

SA001-0405

10 **AN AMENDMENT TO THE STANDING RULES OF ORDER OF THE MARYLAND**
20 **STUDENT LEGISLATURE – IX LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE PROCEDURES**

30 FOR the purpose of providing for a functional and efficient committee system in the Maryland
40 Student Legislature by reconstructing the current system; and generally relating to the betterment
50 of the Maryland Student Legislature by clarifying the purpose and function of the committee
60 system.

70 BY repealing, adding and reenacting, with amendments,
80 IX Legislative Committee Procedures
90 Sections 60 through 63
100 Standing Rules of Order of the Maryland Student Legislature

110 **WHEREAS:** The current committee system of the Maryland Student Legislature is extremely
120 vague on purpose, function and procedure; and,

130 **WHEREAS:** Committees find very detailed and controversial legislation unfavorable, despite
140 the fact that the pieces would foster very intriguing debate; and,

150 **WHEREAS:** The process to petition bills that have failed out of committee is lengthy and
160 usually unsuccessful, thus wasting valuable debate time; and,

170 **WHEREAS:** Unknowledgeable committee chairs, vice-chairs and members cannot derive the
180 intent of committees and their process; and,

190 **WHEREAS:** Proceedings run in a disorganized manner are often extremely time consuming,
200 thus taking time away from debate; and,

210 **WHEREAS:** Even on the occasions when the committee process does run smoothly, a large
220 amount of debate time is still lost because of the time allotted for each piece of
230 legislation; and,

240 **WHEREAS:** Reducing the amount of time allotted for each piece of legislation considered,
250 there will be more time available for third reading debate; and,

260 **WHEREAS:** Clarifying the purpose, process and function of the committee system will
270 reduce the number of petitions and incorrect decisions made by the committee;
280 and,

290 **WHEREAS:** A smooth and successful committee system would foster a positive feeling
300 amongst the members because less time would be spent in a mundane committee
310 system and more time debating on the floor, thus resulting in the betterment of
320 the Maryland Student Legislature.

330 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE,** That the IX
340 Legislative Committee Procedures of the Standing Rules of Order of the Maryland Student
350 Legislature reads as follows:

360 **IX Legislative Committee Procedures**

- 370 §60. COMMITTEE PURPOSE AND FUNCTION
380 (A) TO ENSURE THAT LEGISLATION BROUGHT TO THE FLOOR WILL
390 PRODUCE STIMULATING DEBATE.
400 (B) COMMITTEES SHOULD BE DEVOID OF ANY PARTISAN DEBATE.

- 410 (C) ANY TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS WITH REGARDS TO
420 GRAMMAR AND SPELLING SHOULD BE MADE IN COMMITTEE.
430 (D) THE RULES COMMITTEE, IN ADDITION TO (A), (B) AND (C), IS
440 CHARGED WITH ENSURING THAT AMENDMENTS TO THE MSL'S
450 STANDING RULES OR WRITING MANUAL BE BENEFICIAL FOR THE
460 FUTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION.

470 ~~§60~~ 61. Appointment and Function of Chair, Vice-Chair and Members

- 480 (a) The Speaker of the Assembly shall appoint the Chair, Vice-Chair, and all
490 Members of each committee, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE RULES
500 COMMITTEE, WHOSE MEMBERS ARE SELECTED BY INDIVIDUAL
510 DELEGATIONS.
520 (b) The Vice-Chair shall serve in the role as Clerk of the Committee and will
530 assume the role of chair in the chair's absence, thus appointing a member to
540 assume the role of Clerk of the Committee.
550 (C) THE CLERK OF THE COMMITTEE IS A FULL VOTING MEMBER OF
560 THE COMMITTEE.
570 ~~(D)~~ The Chair may only vote when necessary to make or break a tie.
580 ~~(E)~~ At the end of each committee session, the Vice-Chair shall forward to the
590 Attorney General all legislation for which a final recommendation has been
600 reached.

610 ~~§61~~ 62. Committee Design

- 620 (a) The Following legislative committees shall be established:
630 (1) Ways and Means;
640 (2) Commerce and Government Matters;
650 (3) Judiciary;
660 (4) National Affairs;
670 (5) Environment and Public Works;
680 (6) Rules, which shall consist of one Member from each delegation.
690 (I) UPON REGISTRATION, THE DELEGATION CHAIR
700 PERSON SHOULD SELECT AN INDIVIDUAL TO
710 REPRESENT THEIR DELEGATION ON THE
720 COMMITTEE, PREFERABLY THE DELEGATION CHAIR
730 PERSON HIM OR HERSELF.
740 (II) COMMITTEE MEMBERS SHOULD BE
750 KNOWLEDGABLE OF THE ORGANIZATION'S RULES,
760 IN ORDER TO VOTE APPROPRIATELY ON
770 AMENDMENTS TO THE GUIDING DOCUMENTS
780 REFERED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE.
790 (b) A Member may not be appointed to more than one of the
800 legislative committees referred to in paragraphs (a)(1) through
810 (a)(5) of this Rule.
820 (C) IN ACCORDANCE WITH (B), RULES MAY RUN SEPERATELY FROM
830 ALL OTHER COMMITTEES IF TIME PERMITS, HOWEVER IT IS
840 ACCEPTABLE TO RUN BOTH COMMITTEES SIMULTANEOUSLY.
850 ~~(D)~~ The Council of State shall establish special legislative committees as are deemed
860 necessary.

870 ~~§62~~ 63. Committee Reports

- 880 (a) The Chair of each committee shall direct the clerk of the committee to prepare a
890 list of the legislation which was recommended favorably or unfavorably. The
900 list shall be transmitted to the Secretary of State.
910 (b) The Chair shall attach to each piece of legislation reported to the floor, a copy of
920 each amendment thereto adopted by the committee.
930 (C) PURSUANT TO §24, THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE WILL READ THE

940 REPORTS AND THUS SHOULD HAVE A REPORT PREPARED WHEN
950 CALLED UPON BY THE PRESIDEING OFFICER.

960 §63 64. Consideration of Legislation in Committee

- 970 (a) The Chair shall call each Bill or Resolution for consideration according to the
980 calendar published by the Attorney General.
- 990 (b) Each Bill or Resolution shall be considered by the committee.
- 1000 (c) The procedure ~~for~~ FOR consideration shall generally follow these guidelines:
- 1010 (1) The Sponsor of the legislation may testify for a period of up to ~~five~~
1020 THREE minutes. Non-Members shall be afforded the right to testify
1030 on behalf of any legislation at the request of the sponsor.
- 1040 (2) Upon conclusion of the sponsor's statement, members of the Committee
1050 may then proceed to mark-up the legislation, Members may engage in
1060 debate, ask questions of the sponsor, or propose amendments upon
1070 recognition of the Chair.
- 1080 (d) With the consent of the Committee, the Chair may institute further procedures
1090 for consideration, so long as they do not deviate from standard parliamentary
1100 practice.
- 1110 (e) At the expiration of the time allotted, NO MORE THAN 10 MINUTES
1120 TOTAL, for consideration of a piece of legislation, the Chair shall then move
1130 directly into a vote on each remaining question, WITH A MAJORITY OF
1140 MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE TO GIVE
1150 THE PIECE OF LEGISLATION A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION.
- 1160 (1) A COMMITTEE MEMBER WHO WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE
1170 TIME A VOTE WAS TAKEN MAY NOT:
- 1180 (I) VOTE EX POST FACTO.
- 1190 (II) VOTE BY PROXY.
- 1200 (2) ANY MEMBER WHO IS TESTIFYING IN HIS/HER OWN
1210 COMMITTEE, IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AND PARTICIPATE IN
1220 DISCUSSION, WITHOUT EXCEPTION.
- 1230 (f) The Chair shall decide on all interpretations of these rules and points of order
1240 but shall be subject to appeal. A two-thirds vote of the committee members
1250 present overrules the chair's decision.
- 1260 (g) Quorum for a Committee shall be one more than half of the Members present at
1270 the opening of Committee Business at each Interim Assembly or Annual
1280 Session. The Committee may consider legislation without a quorum, however
1290 they may not vote until a quorum is achieved.
- 1300 (h) Amendments proposed in committee must be sponsored by a member of said
1310 Committee.
- 1320 (i) Members, observers, and sponsors OF THE LEGISLATION CURRENTLY
1330 BEING DISCUSSED may be present for all proceedings of any committee
1340 provided that order is maintained during the Committee session.

1350 **BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE**, That the
1360 Attorney General of the Maryland Student Legislature be authorized to fix the corresponding
1370 section numbers to reflect the newly created §60.

1380 **BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE**, That this
1390 take effect January 1, 2005.

1400 **MANDATES:** Governor Byron MacFarlane
1410 Lt. Governor Sasha Miles
1420 Attorney General Christal Shrader
1430 Secretary of State Anna Barvir
1440 Speaker of the Assembly Kelley Harris
1450 Comptroller Megan Sands

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