



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

***House Resolution No. 2***

LCO No. 509

Referred to Committee on No Committee

Introduced by:

REP. AMANN, 118<sup>th</sup> 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 2003 and 2004 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  
6 order and, after prayer and recitation of the pledge of allegiance,  
7 proceed to business if a quorum is present.

8 2. In the absence of a quorum, the speaker may adjourn the House  
9 to 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 four 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  
47 nominated and confirmed shall be chaplain for the regular sessions  
48 and any special sessions during the 2003-2004 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  
105 speaker 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 members of said  
181 subcommittees 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. (1) The House may refer any matter to  
207 a 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 (2) The House may but need not refer to a committee before or after  
216 its deadline a bill or resolution that was favorably or unfavorably  
217 reported by another committee, except that every bill and resolution  
218 shall be referred to (A) the committee on Legislative Management,  
219 Appropriations, Finance, Revenue and Bonding, Government  
220 Administration and Elections, or Judiciary if such referral is  
221 specifically required under Joint Rule 3 or subsection (e) of Joint Rule  
222 15 and (B) any committee if the Speaker determines that there is a  
223 substantial nexus between the subject of such bill or resolution and the  
224 cognizance of such committee.

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

227 REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

229 1. Reception of petitions.

230 2. Reception of communications from the Governor,  
231 secretary of the state, annual and biennial reports, interim

232 committee reports and special reports.

233 3. Introduction of bills and resolutions.

234 4. Reports of committees.

235 5. Reception of business from the senate.

236 6. Business on the calendar.

237 7. Miscellaneous.

238 RULES AND MOTIONS

239 22. The rules of parliamentary practice comprised in the 2000  
240 edition of Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure shall govern the  
241 House whenever applicable and whenever they are not inconsistent  
242 with the standing rules and orders of the House or the joint rules of the  
243 senate and the House of representatives.

244 23. The rules of the House shall take precedence over the joint rules  
245 of the House and senate or Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure in  
246 the event of conflict.

247 24. When a motion is made, it shall be stated to the House by the  
248 speaker before any debate is had thereon.

249 25. When a motion is stated by the speaker, or read by the clerk, it  
250 shall be deemed to be in the possession of the House.

251 It may be withdrawn by the mover at any time before decision or  
252 amendment, but not after amendment, unless the House approves by a  
253 majority vote.

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

256 27. If the question under debate consists of two or more  
257 independent propositions any member may move to have the question

258 divided. If the House adopts the motion to divide, the speaker shall  
259 rule on the order of voting on the divisions of a question.

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

262 1. To adjourn, which is not debatable

263 2. To recess

264 3. To postpone temporarily retaining position on the  
265 calendar

266 4. To pass until next session day retaining position on  
267 calendar

268 5. To close the debate at a specified time

269 6. To postpone to a certain time

270 7. To refer or recommit to a committee

271 8. To amend

272 9. To place at foot of calendar.

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

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

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

282 AMENDMENTS

283       31. (a) Amendments shall be filed with the clerk of the House before  
284 10 a.m. on the day on which the bill or resolution is to be acted upon,  
285 except that (1) the following may each sponsor or authorize  
286 amendments at any time: The presiding officer, the majority leader or,  
287 in the majority leader's absence, the majority leader's designated  
288 deputy majority leader, the minority leader or in the minority leader's  
289 absence, the minority leader's designated deputy minority leader; (2)  
290 the presiding officer may waive the filing requirement upon the  
291 request of the majority leader or the minority leader; (3) after any  
292 amendment or amendments have been adopted, any member may  
293 offer a further amendment only if it is directly related to the  
294 amendment or amendments adopted.

295       (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this rule, if a bill or resolution  
296 has been scheduled for consideration on a date certain pursuant to a  
297 special order, all amendments relating to that bill or resolution must be  
298 filed with the clerk of the House before 5 p.m. on the last day the  
299 clerk's office is open preceding the day on which the bill or resolution  
300 has been scheduled for consideration. The only exceptions to this filing  
301 requirement shall be: (1) The persons named in subdivision (1) of  
302 subsection (a) of this rule may each sponsor an amendment at any  
303 time; (2) after any amendment or amendments have been adopted, any  
304 member may offer a further amendment only if it is directly related to  
305 the amendment or amendments adopted.

306       (c) Members may co-sponsor an amendment that is in the  
307 possession of the clerk of the House, or remove their names as co-  
308 sponsors, by submitting a written request to the clerk not later than 10  
309 am on the day following adoption or rejection of the amendment,  
310 excluding weekends and holidays. Co-sponsorship of an amendment  
311 does not constitute co-sponsorship of the bill it would amend unless  
312 the member so specifies pursuant to Joint Rule 7(c).

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

315 A pending amendment may not be amended. No substitute  
316 amendment may be offered for a pending amendment.

317 (e) No independent new question may be introduced as an  
318 amendment.

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

### 322 SEATS

323 32. Immediately after the adoption of these rules the speaker shall  
324 appoint a committee of four, who shall assign seats to all members of  
325 the House.

326 33. The seats assigned to members shall be their seats for their term  
327 of office.

### 328 REPRESENTATIVES' CHAMBER

329 34. Use of the representatives' chamber shall not be granted for non-  
330 legislative use during a General Assembly session except by a vote of  
331 the House, or by a vote of the legislative management committee or  
332 with the permission of the speaker. The speaker shall grant use of the  
333 chamber for legislative use and between General Assembly sessions.

### 334 PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE

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

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

342 After the speaker has declared a vote, it shall not be taken again  
343 unless by a regular motion for reconsideration, made by a member in  
344 the prevailing vote of the House.

345 37. If a division is called for, the House shall divide, those in the  
346 affirmative first rising from their seats and standing until counted, and  
347 afterwards those in the negative. For the purpose of more conveniently  
348 counting upon the division of the House, the floor thereof shall be  
349 divided by aisles into four divisions, to be numbered first, second,  
350 third and fourth sections, commencing on the right of the chair; for  
351 each of which divisions the speaker shall appoint a member whose  
352 seat is in said division to be a teller and to count and report to the  
353 chair.

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

356 39. The yeas and nays shall be taken on the roll call machine on all  
357 final action on all bills, resolutions proposing amendments to the  
358 constitution and all other substantive resolutions, except bills and  
359 resolutions on the consent calendar. On all other questions, a roll call  
360 vote shall be taken at the request of one-fifth of the members present,  
361 expressed at any time before a declaration of the vote. In the event the  
362 roll call machine is not functioning properly, the roll may be called by  
363 the clerk.

364 40. Every member present in the House chamber, when a question is  
365 put by the speaker, shall vote, unless excused by the speaker and no  
366 member shall absent herself or himself from the House chamber  
367 without leave, unless there is a quorum without such member's  
368 presence.

369 Whenever any vote is to be taken, the speaker may order the doors  
370 closed and thereupon no member shall leave the House unless by  
371 permission of the speaker, or the House, until the vote is declared, but  
372 members shall be admitted at any time.

373 When a vote has been taken, if any member raises a question of an  
374 excess of votes cast over the number of members present, a count of  
375 the House shall be had, and if it appears that such excess of votes  
376 exists, the speaker shall order the vote to be again taken.

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

379 42. While the House is in session, admission to the floor of the  
380 House shall be limited to members of the General Assembly,  
381 authorized members of the press, authorized staff of the General  
382 Assembly, and such other persons as may be authorized by the  
383 presiding officer. On any day during which the House is in session,  
384 lobbyists shall be prohibited from the floor of the House except during  
385 a public hearing on the floor of the House or as may be authorized by  
386 the presiding officer for purposes of recognition or ceremony.

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

389 Proper facilities for transmitting messages to members of the House  
390 shall be provided by the clerk and administered by the messengers.

391 The sergeant at arms, doorkeepers and messengers shall enforce this  
392 rule and shall see that the aisles and the seats of the members are not  
393 occupied by persons other than members of the General Assembly,  
394 while the House is in session.

395 43. There shall be a consent calendar on which shall be entered such  
396 bills and resolutions as the majority leader and the minority leader or  
397 their designees shall agree, and shall be proposed to the House by the  
398 majority leader or the designee of the majority leader in the form of a  
399 motion to move to the consent calendar. The consent calendar may be  
400 acted upon on the day of such motion or on a subsequent day. At the  
401 request of a member made from the floor any bill or resolution shall be  
402 removed from those included in the motion. All bills and resolutions

403 starred for action on the consent calendar shall be passed on motion  
404 without discussion unless, at any time prior to the motion for passage,  
405 a member requests from the floor removal of a bill or resolution from  
406 the consent calendar in which case such bill or resolution shall be so  
407 removed and placed on the regular calendar. Any bill or resolution so  
408 removed shall be considered as having appeared on the regular  
409 calendar for a period of time equivalent to that during which it  
410 appeared on the consent calendar.

411 44. Upon motion made and adopted, the House may schedule  
412 consideration of any matter appearing on the calendar for a date  
413 certain by special order, but no sooner than the later of (i) the second  
414 day, excluding weekends and holidays, after the adoption of the  
415 special order or (ii) the day after the matter first appears on the  
416 calendar double starred.

417 RESTRICTIONS

418 45. No person shall smoke in the House chamber or the gallery. No  
419 person shall conduct a conversation on a wireless telephone or similar  
420 device in the House chamber while the House is meeting. No person  
421 shall take or possess a sign, banner, placard or other display material  
422 in the gallery. The presiding officer and the sergeant at arms shall  
423 enforce this rule.

424 SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

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

427 47. Motions to suspend the rules shall be in order on any session  
428 day. Suspension of the rules shall be for a specified purpose. Upon  
429 accomplishment of that purpose, any rule suspended shall be again in  
430 force.