

SA005-0405

10 **A SIMPLE AMENDMENT TO THE STANDING RULES OF ORDER CONCERNING**
20 **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE PROCEDURES**

30 By repealing, and reenacting with amendments
40 Article IX Legislative Committee Procedures Section 63

50 **WHEREAS:** In years past, the Maryland Student Legislature has been bogged down in debate
60 by poorly constructed bills which have numerous spelling errors; and,

70 **WHEREAS:** The purpose of Committee is not defined or clear in the current Standing
80 Rules; and,

90 **WHEREAS:** The purpose of Committee should be to weed out bad bills which have
100 numerous spelling errors and that deal with irresolvable issues for the Maryland
110 Student Legislature to debate; and,

120 **WHEREAS:** The powers of the chair are left ambiguous in the current rules; and,

130 **WHEREAS:** Legislation passed by the Maryland Student Legislature represents our
140 organization to the rest of the State of Maryland and nationally.

150 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE,
160 That the Standing Rules of Order of the Maryland Student Legislature
170 read as follows:

180 IX Legislative Committee Procedures

190 (a) The Chair shall call each Bill or Resolution for consideration according to the calendar
200 published by the Attorney General.

210 (b) Each Bill or Resolution shall be considered by the committee.

220 (c) The procedure for consideration shall generally follow these guidelines
230 (1) The Sponsor of the legislation may testify for a period of up to five minutes. Non-
240 Members shall be afforded the right to testify on behalf of any legislation at the request of
250 the sponsor.
260 (2) Upon conclusion of the sponsor's statement, members of the Committee may then
270 proceed to mark-up the legislation. Members may engage in debate, ask questions of the
280 sponsor, or propose amendments upon recognition of the Chair.

290 (d) A BILL OR RESOLUTION IS TO BE CONSIDERED DEBATABLE ON THE ABILITY
300 OF THE AVERAGE DELEGATE TO EFFECTIVELY DEBATE THE BILL OR RESOLUTION
310 WITH SUFFICIENT BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE. FURTHERMORE, THE PURPOSE OF
320 COMMITTEE IS TO MAKE SURE BILLS DO NOT HAVE NUMEROUS FUNDAMENTAL
330 GRAMMER MISTAKES, CONTENT FLAWS, OR ERRORS.

340 (e) IF THE CHAIR DECIDES THAT THE BILL OR RESOLUTION PRESENTS AN ISSUE
350 TO COMPLEX FOR THE COMMITTEE OR GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO EFFECTIVELY
360 DEBATE, THEN THE CHAIR SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO REMOVE THE BILL
370 OR RESOLUTION FROM THE COMMITTEE DOCUT. THE CHAIR MUST GIVE A
380 REASON FOR THE DECISION.

390 (f) THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS MAY OVERRULE THE CHAIR BY A SIMPLE
400 MAJORITY. DEBATE ON THE CHAIR DECISION SHALL CONSIST OF TEN MINUTES

410 EQUALLY DIVIDED IN OPEN DEBATE.

420 ~~(G)~~ (G) With the consent of the Committee, the Chair may institute further procedures for
430 consideration, so long as they do not deviate from standard parliamentary practice.

440 ~~(H)~~ (H) At the expiration of the time allotted for consideration of a piece of legislation, the Chair
450 shall then move directly into a vote on each remaining question.

460 ~~(I)~~ (I) The Chair shall decide on all interpretations of these rules and points of order but shall be
470 subject to appeal. A two-thirds vote of the committee members present overrules the chair's
480 decision.

490 ~~(J)~~ (J) Quorum for a Committee shall be one more than half of the Members present at the opening
500 of Committee Business at each Interim Assembly or Annual Session. The Committee may
510 consider legislation without a quorum, however they may not vote until a quorum is achieved.

520 ~~(K)~~ (K) Amendments proposed in committee must be sponsored by a member of said Committee.
Members, observers, and sponsors may be present for all proceedings of any committee provided
that order is maintained during the Committee session.

530 SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT
540 LEGISLATURE, that this take effect January 1, 2005.

550 **MANDATES:** Governor Byron Macfarlane
560 Lieutenant Governor Sasha Miles
570 Attorney General Christal Shrader
580 Secretary of State Anna Barvir
590 Speaker of the Assembly Kelley Harris
600 Comptroller Megan Sands

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