a single member without the need to move for division of the question).

### **Form:**

- I move to divide the motion into 2 parts as follows ...
- I move to divide the question so as to consider separately the part about ...

## §28: Consideration by Paragraph (Seriatim)

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### §28: Consideration by Paragraph or Seriatim: An Incidental Motion

A motion consisting of a series of paragraphs, articles, bylaws, or sections that are **not totally separate questions** can be considered by opening the different parts to debate and amendment separately, without a division of the question. (P. 276)

1. Must be seconded, can be amended, cannot be debated, previous question is in order, and requires a majority to adopt. (Same as Divide a Question)
2. During the amendment of a motion, a motion to consider the main motion by paragraph cannot be made. The main motion can be committed, postponed, or laid on the table. A motion to Postpone Indefinitely can be made but not debated or vote upon until the paragraph-by-paragraph stage is completed (because amendments take precedence over Postpone Indefinitely and the entire motion needs to be debated).
3. This motion is in order when a motion, the amendment it seeks to divide, or Postponed Indefinitely is immediately pending, even if Previous Question has been ordered. (Same as Divide a Question)
4. Limits on Debate and Previous Question can apply to amendments or the entire question, but not to individual paragraphs.
5. **Vote:** Each part can be debated and **amended** with a vote, but the part is not **adopted** with a vote. The entire series of parts is debated and amended as a whole. If there is a preamble, it is amended with a vote before the final step. One vote is taken to adopt the series of parts after all the amending and debating. Normal limits on debate are applied only to amendments, or the entire document, but not to the individual paragraphs.

#### Form:

- I move that the motion be considered by paragraph (or, by seriatim).

# Drills on Splitting a Motion into Parts

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In a friendly association you could probably get any complex motion adopted without splitting the motion. These drills review the valid ways a member may split a motion according to Robert (in an environment where only adherence to proper parliamentary procedure will lead to adopting or defeating of the motion).

**Step 1: For each of the following actions, state if it would be in order to split the motion into parts?**

**Step 2: If so, state your split motion in your own words based on the following:**

- **The demand of a single member,**
  - **A motion to divide the question,**
  - **A motion to consider by seriatim**
1. Action: To save time, a motion is made to adopt several routine and non-controversial, yet unrelated motions, at one time.  
State your split motion in your own words.
  2. Action: A motion is made to have a dinner party and schedule it for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.  
State your split motion in your own words.
  3. Action: A motion is made to have a live band and to serve shrimp at the Christmas party.  
State your split motion in your own words.
  4. Action: A motion is made to alter the discount rates at each of 10 different store branches.  
State your split motion in your own words.
  5. Action: At the opening of a convention of delegates, the chair of the Standing Rules Committee makes his report, and as is customary, a member moves to adopt all the proposed standing rules.  
State your split motion in your own words.
  6. Action: A motion is made to create a committee of 5 individuals and to assign that committee the task of studying options for financing a new building.  
State your split motion in your own words.
  7. Action: The notice for the amendment to a bylaw (consisting of an article with 7 sections) has been properly given. A member moves to amend the bylaw.  
State your split motion in your own words.
  8. Action: A motion is made to sell more tickets to the dinner dance and to start the dance one hour later than planned.  
State your split motion in your own words.