

Assembly Minority Conference Rules Reform Proposals for 2015-16

Access to Resources:

1.)Staffing

Assembly Rule V, §9 - Speaker shall provide equal funding for payroll allocations and staffing of member's individual offices, regardless of the member's party affiliation or seniority.

Order of Business and Motions

1.)Hours in Session

Assembly Rule II §2(d) – When session extends beyond the eight hour limit, bills with a message of necessity must be approved by two-thirds of all members elected to the Assembly, previously it was by majority vote.

Process Changes –

1.) Resolutions -

Assembly Rule III, §5 - Would require that before the House can vote on a resolution, copies of the resolution must be placed on each member's desk at least 3 days prior to such vote. The Speaker, and Minority Leader may waive this rule.

2.) Public Hearings –

Assembly Rule IV, §4(a) - 1/3 of the members of a committee should be able to petition for a hearing on a bill or an oversight hearing, and such hearing will be held unless rejected by a majority vote of the committee.

3.) Motions to Discharge

Assembly Rule IV, §7(b) & (d) - A Motion to Discharge shall be in order if the bill or resolution is sponsored by at least 76 members of the House or by a vote if the majority of all the members elected to Assembly.

Assembly Rule IV, §7(e) – A roll call of each motion to discharge considered by the House shall be made available in electronic format through LRS within 24 hours of the vote.

4.)Freedom of Information.

Assembly Rule III, §6(f) - A roll call of each floor amendment offered and considered before the House shall be made available in electronic format through LRS within 24 hours of the vote.

Assembly Rule IV, §2 – Committee roll calls would be available in electronic form on LRS.

Assembly Rule IV, §2(d) - All standing committee meetings shall be recorded by video and the to the extent practicable web cast live. Video of all committee meetings shall be made available on the Assembly website and updated daily.

Assembly Rule III, §7(a) – No message of necessity submitted by the Governor will be accepted unless 76 members of the house have voted to approve the message.

5.) Committees

Assembly Rule IV, §1 - Would provide that the number of majority members of each committee shall be in the same ratio as the majority members of the House are to the entire membership of the House, with all fractional members of one half or greater being credited to the majority.

Assembly Rule IV - No committee Chairperson shall have served as Chairperson for the immediately-preceding consecutive eight years.

6.) Members

Assembly Rule V, §2(h) – Each member is entitled to have at least one substantive piece of legislation discharged from committee and brought to a vote during each two year term.

Assembly Rule V §2(i)- No member of the legislature may be elected to serve more than four consecutive two year terms as the minority leader of the assembly or the majority leader of the assembly.

Vacancy

Assembly Rule I, §2 – until the Assembly elects a Speaker. Each candidate for Speaker shall be available to answer questions from the members in open session about the candidate's qualifications, background, experience, objectives, plans and proposals, subject to the normal rules of debate that apply to the House.

Notwithstanding any rules to the contrary, each member shall have the opportunity to explain the member's vote for Speaker, not to exceed two minutes in length.

No candidate for Speaker shall have served as Speaker for the immediately-preceding consecutive eight years.