

2012 -- H 8105

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**AMENDING THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE YEARS
2011-2012**

Introduced By: Representatives Costa, and Reilly

Date Introduced: May 01, 2012

Referred To: House Rules

1 RESOLVED, That Rule 12 of the House of Representatives which was adopted by the
2 House of Representatives at its January session, A.D. 2011, entitled "HOUSE RESOLUTION
3 ADOPTING RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE YEARS 2011-
4 2012", be and 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 (b) A committee shall not consider any public bill or resolution not previously distributed
11 in print or electronically to its members except by a vote of the majority of the members of the
12 committee.

13 (c) The Chair of every committee shall post, in print and electronically, at least forty-
14 eight (48) hours prior to any committee meeting, a list by number and title of the bills and
15 resolutions to be heard at that meeting. Such postings shall be made electronically and on the
16 Legislative Data Bulletin Board. The electronic posting shall be considered the official date of the
17 posting. In the event that the electronic posting system is inoperable then the official posting shall
18 be the printed posting on the Legislative Data Bulletin Board. The Chair shall limit such listings
19 to the number of bills or resolutions he or she reasonably expects can be taken up by the

1 committee at that meeting. Any bill or resolution so posted which the committee is not able to
2 take up at the stated meeting must be re-posted as stated above. Such postings shall be made
3 electronically, and on the House bulletin board or on the Legislative Data bulletin board. Copies
4 of all posted bills or resolutions shall be provided in print or electronically to all committee
5 members and principal sponsors. A committee shall not hear any said bill or resolution without
6 such notice except by the consent of a majority of its members and with at least one (1) day's
7 notification to the principal House sponsor. The sponsor may, however, waive such one-day
8 notification. The time requirements of this section shall not apply to House bills returned from the
9 Senate with amendment, or, after the 50th legislative day, to any bill originating in the Senate.

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

16 (e) Upon receipt of a written request from the principal House sponsor of a bill or
17 resolution, a copy of which is to be given to the recording clerk of the committee, the committee
18 shall grant to said principal House sponsor a hearing on any said bill or resolution within thirty
19 (30) calendar days of the request, and provided further, that said committee shall grant to the
20 principal House sponsor consideration of his or her bill or resolution prior to the deadline for
21 committee action on such bill or resolution. The principal sponsor, with the concurrence of the
22 Chair, may cancel a scheduled hearing with twenty-four (24) hours' notice to the Chair, which
23 notice shall be posted electronically. A hearing postponed twice at the sponsor's request need not
24 be re-scheduled. For the purpose of the rule, consideration shall mean a majority vote on one (1)
25 of the following:

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

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

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

31 (iv) a motion to report the bill or resolution to the House with a recommendation of no
32 passage; ~~or~~

33 ~~(v) a motion to report the bill or resolution to the House with a recommendation that it be~~
34 ~~held for further study. A motion to report the bill or resolution to the House with a~~

1 recommendation that it be held for further study shall not be consideration for the purpose of this
2 rule. Provided, this subsection shall not apply to bills before the House finance committee.

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

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

8 (f) Committee Chairs shall bring reports of committee actions to the floor no later than
9 two (2) weeks following the committee votes thereon, provided that this shall not apply to the
10 Committee on Finance, nor shall it apply to bills being held for further study under subdivision
11 (e)(v). A committee member may move reconsideration of any vote taken so long as the bill or
12 resolution which was the subject of the vote remains in the possession of the committee and that
13 the motion is made by a member voting in the majority. A motion to reconsider in committee
14 shall not be debated.

15 Bills or resolutions concerning appropriations, revenue or expenditures shall not be
16 subject to the above time limits.

17 (g) In the event a committee fails to afford consideration to any bill or resolution within
18 the prescribed time where such consideration has been properly requested, the principal sponsor
19 may report such failure in writing to the Speaker of the House and the Speaker thereupon may
20 order the immediate discharge of the bill or resolution from a committee to the House floor.

21 (h) All bills or resolutions reported from committee shall be placed on the calendar or,
22 pursuant to the restrictions of these rules, on the consent calendar for the required period of time
23 according to these rules before House consideration. Bills and resolutions reported from
24 committees and received by the Clerk of the House prior to the convening of the session on a
25 given legislative day shall be deemed to have been received, and therefore in order to be placed
26 upon the appropriate calendar, as of that day. Bills and resolutions so received after the convening
27 of the session on a given legislative day shall be deemed to have been received, and therefore in
28 order to be placed upon the appropriate calendar, on the next legislative day and shall be
29 considered a part of that day's business.

30 House Rule 12(e) regarding the necessity to hold a hearing at the sponsor's request
31 through 12(h) pertaining to the timing of placing a bill onto the floor calendar shall not apply to
32 any bill or resolution which shall have originated in the Senate.

33 (i) No public bill or resolution which originated in the House shall be considered by a
34 House committee unless the committee has held a hearing on that bill or resolution by April 28,

1 2011 (or April 12, 2012, in the case of 2012), and thereafter the committees of the House shall
2 not consider public bills or resolutions except those which have been acted upon by the Senate
3 and transmitted by the Senate to the House of Representatives, provided however, that the
4 committee on finance may hear and consider such House bills, acts or resolutions as it deems to
5 have a fiscal impact after April 28, 2011 (or April 12, 2012, in the case of 2012), except as
6 provided in section (j) hereof, and provided further, that each other House committee may
7 complete consideration of not more than three (3) House bills or resolutions after said date, on
8 which such committee had not been able to complete action, upon approval by the Speaker of a
9 written request from the Chair. All such requests must be filed with the Clerk of the House no
10 later than April 28, 2011 (or April 12, 2012, in the case of 2012). The provisions of this paragraph
11 shall not apply to House bills of which Senate duplicates have passed the House.

12 (j) No House bill which relates to an individual's pension or retirement shall be accepted
13 as a committee report from the committee on finance unless it shall have been considered by the
14 committee on or before April 28, 2011(or April 12, 2012, in the case of 2012), and shall have
15 been heard in the committee no later than one (1) week prior to that date.

16 (k) Transfers –The Speaker or the Speaker’s designee may direct the transfer of a bill or
17 resolution from one committee to another at any time. The committee receiving the transferred
18 bill or resolution must comply with the posting and time requirements of this section.

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