

2015 -- H 5017

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

HOUSE RESOLUTION

AMENDING THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE YEARS  
2013-2014

Introduced By: Representative John J. Lombardi

Date Introduced: January 08, 2015

Referred To: House Rules

1           RESOLVED, That Section 45 of the rules for the House of Representatives adopted by  
2 the House of Representatives at its January session, A.D. 2013, entitled "House Resolution  
3 Adopting Rules of the House of Representatives for the Years 2013-2014," be and the same is  
4 hereby amended to read as follows:

5           Establishment of Caucuses

6           (45)(a) Members of the House may establish affiliate groups to be known as "Caucuses."

7           (b) Membership in any said Caucus is limited to duly elected members of the House. No  
8 party, person, nor organization who is not a duly elected member of the House shall be involved  
9 in nor be allowed to join nor participate in any manner in the business of the Caucus.

10          (c) Membership in any said Caucus is open to those who are primarily in said affiliate  
11 group, but should not necessarily be closed to other House members.

12          (d) Notwithstanding 45(c):

13          (1) Any Caucus organized around a political party affiliation is limited solely to those  
14 House members who belong to said party.

15          (2) Any Caucus organized around a county and/or municipal affiliation is limited solely  
16 to those House members who represent said county and or municipality.

17          (e) The duties of each Caucus shall be to provide a common association and opportunity  
18 for members to interact with each other and to address concerns and to act as a positive body to  
19 implement legislation, initiatives, suggestions and other forms of action on issues of common

1 interest to the membership.

2 (f) The governing body of any Caucus is limited to a chairperson and vice chairperson  
3 and any member of the Caucus shall be eligible to hold any office.

4 (g) The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

5 (1) Chairperson:

6 (i) To preside over all meetings of the Caucus;

7 (ii) To provide an agenda for each meeting to those attending; and

8 (iii) To conduct the annual election of officers.

9 (2) Vice Chairperson:

10 (i) To assume duties of the Chairperson in his/her absence; and

11 (ii) To conduct all votes, notwithstanding 45(g)(1)(iii), at meetings.

12 (h) Office holders shall be elected by a simple majority of a quorum vote by the body for  
13 a two (2) - year term.

14 (i) In the event an officer cannot fulfill his or her term, the following rules shall apply:

15 (1) A vacancy in the Chairperson's office shall be filled by the Vice Chairperson.

16 (2) A vacancy in the Vice-Chairperson's office shall be filled by a majority vote of a  
17 quorum of the membership of the Caucus.

18 (3) The term of the replaced officers shall begin immediately and shall terminate upon the  
19 regular election of new officers.

20 (j) A quorum shall consist of two-thirds (2/3) of the current membership of the Caucus.

21 (k) No budget shall be appropriated for any Caucus nor shall any Caucus engage in the  
22 raising of funds nor in-kind donations to pay for any of its activities.

23 (l) All caucuses shall be established by written notification to the Speaker or his/her  
24 designee with all elections being held one month after the establishment. The two (2) - year  
25 election term shall run from the date of said election.

26 (m) Rules 45(f), 45(g), 45(h), and 45(i) shall not apply to political party caucuses.

27 (n) Nothing shall preclude the formation of joint caucuses between the house and senate.

28 (o) Effective with the 2015 legislative session, there shall be a standing caucus to be  
29 known as the "Freshman Caucus." The Freshman Caucus shall consist of and be limited to all  
30 members of the house who are serving in their first or second year as a member of the House of  
31 Representatives without regard to political affiliation. The Speaker of the House shall convene the  
32 first session of the Freshman Caucus as soon as practicable for organizational purposes, and the  
33 Freshman Caucus shall then organize itself in accordance with these rules. After the Freshman  
34 Caucus convened in 2015 has served for two (2) consecutive legislative sessions, said Caucus

1 shall be dissolved, and a new Freshman Caucus shall be formed from among the then newly  
2 elected members of the House. Provided, nothing shall prohibit a group of representatives who  
3 have served together as a Freshman Caucus to organize into a new Caucus once their Freshman  
4 Caucus has been dissolved.

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