



TIMOTHY WYNN, PRP
PRESIDENT

2552 Scottville Ave
Deltona, FL 32725
386.228.2242
Tim@PerfectRules.com

PerfectRules.com



STOP TABLING!

Lay on the Table

(The All-time, Ultimate, Hands-Down, Undisputed, Most **Misused** Motion in the World)

Commonly referred to as “Table” or “Tabling,” the motion to Lay on the Table is almost NEVER in order. STOP using this motion for everything!

The reason that it is so widely misused is because it is commonly confused with three other motions: Postpone Indefinitely; Commit; and Postpone to a Certain Time. If any of these three motions are the true intent, then Lay on the Table is NOT in order.

1. If the desired effect is to do away with a pending motion without taking a direct vote on it, the motion to Postpone Indefinitely must be used.
2. If the desired effect is to give a pending motion more focused investigation and deliberation by a certain group of individuals, the motion to Commit must be used.
3. If the desired effect is to delay the consideration of the motion until a certain time, the motion to Postpone to a Certain Time must be used.

What happens if you use the wrong motion?

The assembly must be clear about what it's deciding, because using the wrong motion can subvert members' rights. The purpose of the motion to Lay on the Table is to lay the pending question aside temporarily *when something else of immediate urgency has arisen*. For this reason, Lay on the Table is not debatable and it requires a majority vote. It is otherwise out of order to end debate with a majority vote.