

BOX 7.4 Ending a Senate Filibuster on a Bill or Amendment

Process to Invoke Cloture

Day 1: Motion signed by 16 members and presented to the Senate.

Day 2: First-degree amendments are to be filed by 1 p.m.

Day 3: Second-degree amendments are to be filed until 1 hour before the cloture vote.

A three-fifths vote of the Senate 60 votes if no more than one vacancy) is required to invoke cloture on legislation in the 100-member chamber. The support of two-thirds of those voting is required to invoke cloture on proposals to change Senate rules.

Effects of Invoking Cloture

- Thirty-hour debate limit with time counted for votes, quorum calls, and other matters.
- Amendments must be germane.
- One hour of debate per senator.
- Presiding officer can rule out dilatory motions on his or her own initiative without waiting for a point of order to be made.
- The measure on which cloture has been invoked remains the unfinished business of the Senate, to the exclusion of all other business.