

Proposed Rule Changes for 2021 Session

Proposed House of Representatives Rule Changes

New Rule

H2-1. Time allowed for a member to speak. A member may speak on a pending subject as follows:

(1) A member may speak for five minutes on the pending subject;

(2) . A member may speak for an additional five minutes on the same subject if another member yields his or her time to speak;

(3) A member may speak longer than ten minutes on the same subject with the consent of the majority of the members present. Upon receiving such consent, the member may speak up to an additional twenty minutes if other members yield their time to speak;

(4) Any of the time to speak not used by a member in any five-minute period is forfeited by the member;

(5) Each member may speak on the pending subject before any member speaks twice;

(6) No member may speak more than twice on the same subject without the consent of a majority of the members present; and

(7) Notwithstanding any of the limitations of this rule, when the debate on a bill appears to be closed, the prime sponsor of the bill may speak for additional five minutes unless a motion to call the previous question on final disposition of the bill has prevailed.

The time consumed by a member asking a question and the time consumed by the answer shall be subtracted from the questioning member's time allowed to speak. The time to speak remaining after the question is asked and answered is not forfeited by the member asking the question.

New Rule

H3-2. Introductory remarks before motions. No member making a motion in a committee pursuant to Joint Rules Chapter 7 may make introductory remarks prior to making a motion.

Revised Rule

H5-8. Members to vote electronically from their desks, exceptions. A member may vote on the electronic voting system only when at the member's desk. However, the presiding officer may authorize the chief clerk to call the names of members who are on the floor but not at their desks at the time of a vote or who are participating remotely as permitted under Joint

Rule 2-5 at the time of the vote and to record the votes of such members on the electronic voting system. If a member other than the speaker of the House is presiding, the chief clerk shall switch the voting system to allow the designated member presiding to vote in the presiding officer's station.

New Rule

H5-12. Remote voting. The speaker may temporarily suspend the provisions of this chapter requiring use of the electronic voting system if over a half of the members are participating remotely because of an outbreak of the COVID-19 virus.