

being given, on the question, a committee is appointed to prepare and bring in the bill. The mover and seconder are always appointed of this committee, and one or more in addition. *Hakew.*, 132; *Scob.*, 40. It is to be presented fairly written, without any erasure or interlineation, or the Speaker may refuse it. *Scob.*, 41; *1 Grey*, 82, 84.

This provision is obsolete, clauses 1–4 of rule XXII providing an entirely different method of introducing bills. The introduction of bills by leave was gradually dropped by the practice of the House, and after 1850 the present free system of permitting Members to introduce at will bills for printing and reference began to develop (IV, 3365).

SEC. XXIV.—BILLS, FIRST READING.

When a bill is first presented, the Clerk reads it at the table, and hands it to the Speaker, who, rising, states to the House the title of the bill; that this is the first time of reading it; and the question will be, whether it shall be read a second time? then sitting down to give an opening for objections. If none be made, he rises again, and puts the question, whether it shall be read a second time? *Hakew.*, 137, 141. A bill cannot be amended on the first reading, *6 Grey*, 286; nor is it usual for it to be opposed then, but it may be done, and rejected. *D'Ewes*, 335, col. 1; *3 Hats.*, 198.

This provision is obsolete, the practice under clause 1 of rule XXI now governing the procedure of the House of Representatives.

§ 399. Obsolete requirements as to first reading of bills.