



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

House Resolution No. 2

LCO No. 738

Referred to Committee on No Committee

Introduced by:

REP. PUDLIN, 24th Dist.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE HOUSE RULES.

Resolved by this House:

1 That the following shall be the rules to regulate the proceedings of
2 the House of Representatives for the 2001 and 2002 sessions:

3 THE SPEAKER.

4 1. The speaker shall take the chair every day at the hour to which
5 the house has adjourned and shall immediately call the house to order
6 and, after prayer and recitation of the pledge of allegiance, proceed to
7 business if a quorum is present.

8 2. In the absence of a quorum, the speaker may adjourn the house to
9 a later time or to the next session day. At all other times an
10 adjournment shall be pronounced by the speaker on motion.

11 3. The speaker shall preserve order and decorum and shall decide
12 all questions of order and discipline, upon which no debate shall be
13 allowed except at the speaker's request, but the decision shall be
14 subject to an appeal to the house, which must be seconded and on
15 which no member shall speak more than once. No other business shall

16 be in order until the disposition of such appeal.

17 4. The speaker shall rise to put a question or to address the house.

18 5. If there is any disturbance, disorderly conduct or other activity in
19 or about the house chamber which, in the opinion of the speaker, may
20 impede the orderly transaction of the business of the house of
21 representatives, the speaker may take such action as the speaker deems
22 necessary to preserve and restore order.

23 6. If the speaker wishes to leave the chair, a deputy speaker or a
24 member may be designated by the speaker to perform the duties of the
25 chair.

26 7. If the speaker or a deputy speaker or the member named by the
27 speaker in accordance with the preceding rule, is absent at the hour to
28 which the house has adjourned, the clerk shall call the house to order
29 and first business shall be the election of an acting speaker, which shall
30 be done immediately without debate, by ballot or otherwise, as the
31 house shall determine, also without debate; and the person thus
32 elected shall preside in the house and discharge all the duties of the
33 speaker until the speaker's return. In the case of the death, resignation
34 or permanent disability of the speaker, a deputy speaker shall then call
35 the house to order and the first business shall be the election of a
36 speaker, which the house shall immediately proceed to do without
37 debate. The person thus elected shall immediately assume the duties of
38 speaker during the continuance of the general assembly.

39 DEPUTY SPEAKERS

40 8. There shall be three deputy speakers appointed by the speaker of
41 the house. The speaker shall designate a deputy speaker to assume the
42 duties of the speaker in the speaker's absence.

43 THE CHAPLAIN

44 9. Within one week after the appointment of the speaker, the

45 speaker shall nominate a chaplain, and if such nomination is
46 confirmed by the house by a majority vote, the candidate so nominated
47 and confirmed shall be chaplain for the regular sessions and any
48 special sessions during the 2001-2002 legislative term.

49 CLERK

50 10. The clerk shall keep a journal of the house, and shall enter
51 therein a record of each day's proceedings, record any amendment that
52 may be offered to any bill or resolution and record the date of filing of
53 an agreement, award or stipulation that is filed in accordance with
54 Joint Rule 31 or 32.

55 11. The clerk shall keep a calendar and shall enter daily on such
56 calendar (1) all bills and joint resolutions received from the senate
57 except (a) bills and resolutions which do not have the favorable report
58 of a joint committee which shall, upon being read by the clerk, be
59 referred without further action to the appropriate committee and (b)
60 all bills and joint resolutions received from the senate which have not
61 been referred by the house to any committee; and (2) all bills and
62 resolutions favorably reported to the house from any committee and
63 these shall be entered on the calendar in the order in which they are
64 received. Each joint resolution proposing an amendment to the
65 constitution and each bill so entered shall be printed and in the files
66 and on the calendar for two session days with a file number and shall
67 be starred for action on the session day next succeeding, except that:
68 (A) A bill or resolution certified in accordance with section 2-26 of the
69 general statutes, if filed in the house, may be transmitted to and acted
70 upon first by the senate with the consent of the speaker; and if filed in
71 the senate, may be transmitted to and acted upon first by the house
72 with the consent of the president pro tempore, (B) any bill or
73 resolution certified in accordance with section 2-26 of the general
74 statutes may be acted upon in the house on the next session day
75 following the day it is placed on the desks of the members, or during
76 the last five calendar days of the session may be acted upon

77 immediately, and in either case may be transmitted immediately to the
78 senate, (C) if the house rejects an amendment adopted by the senate,
79 the bill or resolution after final action in the house, may be transmitted
80 immediately to the senate, or if the senate rejects an amendment
81 adopted by the house, the bill or resolution when received from the
82 senate may be placed immediately on the calendar, (D) during the last
83 five calendar days of the session, if the house rejects an amendment
84 adopted by the senate, or adopts a house amendment to a bill or
85 resolution received from the senate, or takes any action on the bill or
86 resolution requiring further action by the senate, the bill or resolution
87 after final action in the house, may be transmitted immediately to the
88 senate, or if the senate rejects an amendment adopted by the house or
89 adopts a senate amendment to a bill or resolution received from the
90 house, or takes any action on the bill or resolution requiring further
91 action by the house, the bill or resolution when received from the
92 senate may be placed immediately on the calendar and may be acted
93 upon immediately, (E) during the last five calendar days of the session,
94 any bill or resolution, after final action in the house, may be
95 transmitted immediately to the Senate or (F) during the last five days
96 of the session, any bill or resolution received by the house after final
97 action by the senate may be placed on the calendar immediately. All
98 bills and resolutions starred for action shall be acted upon only when
99 called and any bill or resolution not acted upon shall retain its place on
100 the calendar unless it is moved to the foot of the calendar or unless its
101 consideration is made the order of the day for some specified time.
102 When a bill or resolution is removed from the foot of the calendar, it
103 shall not be acted upon before the next regular succeeding session day.

104 Prior to the convening of the house on each session day, the speaker
105 shall make available on the floor of the house a list of bills and
106 resolutions intended to be acted upon during that session day. Such
107 list shall set forth the action intended to be taken on each bill or
108 resolution so listed. The list shall be for informational purposes only.

109 12. The clerk shall retain all bills, resolutions and other papers, in

110 reference to which any member has a right to move a reconsideration,
111 until the right of reconsideration has expired, and no longer.

112 13. The clerk shall keep a record of all petitions, resolutions, joint
113 resolutions and bills for all acts presented for consideration of the
114 house, and said record shall be so kept as to show by one and a single
115 reference thereto the action of the house on any specified petition,
116 resolution, joint resolution or bill up to the time of such reference.

117 14. The clerk shall supervise all clerical work to be done for the
118 house and shall supervise all employees subject to the direction of the
119 speaker. The assistant clerk shall have the same powers and perform
120 the same duties as the clerk, subject to the direction of the clerk. The
121 bill clerk, the journal clerk and the calendar clerk shall perform such
122 duties as are assigned to them by the clerk.

123 15. The clerk shall cause the journals and calendars to be distributed
124 on the desks of the members daily, before the opening of the session.

125 MEMBERS

126 16. When any member is about to speak in debate or deliver any
127 matter to the house, the member shall rise and address the chair as
128 "Mr. Speaker" or "Madam Speaker," as the case may be.

129 If two or more rise at the same time, the speaker shall name the
130 member entitled to the floor, preferring one who rises in place to one
131 who does not.

132 17. No member shall speak on the same question more than twice
133 without unanimous consent of the members of the house present.

134 18. The speaker shall, or any member may, call to order any member
135 who in speaking or otherwise, transgresses the rules and orders of the
136 house. If speaking, the member shall sit down, unless permitted to
137 explain; and if a member is guilty of a breach of any of the rules and
138 orders, the member may be required by the house, on motion, to make

139 satisfaction therefor, and shall not be allowed to vote or speak except
140 by way of excuse until such satisfaction is made.

141 COMMITTEES AND LEADERS

142 19. At the opening of each session a committee on contested
143 elections, consisting of four members, at least two of whom shall be
144 members of the minority party in the house, shall be appointed by the
145 speaker to take into consideration all contested elections of the
146 members of the house and to report the facts, with their opinion
147 thereon in a manner that may be directed by house resolution.

148 20. (a) Majority Election and Appointments. The majority leader
149 shall be elected by the members of the majority party in the house and
150 the deputy majority leaders shall be appointed by the majority leader
151 and shall serve at the pleasure of the majority leader. The assistant
152 majority leaders and majority whips shall be appointed by the speaker
153 in consultation with the majority leader, and shall serve at the pleasure
154 of the speaker.

155 The chairpersons, and where appropriate, vice-chairpersons, of the
156 standing and select committees shall be appointed by the speaker of
157 the house and shall serve at the pleasure of the speaker, except when a
158 chairperson is designated or appointed by the minority leader
159 pursuant to the joint rules or the general statutes, in which case, the
160 person so designated or appointed shall serve at the pleasure of the
161 minority leader.

162 (b) Minority Election and Appointments. The minority leader shall
163 be elected by the members of the minority party in the house and the
164 deputy minority leaders, the assistant minority leaders, the minority
165 whips and the ranking members of each joint standing committee and
166 select committee shall be appointed by the minority leader and shall
167 serve at the pleasure of the minority leader except when a ranking
168 member is designated or appointed by the speaker pursuant to the
169 joint rules or the general statutes, in which case, the person so

170 designated or appointed shall serve at the pleasure of the speaker.

171 (c) Number of Leaders. The number of members appointed to the
172 positions of deputy speaker, deputy majority leader, assistant majority
173 leader and majority whip shall not exceed thirty per cent of the total
174 membership of the majority party in the house. The number of
175 members appointed to the positions of deputy minority leader,
176 assistant minority leader and minority whip shall not exceed thirty per
177 cent of the total membership of the minority party in the house. In
178 addition, the chairpersons of the bonding subcommittees of the joint
179 standing committee on finance, revenue and bonding may be an
180 assistant majority leader and the ranking member of said
181 subcommittee may be an assistant minority leader.

182 (d) Committees. The staff clerks of the standing and select
183 committees shall be appointed by the chairperson of the respective
184 standing and select committees with the approval of the speaker of the
185 house. Chairpersons of sub-committees may be appointed by the
186 chairpersons of the respective standing and select committees with the
187 approval of the speaker of the house.

188 All standing and select committee members shall be appointed by
189 the speaker on or before the fifth regular session day of the first year of
190 the term, except to fill a vacancy caused by death or incapacity, or
191 resignation or removal from the house or from a committee, and
192 except that the speaker may appoint any member elected after the fifth
193 regular session day of the first year of the term to any committee,
194 within five calendar days after the member takes the oath of office. The
195 member first named shall be chairperson. The chairperson of each
196 committee may appoint one of the members of the committee as
197 legislator clerk thereof. All members of standing and select committees
198 and legislator clerks shall serve for both sessions of the term, except
199 that: (i) The speaker may accept the resignation, for good cause, of a
200 member of a standing or select committee prior to the expiration of the
201 term, and (ii) the speaker may remove a member, provided the

202 speaker's removal of a member of the minority party shall require the
203 concurrence of the minority leader. Chairpersons, vice-chairpersons
204 and sub-committee chairpersons shall serve for both sessions of the
205 term unless removed by the speaker.

206 (e) Referrals to Committees. The house may refer any matter to a
207 committee either before or after the deadline of that committee (i) at
208 any regular session of the house or (ii) at a technical session of the
209 house provided the majority leader has notified the minority leader or
210 the minority leader's designee in writing, not later than 5 p.m. the day
211 before the technical session, of the majority leader's intent to move for
212 the referral, and received the approval of the minority leader or the
213 minority leader's designee for the referral, and provided further that
214 no matter may be recommitted at a technical session.

215 (f) Meetings in Representatives' Chamber. Committee meetings
216 shall not be held in the representatives' chamber on session days.

217 REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

218 21. The order of business shall be as follows:

219 1. Reception of petitions.

220 2. Reception of communications from the governor,
221 secretary of the state, annual and biennial reports, interim
222 committee reports and special reports.

223 3. Introduction of bills and resolutions.

224 4. Reports of committees.

225 5. Reception of business from the senate.

226 6. Business on the calendar.

227 7. Miscellaneous.

228 RULES AND MOTIONS

229 22. The rules of parliamentary practice comprised in the 1989
230 edition of Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure shall govern the
231 house whenever applicable and whenever they are not inconsistent
232 with the standing rules and orders of the house or the joint rules of the
233 senate and the house of representatives.

234 23. The rules of the house shall take precedence over the joint rules
235 of the house and senate or Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure in
236 the event of conflict.

237 24. When a motion is made, it shall be stated to the house by the
238 speaker before any debate is had thereon.

239 25. When a motion is stated by the speaker, or read by the clerk, it
240 shall be deemed to be in the possession of the house.

241 It may be withdrawn by the mover at any time before decision or
242 amendment, but not after amendment, unless the house approves by a
243 majority vote.

244 26. The question first moved shall be first put, except as modified in
245 Rule 28.

246 27. If the question under debate consists of two or more
247 independent propositions any member may move to have the question
248 divided. If the house adopts the motion to divide, the speaker shall
249 rule on the order of voting on the divisions of a question.

250 28. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received
251 except:

252 1. To adjourn, which is not debatable

253 2. To recess

254 3. To postpone temporarily retaining position on the

- 255 calendar
- 256 4. To pass until next session day retaining position on
257 calendar
- 258 5. To close the debate at a specified time
- 259 6. To postpone to a certain time
- 260 7. To refer or recommit to a committee
- 261 8. To amend
- 262 9. To place at foot of calendar.

263 These motions shall have precedence in the order listed in this rule,
264 except that a point of order may be raised at any time.

265 29. When the consideration of a question regularly on the calendar
266 is interrupted by adjournment, the question comes up in its proper
267 place on the next session day's calendar.

268 30. A vote can be reconsidered only on the next regular succeeding
269 session day, provided there shall be no reconsideration of the vote
270 upon the following motions: To adjourn, or to reconsider, and no
271 question shall be twice reconsidered.

272 AMENDMENTS

273 31. (a) Amendments shall be filed with the clerk of the house before
274 10 a.m. on the day on which the bill or resolution is to be acted upon,
275 except that (1) the following may each sponsor or authorize
276 amendments at any time: The presiding officer, the majority leader or,
277 in the majority leader's absence, the majority leader's designated
278 deputy majority leader, the minority leader or in the minority leader's
279 absence, the minority leader's designated deputy minority leader; (2)
280 the presiding officer may waive the filing requirement upon the
281 request of the majority leader or the minority leader; (3) after any

282 amendment or amendments have been adopted, any member may
283 offer a further amendment only if it is directly related to the
284 amendment or amendments adopted.

285 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this rule, if a bill or resolution
286 has been scheduled for consideration on a date certain pursuant to a
287 special order, all amendments relating to that bill or resolution must be
288 filed with the clerk of the house before 5 p.m. on the last day the clerk's
289 office is open preceding the day on which the bill or resolution has
290 been scheduled for consideration. The only exceptions to this filing
291 requirement shall be: (1) The persons named in subdivision (1) of
292 subsection (a) of this rule may each sponsor an amendment at any
293 time; (2) after any amendment or amendments have been adopted, any
294 member may offer a further amendment only if it is directly related to
295 the amendment or amendments adopted.

296 (c) Members may co-sponsor an amendment that is in the
297 possession of the clerk of the house, or remove their names as co-
298 sponsors, by submitting a written request to the clerk not later than 10
299 am on the day following adoption or rejection of the amendment,
300 excluding weekends and holidays. Co-sponsorship of an amendment
301 does not constitute co-sponsorship of the bill it would amend unless
302 the member so specifies pursuant to Joint Rule 7(c).

303 (d) After a motion for passage of a bill or resolution has been made,
304 a motion to amend the bill or resolution is in order.

305 A pending amendment may not be amended. No substitute
306 amendment may be offered for a pending amendment.

307 (e) No independent new question may be introduced as an
308 amendment.

309 (f) Whenever a bill is amended, the speaker may order that it be
310 returned to the legislative commissioners for the purposes of re-
311 examination pursuant to Joint Rule 13 and for reprinting as amended.

312 SEATS

313 32. Immediately after the adoption of these rules the speaker shall
314 appoint a committee of four, who shall assign seats to all members of
315 the house.

316 33. The seats assigned to members shall be their seats for their term
317 of office.

318 REPRESENTATIVES' CHAMBER

319 34. Use of the representatives' chamber shall not be granted for non-
320 legislative use during a general assembly session except by a vote of
321 the house, or by a vote of the legislative management committee or
322 with the permission of the speaker. The speaker shall grant use of the
323 chamber for legislative use and between general assembly sessions.

324 PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE

325 35. No debate shall be allowed after a question is put and while it
326 remains undecided.

327 36. In all cases when a voice vote is taken without a division, the
328 speaker shall determine whether it is or is not a vote; and in all
329 doubtful cases the speaker shall state "The chair is in doubt."
330 Whereupon, the speaker shall try the question again by a voice vote or
331 roll call, as the speaker may so order.

332 After the speaker has declared a vote, it shall not be taken again
333 unless by a regular motion for reconsideration, made by a member in
334 the prevailing vote of the house.

335 37. If a division is called for, the house shall divide, those in the
336 affirmative first rising from their seats and standing until counted, and
337 afterwards those in the negative. For the purpose of more conveniently
338 counting upon the division of the house, the floor thereof shall be
339 divided by aisles into four divisions, to be numbered first, second,

340 third and fourth sections, commencing on the right of the chair; for
341 each of which divisions the speaker shall appoint a member whose
342 seat is in said division to be a teller and to count and report to the
343 chair.

344 38. In case of a tie vote or an equal division, the question shall not be
345 passed.

346 39. The yeas and nays shall be taken on the roll call machine on all
347 final action on all bills, resolutions proposing amendments to the
348 constitution and all other substantive resolutions, except bills and
349 resolutions on the consent calendar. On all other questions, a roll call
350 vote shall be taken at the request of one-fifth of the members present,
351 expressed at any time before a declaration of the vote. In the event the
352 roll call machine is not functioning properly, the roll may be called by
353 the clerk.

354 40. Every member present in the house chamber, when a question is
355 put by the speaker, shall vote, unless excused by the speaker and no
356 member shall absent herself or himself from the house chamber
357 without leave, unless there is a quorum without such member's
358 presence.

359 Whenever any vote is to be taken, the speaker may order the doors
360 closed and thereupon no member shall leave the house unless by
361 permission of the speaker, or the house, until the vote is declared, but
362 members shall be admitted at any time.

363 When a vote has been taken, if any member raises a question of an
364 excess of votes cast over the number of members present, a count of
365 the house shall be had, and if it appears that such excess of votes exists,
366 the speaker shall order the vote to be again taken.

367 41. No representative may vote or change his or her vote on a roll
368 call after the speaker has requested that the clerk announce the tally.

369 42. While the house is in session, admission to the floor of the house

370 shall be limited to members of the general assembly, authorized
371 members of the press, authorized staff of the general assembly, and
372 such other persons as may be authorized by the presiding officer. On
373 any day during which the House is in session, lobbyists shall be
374 prohibited from the floor of the House except during a public hearing
375 on the floor of the House or as may be authorized by the presiding
376 officer for purposes of recognition or ceremony.

377 Electronic media equipment and media personnel shall occupy only
378 those areas designated by the presiding officer.

379 Proper facilities for transmitting messages to members of the house
380 shall be provided by the clerk and administered by the messengers.

381 The sergeant at arms, doorkeepers and messengers shall enforce this
382 rule and shall see that the aisles and the seats of the members are not
383 occupied by persons other than members of the general assembly,
384 while the house is in session.

385 43. There shall be a consent calendar on which shall be entered such
386 bills and resolutions as the majority leader and the minority leader or
387 their designees shall agree, and shall be proposed to the house by the
388 majority leader or the designee of the majority leader in the form of a
389 motion to move to the consent calendar. At the request of a member
390 made from the floor any bill or resolution shall be removed from those
391 included in the motion. All bills and resolutions starred for action on
392 the consent calendar shall be passed on motion without discussion
393 unless, at any time prior to the motion for passage, a member requests
394 from the floor removal of a bill or resolution from the consent calendar
395 in which case such bill or resolution shall be so removed and placed on
396 the regular calendar. Any bill or resolution so removed shall be
397 considered as having appeared on the regular calendar for a period of
398 time equivalent to that during which it appeared on the consent
399 calendar.

400 44. Upon motion made and adopted, the house may schedule

401 consideration of any matter appearing on the calendar for a date
402 certain by special order, but no sooner than the later of (i) the second
403 day, excluding weekends and holidays, after the adoption of the
404 special order or (ii) the day after the matter first appears on the
405 calendar double starred.

406 RESTRICTIONS

407 45. No person shall smoke in the house chamber or the gallery. No
408 person shall conduct a conversation on a wireless telephone or similar
409 device in the house chamber while the house is meeting. The presiding
410 officer and the sergeant at arms shall enforce this rule.

411 SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

412 46. These rules shall not be altered, amended or suspended except
413 by the concurrent vote of at least two-thirds of the members present.

414 47. Motions to suspend the rules shall be in order on any session
415 day. Suspension of the rules shall be for a specified purpose. Upon
416 accomplishment of that purpose, any rule suspended shall be again in
417 force.