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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION
AMENDING THE RULES OF THE SENATE

Introduced By: Senators Nesselbush, and Bell

Date Introduced: March 14, 2019

Referred To: Senate Rules, Government Ethics and Oversight

1 RESOLVED, That the Rules of the Senate as adopted on March 30th, 2017 as Senate
2 Resolution 531 Substitute A, as amended, be and they are hereby amended as follows, to wit:

3 By deleting therefrom Rule 2.1 as it presently appears, to wit:

4 ~~**2.1 Presiding Officer.**~~

5 ~~The president of the senate shall, unless absent from the chamber, be the presiding officer~~
6 ~~of the sessions of the senate. In the absence of the president from the chair, the president pro~~
7 ~~tempore shall preside over the senate. The president may appoint a member of the senate to~~
8 ~~temporarily preside over the senate, but in no event shall such appointment continue beyond the~~
9 ~~legislative day on which it is made. In case of a vacancy in the offices of president, president pro~~
10 ~~tempore and the deputy president pro tempore, or in case all said officers are absent at the hour to~~
11 ~~which the senate stands adjourned, the reading clerk shall call the senate to order, and shall~~
12 ~~preside until a president pro tempore is elected, which election shall be the first order of business.~~

13 and inserting in place thereof the following, to wit:

14 **Senate Rule 2.1 Senate Officers.**

15 The president of the senate shall, unless absent from the chamber, be the presiding officer
16 of the sessions of the senate. In the absence of the president from the chair, the president pro
17 tempore shall preside over the senate. The president may appoint a member of the senate to
18 temporarily preside over the senate, but in no event shall such appointment continue beyond the
19 legislative day on which it is made. In case all said officers are absent at the hour to which the
20 senate stands adjourned, the reading clerk shall call the senate to order, and shall preside until a

1 president pro tempore is elected, which election shall be the first order of business.

2 **Resignation.**

3 If, for any reason there is a vacancy in the offices of the Senate president, president pro
4 tempore or the deputy president pro tempore he or she, immediately or within three (3) days, shall
5 notify the membership of said resignation and its effective date. If the president, president pro
6 tempore or the deputy president pro tempore resigns, but does not or cannot notify the
7 membership within three (3) days, the chairperson of the Committee on Rules shall notify the
8 membership of the resignation immediately or within three (3) days. If the chairperson of the
9 Committee on Rules fails to so act within three (3) days from the time the vacancy occurs, the
10 vice chairperson of the Committee on Rules shall act instead, following the procedure set forth in
11 this rule.

12 **Call for Party Caucuses.**

13 In the event of a vacancy in the offices of president, president pro tempore or the deputy
14 president pro tempore, the chairperson of the Committee on Rules shall call for a caucus of the
15 majority party for the purpose of nominating and endorsing a candidate(s) to fill any vacant
16 office(s).

17 A caucus of the majority party shall be held at the State Capitol (or other suitable venue)
18 not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30) days from the effective date of any vacancy.
19 All caucus voting shall be by paper ballot, and the votes shall be tallied by the secretary of the
20 senate and the reading clerk. If no one candidate receives a majority of the votes, the secretary of
21 the senate and the reading clerk shall call for another round of voting. The chair of the Committee
22 on Rules shall provide not less than ten (10) days' notice of the caucus in writing to the
23 membership. If the chair of the Committee on Rules fails to act within three (3) days from the
24 effective date of the vacancy, the vice chair of the Committee on Rules shall act instead,
25 following the procedure set forth in this rule. Any person selected to fill any vacancy pursuant to
26 this rule holds the office until another caucus is duly called for the purpose of electing officers of
27 the Senate.

28 The caucus must adopt caucus rules by a majority vote, but all caucus rules must be
29 consistent with either Robert's or Masons Rules of Order, as determined by a majority of the
30 caucus.

31 **Nominees Voted On the Floor.**

32 Caucus nominees must be approved by a majority vote of Senators on the floor, via

1 [ballot, as pre-scribed in § 22-3-2.](#)

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