

2021 -- H 5010

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

AMENDING THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE YEARS  
2019 AND 2020

Introduced By: Representative Rebecca M. Kislak

Date Introduced: January 12, 2021

Referred To: House Rules

1           RESOLVED, That section (12)(e) of the rules for the House of Representatives adopted  
2 by the House of Representatives at its January session A.D. 2019 entitled "House Resolution  
3 Adopting the Rules of the House of Representatives for the years 2019 and 2020", be and the  
4 same is hereby amended to read as follows:

5           (12)(a) Committees shall take into consideration all such petitions, resolves, bills, matters  
6 or things as may be referred to them by the House with power to report by bill or otherwise;  
7 provided, however, that committees shall, whenever possible, consider all bills of substantially  
8 the same or of a similar nature at the same time in a manner that is otherwise in conformity with  
9 these rules.

10           (1) Any bill filed before or after the 40<sup>th</sup> legislative day, but subsequent to the hearing of  
11 a group of bills on the same subject matter pursuant to Rule 12(a), may or may not be assigned  
12 for hearing if it appears from the subject matter that the issues presented would be substantially  
13 similar to those matters already heard, even if a bill hearing request is filed pursuant to Rule  
14 12(e). If heard, the chair of the committee may limit the testimony to those issues not addressed  
15 in the previous bill hearing.

16           (b) A committee shall not consider any public bill or resolution not previously  
17 distributed in print or electronically to its members except by a vote of the majority of the  
18 members of the committee.

19           (c) The Chair of every committee shall post, in print and electronically, at least forty-

1 eight (48) hours prior to any committee meeting, a list by number and title of the bills  
2 and resolutions to be heard at that meeting. Such postings shall be made electronically and on the  
3 Legislative Data Bulletin Board. The electronic posting shall be considered the official date of the  
4 posting. In the event that the electronic posting system is inoperable then the official posting shall  
5 be posted on the Legislative Data Bulletin Board. The Chair shall limit such listings to the  
6 number of bills or resolutions he or she reasonably expects can be taken up by the committee at  
7 that meeting. Any bill or resolution so posted which the committee is not able to take up at the  
8 stated meeting must be re-posted as stated above. Such postings shall be made electronically, and  
9 on the Legislative Data bulletin board. Copies of all posted bills or resolutions shall be provided  
10 in print or electronically to all committee members and principal sponsors. A committee shall not  
11 hear any said bill or resolution without such notice except by the consent of a majority of its  
12 members and with at least one (1) day's notification to the principal House sponsor. The sponsor  
13 may, however, waive such one-day notification. The time requirements of this section shall not  
14 apply to House bills returned from the Senate with amendment, or, after the 50<sup>th</sup> legislative day  
15 (May 14, 2019 (for the 2019 session) and May 13, 2020 (for the 2020 session), to any bill  
16 originating in the Senate.

17 (d) Every standing committee shall meet at least once weekly if any requests for hearings  
18 on or consideration of bills or resolutions are pending before it. The right to be heard on any such  
19 bill or resolution may be granted, upon written or electronic request, to the principal sponsor as  
20 provided in these rules. No committee shall hear more than thirty (30) bills (exclusive of city and  
21 town bills, corporate charter reinstatement bills, those to be placed on the consent calendar, and  
22 duplicate senate bills that have previously passed) at any one (1) meeting.

23 (e) Upon receipt of a written request from the principal House sponsor of a bill or  
24 resolution, a copy of which is to be given to the recording clerk of the committee, the committee  
25 shall grant to said principal House sponsor a hearing on any said bill or resolution within thirty  
26 (30) calendar days of the request, subject to Rule 12(a), and provided further, that said committee  
27 shall grant to the principal House sponsor consideration of his or her bill or resolution prior to the  
28 deadline for committee action on such bill or resolution, also subject to Rule 12(a). The principal  
29 sponsor, with the concurrence of the Chair, may cancel a scheduled hearing with twenty-four (24)  
30 hours' notice to the Chair, which notice shall be posted electronically. The Chair may cancel a  
31 bill hearing at any time, with the approval of the Speaker if in the Chair's discretion the bill is not  
32 ready to be heard in the committee. A hearing postponed twice at the sponsor's request need not  
33 be re-scheduled, and shall also be subject to Rule 12(a). For the purpose of the rule, consideration  
34 shall mean a majority vote on one (1) of the following:

1 (i) a motion to report the bill or resolution to the House with a recommendation of  
2 passage;

3 (ii) a motion to report the bill or resolution as amended, or in substitute form, to the  
4 House with a recommendation of passage; or

5 (iii) a motion to report the bill or resolution to the House without recommendation; or

6 (iv) a motion to report the bill or resolution to the House with a recommendation of no  
7 passage; or

8 (v) a motion to report the bill or resolution to the House with a recommendation that it be  
9 held for further study. Provided, however, any bill reported under section (b) of this section, at the  
10 request of the prime sponsor, shall be reconsidered and acted upon as described in subsections (i)-  
11 (iv) of this section. Under no circumstances shall "held for further study" be construed to  
12 constitute final action on a bill without consent from the prime sponsor.

13 In the event of a tie vote on any of the motions specified in (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) or (v)  
14 hereof, the bill or resolution shall be lost.

15 The originals of bills or resolutions which have failed in committee shall be transmitted  
16 by the committee clerks to the Secretary of State for the State Archives, with an appropriate  
17 notation thereon at the time specified in R.I.G.L.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
HOUSE RESOLUTION  
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- 1           This resolution would amend the house rules to provide that bills that are held for further
- 2 study may be reconsidered unless the prime sponsor consents to the bill being permanently held
- 3 for further study.

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