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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

HOUSE RESOLUTION

AMENDING THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE YEARS
2013 - 2014

Introduced By: Representatives Jacquard, Marcello, and Hearn

Date Introduced: January 14, 2015

Referred To: House Rules

1 RESOLVED, That House Rule 7 as presently in effect is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 (7)(a) The Speaker, or the Speaker's designee, shall prepare the floor calendar for each
4 legislative day. The calendar shall be printed or made available electronically to the members
5 daily. During the legislative session, the House shall convene at 4 p.m. provided that the Speaker,
6 with adequate notice to the members, may convene the House at another time.

7 (b) At the commencement of each day's session the roll shall be called or taken by use of
8 the electronic voting system. If a quorum is determined to be present the Speaker shall seek
9 approval of the previous day's journal and thereafter proceed to business. The order of business,
10 unless the Speaker determines otherwise, shall be as follows:

11 (i) Reports of standing and select committees.

12 (ii) Introduction and reference of new business.

13 (iii) Communications, including communications from the Senate.

14 (iv) Unfinished business in which the House was engaged at the time of last adjournment.

15 (v) Consent calendar.

16 (vi) Calendar.

17 (vii) Introduction of guests and announcements.

18 (viii) Matters of personal privilege.

19 (ix) Recess or adjournment.

1 (c) A representative desiring to introduce a bill or resolution shall file the same with the
2 Clerk of the House. At the request of any representative, an announcement presented to the
3 Speaker may be placed directly in the House Journal noting his or her absence from session.

4 (d) All bills and resolutions shall be filed no later than February 14, 2013 (for the 2013
5 session) and February 13, 2014 (for the 2014 session). The provisions of this section shall not
6 apply to city or town bills, to bills for the reinstatement of corporate charters, to bills relating to
7 the solemnization of marriages, appropriations and budget bills, or to bills to create or extend the
8 reporting dates of study commissions. Further, a member may introduce a public bill or resolution
9 after this date in February if one day previous to such introduction, the member shall have
10 notified the House of his or her intention to introduce such bill or resolution by reading the title
11 and giving a brief explanation of its purpose. A member may avail himself or herself of the
12 opportunity afforded by this rule three (3) times only in each calendar year, but in no event after
13 the fortieth (40th) legislative day unless the matter is submitted with the approval of the Speaker.
14 House Committees may, but shall not be obligated to, hear and consider public bills or resolutions
15 approved for introduction pursuant to this rule.

16 (e) Any bill or resolution introduced on or before April 11, 2013 (for the 2013 session)
17 and on or before April 10, 2014 (for the 2014 session):

18 (i) if filed prior to the convening of the session in the instance where the desk has been
19 left open to receive matters, shall be in order for the first reading and, where appropriate,
20 assignment to committee, on that day, and

21 (ii) if filed after the convening of the session, shall be in order for the first reading and,
22 where appropriate, assignment to committee, on the next legislative day and shall be considered a
23 part of that day's business, provided that the Speaker may direct that a given measure may be
24 treated in accord with subparagraph (i) above.

25 All bills or resolutions introduced after April 11, 2013 (for the 2013 session) and after
26 April 10, 2014 (for the 2014 session) shall be in order for the first reading and, where appropriate,
27 assignment to committee, on the day of introduction.

28 (f) The Clerk of the House shall cause the title and numbers of all bills and resolutions
29 introduced to be published in the House Journal for the day on which said bill or resolution is
30 deemed, as herein provided, to have been introduced.

31 (g) When a member has requested that the text of a resolution be read into the House
32 Journal, the Speaker may, at his or her discretion, direct that the same be read either during a
33 recess, while the House is at ease, or following adjournment. In any event, members present in

1 [the House Chamber during such reading shall preserve the decorum of the House.](#)

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