

2018 -- S 2738

LC004952

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

SENATE RESOLUTION  
AMENDING THE RULES OF THE SENATE

Introduced By: Senators Nesselbush, Jabour, Euer, Sheehan, and Calkin

Date Introduced: March 20, 2018

Referred To: Senate Rules, Government Ethics and Oversight

1 RESOLVED, That the Rules of the Senate as adopted on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 as Senate  
2 Resolution 531 Substitute A, as amended, be and they are hereby amended as follows, to wit:

3 By deleting therefrom Rule 2.1 as it presently appears, to wit:

4 ~~**2.1 Presiding Officer.**~~

5 ~~The president of the senate shall, unless absent from the chamber, be the presiding officer~~  
6 ~~of the sessions of the senate. In the absence of the president from the chair, the president pro~~  
7 ~~tempore shall preside over the senate. The president may appoint a member of the senate to~~  
8 ~~temporarily preside over the senate, but in no event shall such appointment continue beyond the~~  
9 ~~legislative day on which it is made. In case of a vacancy in the offices of president, president pro~~  
10 ~~tempore and the deputy president pro tempore, or in case all said officers are absent at the hour to~~  
11 ~~which the senate stands adjourned, the reading clerk shall call the senate to order, and shall~~  
12 ~~preside until a president pro tempore is elected, which election shall be the first order of business.~~

13 and inserting in place thereof the following, to wit:

14 **Senate Rule 2.1 Senate Officers.**

15 The president of the senate shall, unless absent from the chamber, be the presiding officer  
16 of the sessions of the senate. In the absence of the president from the chair, the president pro  
17 tempore shall preside over the senate. The president may appoint a member of the senate to  
18 temporarily preside over the senate, but in no event shall such appointment continue beyond the  
19 legislative day on which it is made. In case all said officers are absent at the hour to which the  
20 senate stands adjourned, the reading clerk shall call the senate to order, and shall preside until a

1 president pro tempore is elected, which election shall be the first order of business.

2 **Resignation.**

3 If the Senate president, president pro tempore or the deputy president pro tempore  
4 resigns, he or she, immediately or within 3 days, shall notify the membership of said resignation  
5 and its effective date. If the president, president pro tempore or the deputy president pro tempore  
6 resigns, but does not or cannot notify the membership within 3 days, the chairperson of the Rules  
7 Committee shall notify the membership of the resignation immediately or within 3 days. If the  
8 chairperson of the Committee on Rules fails to so act within 3 days from the time the vacancy  
9 occurs, the vice chairperson of the Rules Committee shall act instead, following the procedure set  
10 forth in this rule.

11 **Call for Party Caucuses.**

12 In case of resignation or vacancy for any reason in the office of president, president pro  
13 tempore or the deputy president pro tempore, the chairperson of the Committee on Rules shall  
14 call for party caucuses for the purpose of filling the vacancy.

15 Party caucuses shall be held at the State Capitol not less than 10 days nor more than 30  
16 days from the time the vacancy occurs. All caucus voting shall be by secret ballot, and the votes  
17 shall be tallied by the secretary of the senate and the reading clerk. If no one candidate receives a  
18 majority of the votes, the secretary of the senate and the reading clerk shall call for another round  
19 of voting. The Chair of the Rules Committee shall provide not less than 10 days' notice of the  
20 caucuses in writing to the membership. If the Chair of the Committee on Rules fails to act within  
21 3 days from the time the vacancy occurs, the Vice Chair of the Rules Committee shall act instead,  
22 following the procedure set forth in this rule. Any person selected to fill any vacancy pursuant to  
23 this rule holds the office until another caucus is duly called for the purpose of electing officers of  
24 the Senate.

25 Caucuses must follow these rules, as applicable to them, and must adopt written caucus  
26 rules, by majority vote, before conducting the caucus.

27 **Nominees Voted On the Floor:**

28 Caucus nominees must be approved by a majority vote of all senators on the senate floor.

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