



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

**House Resolution No. 2**

LCO No. 496

\*00496 \_\_\_\_\_ \*

Referred to Committee on No Committee

Introduced by:

REP. SHARKEY, 88<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 2011 and 2012 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 such deputy speakers as determined and appointed  
41 by the speaker of the House. The speaker shall designate a deputy  
42 speaker to assume the duties of the speaker in the speaker's absence.

43 CHAPLAIN AND DEPUTY CHAPLAINS

44 9. Within one week after the appointment of the speaker, the  
45 speaker shall nominate a chaplain and up to three deputy chaplains,  
46 and if such nominations are confirmed by the House by a majority  
47 vote, the candidates so nominated and confirmed shall serve for the  
48 regular sessions and any special sessions during the 2011-2012  
49 legislative term.

50 CLERK

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

56 11. The clerk shall keep a calendar and shall enter daily on such  
57 calendar (1) all bills and joint resolutions received from the senate  
58 except (a) bills and resolutions which do not have the favorable report  
59 of a joint committee which shall, upon being read by the clerk, be  
60 referred without further action to the appropriate committee and (b)  
61 all bills and joint resolutions received from the senate which have not  
62 been referred by the House to any committee; and (2) all bills and  
63 resolutions favorably reported to the House from any committee and  
64 these shall be entered on the calendar in the order in which they are  
65 received. Each joint resolution proposing an amendment to the  
66 constitution and each bill so entered shall be printed and in the files  
67 and on the calendar for two session days with a file number and shall  
68 be starred for action on the session day next succeeding, except that:

69 (A) A bill or resolution certified in accordance with section 2-26 of  
70 the general statutes, if filed in the House, may be transmitted to and  
71 acted upon first by the senate with the consent of the speaker; and if  
72 filed in the senate, may be transmitted to and acted upon first by the  
73 House with the consent of the president pro tempore,

74 (B) Any bill or resolution certified in accordance with section 2-26 of

75 the general statutes may be acted upon in the House (i) on the same  
76 session day that electronic notice of the filing and number of the bill or  
77 resolution is provided to the majority leader and the minority leader,  
78 who shall be responsible for forwarding such notice to the members of  
79 their respective caucuses, except the bill or resolution may not be acted  
80 upon less than six hours after the House is called to order or less than  
81 six hours after such notice is provided to said leaders, whichever is  
82 later, (ii) at any time on the next session day following the day that  
83 such notice is provided to said leaders, or (iii) during the last five  
84 calendar days of the session, immediately, and in any such case may be  
85 transmitted immediately to the senate,

86 (C) If the House refers a bill or resolution to another committee and  
87 that committee favorably reports the bill or resolution not as a  
88 substitute on the same session day as the House referral, the clerk shall  
89 immediately enter the bill or resolution on the calendar and the House  
90 may act upon it on the same session day,

91 (D) If the House rejects an amendment adopted by the senate, the  
92 bill or resolution after final action in the House, may be transmitted  
93 immediately to the senate, or if the senate rejects an amendment  
94 adopted by the House, the bill or resolution when received from the  
95 senate may be placed immediately on the calendar,

96 (E) During the last ten calendar days of the session, if the House  
97 rejects an amendment adopted by the senate, or adopts a House  
98 amendment to a bill or resolution received from the senate, or takes  
99 any action on the bill or resolution requiring further action by the  
100 senate, the bill or resolution after final action in the House, may be  
101 transmitted immediately to the senate, or if the senate rejects an  
102 amendment adopted by the House or adopts a senate amendment to a  
103 bill or resolution received from the House, or takes any action on the  
104 bill or resolution requiring further action by the House, the bill or  
105 resolution when received from the senate may be placed immediately  
106 on the calendar and may be acted upon immediately,

107 (F) During the last ten calendar days of the session, any bill or  
108 resolution, after final action in the House, may be transmitted  
109 immediately to the Senate,

110 (G) During the last five days of the session, any bill or resolution  
111 received by the House after final action by the senate may be placed on  
112 the calendar immediately and the bill or resolution may be acted upon  
113 after it has appeared on the calendar for two session days, or

114 (H) A report by a joint standing committee of a resolution  
115 concerning a judicial or workers' compensation commissioner  
116 nomination may be acted upon after it has appeared on the calendar  
117 for two days.

118 All bills and resolutions starred for action shall be acted upon only  
119 when called and any bill or resolution not acted upon shall retain its  
120 place on the calendar unless it is moved to the foot of the calendar or  
121 unless its consideration is made the order of the day for some specified  
122 time. When a bill or resolution is removed from the foot of the  
123 calendar, it shall not be acted upon before the next regular succeeding  
124 session day.

125 Prior to the convening of the House on each session day, the  
126 speaker shall make available on the floor of the House a list of bills and  
127 resolutions intended to be acted upon during that session day. Such  
128 list shall set forth the action intended to be taken on each bill or  
129 resolution so listed. The list shall be for informational purposes only.

130 12. The clerk shall retain all bills, resolutions and other papers, in  
131 reference to which any member has a right to move a reconsideration,  
132 until the right of reconsideration has expired, and no longer.

133 13. The clerk shall keep a record of all petitions, resolutions, joint  
134 resolutions and bills for all acts presented for consideration of the  
135 House, and said record shall be so kept as to show by one and a single  
136 reference thereto the action of the House on any specified petition,

137 resolution, joint resolution or bill up to the time of such reference.

138 14. The clerk shall supervise all clerical work to be done for the  
139 House and shall supervise all employees subject to the direction of the  
140 speaker. The assistant clerk shall have the same powers and perform  
141 the same duties as the clerk, subject to the direction of the clerk. The  
142 bill clerk, the journal clerk and the calendar clerk shall perform such  
143 duties as are assigned to them by the clerk.

144 15. Upon the request of any member, the clerk shall provide a  
145 calendar to such member on each session day.

146 MEMBERS

147 16. When any member is about to speak in debate or deliver any  
148 matter to the House, the member shall rise and address the chair as  
149 "Mr. Speaker" or "Madam Speaker," as the case may be.

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

153 17. No member shall speak on the same question more than twice  
154 without unanimous consent of the members of the House present.

155 18. The speaker shall, or any member may, call to order any member  
156 who in speaking or otherwise, transgresses the rules and orders of the  
157 House. If speaking, the member shall sit down, unless permitted to  
158 explain; and if a member is guilty of a breach of any of the rules and  
159 orders, the member may be required by the House, on motion, to make  
160 satisfaction therefor, and shall not be allowed to vote or speak except  
161 by way of excuse until such satisfaction is made.

162 COMMITTEES AND LEADERS

163 19. At the opening of each session a committee on contested  
164 elections, consisting of four members, at least two of whom shall be

165 members of the minority party in the House, shall be appointed by the  
166 speaker to take into consideration all contested elections of the  
167 members of the House and to report the facts, with their opinion  
168 thereon in a manner that may be directed by House resolution.

169 20. (a) Majority Election and Appointments. The majority leader  
170 shall be elected by the members of the majority party in the House and  
171 the deputy majority leaders shall be appointed by the majority leader  
172 and shall serve at the pleasure of the majority leader. The assistant  
173 deputy speaker, majority caucus chairperson, deputy majority caucus  
174 chairperson, assistant majority leaders and majority whips shall be  
175 appointed by the speaker in consultation with the majority leader, and  
176 shall serve at the pleasure of the speaker.

177 The chairpersons, and where appropriate, vice-chairpersons, of the  
178 standing and select committees shall be appointed by the speaker of  
179 the House and shall serve at the pleasure of the speaker, except when a  
180 chairperson is designated or appointed by the minority leader  
181 pursuant to these rules or the joint rules, in which case, the person so  
182 designated or appointed shall serve at the pleasure of the minority  
183 leader. Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, during  
184 the 2011-2012 biennium (1) the chairperson of the Legislative  
185 Regulation Review Committee shall be appointed by the speaker of the  
186 House, and (2) the chairperson of the Legislative Program Review and  
187 Investigations Committee shall be appointed by the minority leader.

188 (b) Minority Election and Appointments. The minority leader shall  
189 be elected by the members of the minority party in the House and the  
190 deputy minority leaders, the minority caucus chairperson, the assistant  
191 minority leaders, the minority whips and the ranking members of each  
192 joint standing committee and select committee shall be appointed by  
193 the minority leader and shall serve at the pleasure of the minority  
194 leader except when a ranking member is designated or appointed by  
195 the speaker pursuant to these rules or the joint rules, in which case, the  
196 person so designated or appointed shall serve at the pleasure of the

197 speaker. Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, during  
198 the 2011-2012 biennium (1) the ranking member of the Legislative  
199 Regulation Review Committee shall be appointed by the minority  
200 leader, and (2) the ranking member of the Legislative Program Review  
201 and Investigations Committee shall be appointed by the speaker of the  
202 House.

203 (c) Number of Leaders. The number of members appointed to the  
204 positions of assistant majority leader and majority whip shall not  
205 exceed thirty-three per cent of the total membership of the majority  
206 party in the House. The number of members appointed to the positions  
207 of assistant minority leader shall not exceed thirty-three per cent of the  
208 total membership of the minority party in the House. Notwithstanding  
209 the provisions of this subsection, the chairpersons of the bonding  
210 subcommittees of the joint standing committee on finance, revenue  
211 and bonding may be assistant majority leaders and the ranking  
212 members of said subcommittees may be assistant minority leaders.

213 (d) Committees. The staff clerks of the standing and select  
214 committees shall be appointed by the speaker of the House.  
215 Chairpersons of sub-committees may be appointed by the chairpersons  
216 of the respective standing and select committees with the approval of  
217 the speaker of the House.

218 All standing and select committee members shall be appointed by  
219 the speaker on or before the fifth regular session day of the first year of  
220 the term, except to fill a vacancy caused by death or incapacity, or  
221 resignation or removal from the House or from a committee, and  
222 except that the speaker may appoint any member elected after the fifth  
223 regular session day of the first year of the term to any committee,  
224 within five calendar days after the member takes the oath of office. The  
225 member first named shall be chairperson. All members of standing  
226 and select committees shall serve for both sessions of the term, except  
227 that: (i) The speaker may accept the resignation, for good cause, of a  
228 member of a standing or select committee prior to the expiration of the

229 term, and (ii) the speaker may remove a member, provided the  
230 speaker's removal of a member of the minority party shall require the  
231 concurrence of the minority leader. Chairpersons, vice-chairpersons  
232 and sub-committee chairpersons shall serve for both sessions of the  
233 term unless removed by the speaker.

234 (e) Referrals to Committees. (1) The House may refer any matter to a  
235 committee either before or after the deadline of that committee (i) at  
236 any regular session of the House or (ii) at a technical session of the  
237 House provided the majority leader has notified the minority leader or  
238 the minority leader's designee in writing, not later than 5 p.m. the day  
239 before the technical session, of the majority leader's intent to move for  
240 the referral, and received the approval of the minority leader or the  
241 minority leader's designee for the referral, and provided further that  
242 no matter may be recommitted at a technical session.

243 (2) The House may but need not refer to a committee before or after  
244 its deadline a bill or resolution that was favorably or unfavorably  
245 reported by another committee, except that every bill and resolution  
246 shall be referred to the committees on Legislative Management,  
247 Appropriations, Finance, Revenue and Bonding, Government  
248 Administration and Elections, or Judiciary if such referral is  
249 specifically required under Joint Rule 3 or subsection (e) of Joint Rule  
250 15.

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

253 **REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS**

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

255 1. Reception of petitions.

256 2. Reception of communications from the Governor, secretary of the  
257 state, annual and biennial reports, interim committee reports and

258 special reports.

259 3. Introduction of bills and resolutions.

260 4. Reports of committees.

261 5. Reception of business from the senate.

262 6. Business on the calendar.

263 7. Miscellaneous.

264 RULES AND MOTIONS

265 22. The rules of parliamentary practice comprised in the 2000  
266 edition of Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure shall govern the  
267 House whenever applicable and whenever they are not inconsistent  
268 with the standing rules and orders of the House or the joint rules of the  
269 senate and the House of Representatives.

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

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

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

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

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

282 27. If the question under debate consists of two or more

283 independent propositions any member may move to have the question  
284 divided. If the House adopts the motion to divide, the speaker shall  
285 rule on the order of voting on the divisions of a question.

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

288 1. To adjourn, which is not debatable

289 2. To recess

290 3. To postpone temporarily retaining position on the calendar

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

292 5. To close the debate at a specified time

293 6. To postpone to a certain time

294 7. To refer or recommit to a committee

295 8. To amend

296 9. To place at foot of calendar.

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

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

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

306 AMENDMENTS

307       31. (a) Amendments shall be filed with the clerk of the House before  
308 10 a.m. on the day on which the bill or resolution is to be acted upon,  
309 except that (1) the following may each sponsor or authorize  
310 amendments at any time: The presiding officer, the majority leader or,  
311 in the majority leader's absence, the majority leader's designated  
312 deputy majority leader, the minority leader or in the minority leader's  
313 absence, the minority leader's designated deputy minority leader; (2)  
314 the presiding officer may waive the filing requirement upon the  
315 request of the majority leader or the minority leader; (3) after any  
316 amendment or amendments have been adopted, any member may  
317 offer a further amendment only if it is directly related to the  
318 amendment or amendments adopted.

319       (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this rule, if a bill or resolution  
320 has been scheduled for consideration on a date certain pursuant to a  
321 special order, all amendments relating to that bill or resolution must be  
322 filed with the clerk of the House before 5 p.m. on the last day the  
323 clerk's office is open preceding the day on which the bill or resolution  
324 has been scheduled for consideration. The only exceptions to this filing  
325 requirement shall be: (1) The persons named in subdivision (1) of  
326 subsection (a) of this rule may each sponsor an amendment at any  
327 time; (2) after any amendment or amendments have been adopted, any  
328 member may offer a further amendment only if it is directly related to  
329 the amendment or amendments adopted.

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

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

339 A pending amendment may not be amended. No substitute  
340 amendment may be offered for a pending amendment.

341 (e) No independent new question may be introduced as an  
342 amendment.

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

#### 346 SEATS

347 32. Immediately after the adoption of these rules the speaker shall  
348 appoint a committee of four, who shall assign seats to all members of  
349 the House.

350 33. The seats assigned to members shall be their seats for their term  
351 of office.

#### 352 REPRESENTATIVES' CHAMBER

353 34. Use of the representatives' chamber shall not be granted for non-  
354 legislative use during a General Assembly session except by a vote of  
355 the House, or by a vote of the legislative management committee or  
356 with the permission of the speaker. The speaker shall grant use of the  
357 chamber for legislative use and between General Assembly sessions.

#### 358 PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE

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

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

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

369       37. If a division is called for, the House shall divide, those in the  
370 affirmative first rising from their seats and standing until counted, and  
371 afterwards those in the negative. For the purpose of more conveniently  
372 counting upon the division of the House, the floor thereof shall be  
373 divided by aisles into four divisions, to be numbered first, second,  
374 third and fourth sections, commencing on the right of the chair; for  
375 each of which divisions the speaker shall appoint a member whose  
376 seat is in said division to be a teller and to count and report to the  
377 chair.

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

380       39. The yeas and nays shall be taken on the roll call machine on all  
381 final action on all bills, resolutions proposing amendments to the  
382 constitution and all other substantive resolutions, except bills and  
383 resolutions on the consent calendar. On all other questions, a roll call  
384 vote shall be taken at the request of one-fifth of the members present,  
385 expressed at any time before a declaration of the vote. In the event the  
386 roll call machine is not functioning properly, the roll may be called by  
387 the clerk.

388       40. Every member present in the House chamber, when a question is  
389 put by the speaker, shall vote, unless excused by the speaker and no  
390 member shall absent herself or himself from the House chamber  
391 without leave, unless there is a quorum without such member's  
392 presence.

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

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

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

403 42. While the House is in session, admission to the floor of the  
404 House shall be limited to members of the General Assembly,  
405 authorized members of the press, authorized staff of the General  
406 Assembly, and such other persons as may be authorized by the  
407 presiding officer. On any day during which the House is in session,  
408 lobbyists shall be prohibited from the floor of the House except during  
409 a public hearing on the floor of the House or as may be authorized by  
410 the presiding officer for purposes of recognition or ceremony.

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

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

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

419 43. There shall be a consent calendar on which shall be entered such  
420 bills and resolutions as the majority leader and the minority leader or  
421 their designees shall agree, and shall be proposed to the House by the  
422 majority leader or the designee of the majority leader in the form of a  
423 motion to move to the consent calendar. The consent calendar may be  
424 acted upon on the day of such motion or on a subsequent day. At the  
425 request of a member made from the floor any bill or resolution shall be  
426 removed from those included in the motion. All bills and resolutions

427 starred for action on the consent calendar shall be passed on motion  
428 without discussion unless, at any time prior to the motion for passage,  
429 a member requests from the floor removal of a bill or resolution from  
430 the consent calendar in which case such bill or resolution shall be so  
431 removed and placed on the regular calendar. Any bill or resolution so  
432 removed shall be considered as having appeared on the regular  
433 calendar for a period of time equivalent to that during which it  
434 appeared on the consent calendar.

435 44. Upon motion made and adopted, the House may schedule  
436 consideration of any matter appearing on the calendar for a date  
437 certain by special order, but no sooner than the later of (i) the second  
438 day, excluding weekends and holidays, after the adoption of the  
439 special order or (ii) the day after the matter first appears on the  
440 calendar double starred.

441 RESTRICTIONS

442 45. No person shall smoke in the House chamber or the gallery. No  
443 person shall conduct a conversation on a wireless telephone or similar  
444 device in the House chamber while the House is meeting. No person  
445 shall take or possess a sign, banner, placard or other display material  
446 in the gallery. The presiding officer and the sergeant at arms shall  
447 enforce this rule.

448 SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

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

451 47. Motions to suspend the rules shall be in order on any session  
452 day. Suspension of the rules shall be for a specified purpose. Upon  
453 accomplishment of that purpose, any rule suspended shall be again in  
454 force.