

2021 -- H 5036

=====
LC000809
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

HOUSE RESOLUTION

HOUSE RESOLUTION AMENDING THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE YEARS 2019-2020

Introduced By: Representative Camille F. Vella-Wilkinson

Date Introduced: January 19, 2021

Referred To: House Rules

1 RESOLVED, That the Rules of the House of Representatives adopted by the House of
2 Representatives at its January session, A.D. 2019, entitled “House Resolution Adopting the Rules
3 of the House of Representatives for the Years 2019 and 2020,” are hereby amended by adding
4 thereto the following section:

5 (47) Discipline of a Member

6 (a) Any action to expel a member shall commence with a resolution sponsored by the
7 Speaker of the House.

8 (b) The Speaker shall refer the resolution to the committee on conduct, or any other
9 standing committee, for hearing and review. The committee shall investigate the matter and shall
10 have the right to compel witnesses and produce documents by subpoena prepared by the
11 committee and approved and signed by the Speaker. All testimony in the committee shall be
12 under oath and preserved by stenographic record which shall be transcribed upon the order of the
13 chair.

14 (c) Any member who is the subject of potential expulsion under the resolution shall be
15 afforded due process of law, to include notice of all hearings, the right to retain legal counsel, and
16 the opportunity to present evidence and/or witnesses and cross examine any witnesses.

17 (d) At the completion of the committee hearing, upon consideration and an affirmative
18 vote of the majority of the committee members present, said resolution shall be reported to the
19 floor of the house in accordance with these rules.

1 (e) Any floor vote of the house for expulsion shall require two-thirds (2/3) of the
2 members elected for approval of the resolution to expel.

3 (f) In those instances where the Speaker deems that censure or reprimand of a member is
4 in order, the Speaker may in his or her discretion impose said discipline. Upon notice of the
5 imposition by the Speaker of censure or reprimand upon a member, that member may dispute said
6 discipline within five (5) calendar days by notifying the Speaker in writing and requesting a
7 hearing before the committee on conduct. In the event a member requests a hearing before the
8 committee on conduct, the member shall be entitled to the procedures set forth herein.

9 (g) In the alternative, the Speaker may in his or her discretion sponsor and refer a
10 resolution of censure or reprimand to the committee on conduct, or any other standing committee,
11 for hearing, review, and consideration by the committee consistent with the procedures set forth
12 herein.

=====
LC000809
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION
HOUSE RESOLUTION AMENDING THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE YEARS 2019-2020

1 This resolution would amend the Rules of the House for the Years 2019 and 2020 by
2 establishing a procedure for the discipline of a member, which would include censure, reprimand,
3 and expulsion. This resolution would also provide that a member subject to potential expulsion
4 would be afforded due process of law.

=====
LC000809
=====