

TASK GROUP ON THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES

MEMBERSHIP

Ms. Pauline H. G. Getz, <i>Chair</i>	San Diego, VIII
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REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TASK GROUP AT GENERAL CONVENTION: Rebecca Snow and Sally Johnson are authorized to receive non-substantive amendments to this report.

SUMMARY OF WORK

The President of the House of Deputies appointed the Task Group to review the Rules of Order of the House of Deputies and identify potential revisions to correct errors and inconsistencies, improve the processes of the House of Deputies and conform the Rules to actual practice and usage. The Group met by telephone conference call on six occasions.

The Task Group reviewed and discussed each Rule of Order to consider whether it would be advisable to propose a modification.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION

RESOLUTION A010 AMENDING RULE 2 OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES RULES OF ORDER

- 1 *Resolved*, That Rule of Order 2 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:
2 **2.** The daily sessions of the House shall be opened with prayer, and prayer for Missions shall be had daily
3 at ~~noon~~ *midday*. *Any deputy may request the President to call for prayer at other times and the President may initiate such*
4 *prayer as deemed appropriate.*

EXPLANATION

Requiring the business of the House to stop for prayer precisely at noon often interrupts the business of the House. The amendment is intended to provide flexibility and to conform our invitation to prayer to our practice.

RESOLUTION A011 AMENDING RULE 6 OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES RULES OF ORDER

- 1 *Resolved*, That Rule of Order 6 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:
2 **6.** The Secretary shall keep a Calendar of Business, on which shall be placed, in the order of their
3 presentation, the subjects being briefly indicated, Orders of the Day, reports of Committees, Resolutions
4 which lie over, and other matters undisposed of. The Secretary shall also keep a Consent Calendar, which
5 shall be published daily and distributed to the members before the convening of the House on each
6 legislative day, and designate it as a separate calendar. Matters shall be listed on the Consent Calendar in
7 separate groupings, according to the date that they have been placed thereon. All matters to which
8 amendments have been proposed by a Committee shall be so designated. No debate is in order regarding
9 any matter appearing on the Consent Calendar. However, the President shall allow a reasonable time for
10 questions from the floor and answers to those questions. No amendment other than an amendment
11 contained in a Committee report is in order regarding any matter on the Consent Calendar. Any
12 amendments contained in Committee reports on such matters shall be deemed adopted unless the matter
13 is objected to and removed from the Consent Calendar. Immediately prior to a vote on the first matter
14 on the Consent Calendar the President shall call to the attention of the members the fact that the next
15 vote will be on the first matter pending on the Consent Calendar. Matters appearing on the Consent
16 Calendar shall be taken up immediately following the noon recess of the next legislative day following
17 their placement on the Consent Calendar, or otherwise by unanimous consent or by adoption of a special
18 order of business. A matter may be placed on the Consent Calendar by report of a Legislative

19 Committee, if the Committee vote to report the matter with a recommendation for adoption, with or
20 without amendments, or for discharge, or referral to ~~a Joint or Standing Commission~~ *an Interim Body or*
21 *Executive Council*, or for rejection, was by three fourths of the members present and if the Committee
22 recommends placement of the matter on the Consent Calendar. Prior to a vote on final passage of any
23 matter appearing on the Consent Calendar, it shall be removed from the Consent Calendar if (1) any
24 three Lay or Clerical deputations, or (2) the sponsor of the matter, or (3) the Committee on Dispatch of
25 Business files with the Secretary written objections to the presence of the matter on the Consent
26 Calendar. Any matter so removed may not be placed thereafter on the Consent Calendar but shall be
27 restored to the Daily Calendar. Any matter removed from the Consent Calendar, to which amendments
28 have been proposed by a Committee, shall stand on the Daily Calendar ~~in its original, unamended form,~~
29 *as reported by the Legislative Committee*, and ~~amendments~~ shall be treated as if the matter had never been on
30 the Consent Calendar.

EXPLANATION

To clarify and correct process.

RESOLUTION A012 AMENDING RULE 12(D) OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES RULES OF ORDER

1 *Resolved*, That Rule of Order 12(d) of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:
2 (d) No hearing by a Committee shall be held upon any matter before it unless notice of the time and
3 place of hearing and the matter to be heard is posted no later than at least four hours before the matter is
4 scheduled to be heard. Each day the Chair or the Secretary of each Committee shall deliver to the
5 Secretary of the House (at the office of the Secretary of the House) a written notice signed by the Chair
6 or by the Secretary. Such notice shall state the time (both date and hour) and the place of the proposed
7 hearing and shall identify by number (and Blue Book page reference, if available) the proposition or
8 propositions to be considered at the next session of the Committee. The Secretary *of the House* shall post a
9 copy of each notice received on a bulletin board at or near the chamber and easily accessible to the
10 members of the House and to the public *and in such other places or manners as may enhance the giving of actual*
11 *notice of the hearing*. If the notice contains a request that the notice be read to the House prior to
12 adjournment, the Secretary *of the House* shall do so.

EXPLANATION

It is incumbent on the House leadership to take reasonable steps to provide notice to as many deputies and interested parties as possible. There may be methods other than, and in addition to, posting on the bulletin board that will accomplish this goal.

RESOLUTION A013 AMENDING RULES 12(G) AND 17 OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES RULES OF ORDER

1 *Resolved*, That Rule of Order 12(g) of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:
2 (g) Except as provided herein, every Committee meeting shall be open to the public. However, the Chair
3 may convene the Committee in conference, during which time the public may remain but may not
4 participate in the Committee deliberations. Upon a two-thirds majority vote of Committee members
5 present, a Committee may go into executive session if the matter to be considered in executive session
6 has first been scheduled for hearing and heard in open session, and interested persons have been given an
7 opportunity to be heard. *No legislative matter may be amended or otherwise voted on in executive session;*
8

9 And be it further

10
11 *Resolved*, that Rule of Order 17 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:
12 17. The provisions of Rules 12 and 13 shall not apply to Committees having procedural matters only,
13 including, but not limited to, the Committee on Elections, Committee on Certification of Minutes,
14 Committee on Dispatch of Business; Provided, however the meetings of such Committees shall be open
15 to Bishops, Deputies, and Visitors, except that, on a two-thirds majority vote of Committee members
16 present, the Committee may go into executive session *to discuss, but not vote on, an appropriate matter.*

EXPLANATION

The goal of the process is to ensure transparency and not permit actions to be taken in any kind of closed session. Where proceedings are purely procedural, such as Certification of Minutes or Dispatch of Business, the further goal is to facilitate getting their work done without undue distraction.

RESOLUTION A014 AMENDING RULE 14 OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES RULES OF ORDER

- 1 *Resolved*, That Rule of Order 14 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:
2 Any Resolution which involves an amendment to the Constitution or Canons, shall be referred by the
3 President to the appropriate Legislative or Special Committee for action. *The assigned Committee shall*
4 *consult with a designated member of the Committee on the Constitution or Committee on Canons during the drafting*
5 *process. When the Legislative or Special Committee deems the resolution perfected, it shall refer it to ~~and simultaneously~~*
6 ~~to~~ the Committee on the Constitution or the Committee on Canons, as the case may be, and such
7 Committee shall make certain that the Resolution is in proper constitutional or canonical form, achieves
8 consistency and clarity in the Constitution or Canons, and includes all amendments necessary to effect
9 the proposed change, and shall promptly communicate its recommendations to the Legislative or Special
10 Committee. In such case the Committee shall neither concern itself with, nor report on, the substance of
11 the matter referred to it, but whenever requested to do so by the Presiding Officer of the House, the
12 Committee shall in its reports to the House make recommendations as to substance. The Committee on
13 the Constitution and the Committee on Canons, when acting on a matter first heard in another
14 Committee, shall not be required to give the notice required by Rule 12(d). No such resolution shall be
15 placed on the Calendar until such Committee shall have approved it in proper constitutional or canonical
16 form.

EXPLANATION

In practice, the process is sequential and not simultaneous.

RESOLUTION A015 AMENDING RULE 19(A) OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES

- 1 *Resolved*, That Rule of Order 19(a) of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:
2 19 (a) No Report of a *Standing Commission, ~~or~~ Committee, Board, Task Force or a* Joint Committee
3 containing Resolutions that has been printed and distributed to the members of this House at least three
4 weeks before the meeting of the Convention, shall be read at length to the House, but the Chair or a
5 member of that Committee or Commission may make an oral summary.

EXPLANATION

Revisions to render the Rule more accurate.

RESOLUTION A016 AMENDING RULE 20 OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES

- 1 *Resolved*, That Rule of Order 20 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:
2 20 ~~(a)~~ Every Report of a Commission or Joint Committee shall be referred to the appropriate Legislative
3 Committee of this House, if there be one; but, if not, to a Special Committee of this House. The House
4 may at any time refer any Report or Resolution to the Committee on the Constitution to draft a
5 constitutional amendment or to the Committee on Canons to draft a canon or amendment to the Canons
6 which will carry into effect, if enacted, the Report or Resolution so referred.

EXPLANATION

Revision to delete the prefatory (a), which is superfluous since there is no (b).

RESOLUTION A017 AMENDING RULES 27(C)(1) AND 27(H)(1) OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES

- 1 *Resolved*, That Rule of Order 27(c)(1) of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:
2 27. The following motions have no order of priority, but are subject to the following rules:

3 ... (c) To Recall from Committee
4 (1) Mover *must* ~~[may]~~ be recognized.
5

6 And be it further
7

8 *Resolved*, That Rule of Order 27(h)(1) of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:

9 (h) Objection to Consideration

10 (1) ~~If objection made before debate is begun~~ *Objection must be made before debate is begun.* The...

EXPLANATION

These revisions are intended to provide more clarity and consistency in the procedures.

RESOLUTION A018 AMENDING RULES 34 AND 36 OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES

1 *Resolved*, That Rule of Order 34 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:

2 34. When any member is about to speak or to deliver any matter to the House, ~~he~~ *the member* shall, with
3 due respect, address ~~himself to~~ the President, state ~~his~~ name and ~~his~~ Diocese, and confine ~~himself any~~
4 *remarks* strictly to the point of debate; and be it further
5

6 *Resolved*, that Rule of Order 36 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:

7 36. When the House is about to rise, every member shall ~~keep his seat~~ *remain seated* until the President
8 leaves the Chair. Before putting to a vote a motion to adjourn, the President may make any
9 communication to the House, or may cause any notice to be read by the Secretary.

EXPLANATION

To render the Rules gender-neutral.

RESOLUTION A019 AMENDING RULE 40(A) OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES

1 *Resolved*, That Rule of Order 40(a) of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:

2 40 (a) Unless excused by the House, every member who shall be in the House when any Question is put
3 must vote ~~on a division~~.

EXPLANATION

To clarify the mandate to require voting

RESOLUTION A020 AMENDING RULE 41 OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES

1 *Resolved*, That Rule of Order 41 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:

2 41. The vote upon any Question (except in the case of elections), shall be taken by Dioceses and Orders
3 whenever required by the Constitution or by Canon, or whenever required by *all of* the Clerical or Lay
4 representation from three or more Dioceses, before the voting begins. Whenever a vote shall be taken by
5 Dioceses and Orders ~~(except in the case of elections)~~, the vote of each Order in each Diocese shall be
6 stated by one member in each Order as "Aye" or "No" or "Divided". If desired by the entire Deputation
7 from any Diocese that the Deputation be polled, the vote of the individual Deputies representing that
8 Diocese shall be stated and recorded, or if by ballot or electronic means shall be recorded. Such record
9 shall be made, also, in respect of the individual members of every Deputation, if so ordered, without
10 debate, by a majority of the House. In lieu of a roll call, a vote by Dioceses and Orders may be taken by
11 such electronic or mechanical means as may be provided, or by written ballots of each Order, each such
12 ballot to be signed by the ~~Chairman~~, or, in the ~~Chairman's~~ absence, by another member of the
13 Deputation in the Order for which the ballot is cast; and, if the vote of a Deputation be divided, it may
14 indicate the individual names of the Deputies and their votes on the Question. The results of all votes by
15 Orders, whether by voice vote, by ballot, or by electronic means, shall be posted.

EXPLANATION

These revisions render the provision gender-neutral and clarify the consistency in calling for and implementing votes by orders.

RESOLUTION A021 AMENDING RULE 45 OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES

- 1 *Resolved*, That Rule of Order 45 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:
2 45. Messages from the House of Bishops shall be handed by the Secretary of this House to the President,
3 to be laid before the House as early as may be convenient. All such Messages communicating any
4 legislative action on the part of the House of Bishops shall be referred, without debate, to the proper
5 committee, unless, without debate, the House shall decide to consider such Message without such
6 reference. The report of the Committee upon any Message so referred shall be entitled to consideration
7 as of the date and priority of the original receipt of such Message. The question of its immediate
8 consideration, *to be decided by two-thirds vote of the members present, shall be submitted to the House* as soon as the
9 report is presented.

EXPLANATION

The noted phrase was dropped in an earlier draft of the Canons (between 1991 and 1994.)

RESOLUTION A022 AMENDING RULE 46 OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES

- 1 *Resolved*, That Rule of Order 46 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:
2 46. When, either without reference or after reference and report, the consideration of such Message shall
3 have begun, it shall continue to be the Order of the Day until final action thereon, and shall not be
4 subject to any motion to postpone or to lay on the table. However, consideration of such Message shall
5 be subject to a motion for the appointment of a Committee of Conference, as hereinafter provided in
6 ~~this~~ Rule 48.

EXPLANATION

To delete “this” in light of the fact that this is Rule 46 and not 48.

RESOLUTION A023 AMENDING RULE 55 OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES

- 1 *Resolved*, that Rule of Order 55 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:
2 55. When considering the election of a Bishop, the approval of the Candidate's testimonials, or ~~assent~~
3 *consent* to the ~~Candidate's~~ *Bishop Elect's* consecration, and when acting upon the election of the Presiding
4 Bishop, the House shall sit as soon as practicable after the receipt of official notification from the House
5 of Bishops of such elections.

EXPLANATION

Revisions for clarity and accuracy.

RESOLUTION A024 AMENDING RULE 58 OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Rule of Order 58 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:
2 58. Unless a member have leave from the President or be unable to attend, no member shall be absent
3 ~~himself~~ from the service of the House.

EXPLANATION

To correct a typographical error.

RESOLUTION A025 AMENDING RULES 60(A) AND 60(B) OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES

- 1 *Resolved*, That Rule of Order 60(a) of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:
2 60 (a) No one shall be admitted to the floor except members and officers of this House, and except that
3 two Ordained Persons, and two Lay Persons who are duly authorized representatives of The Episcopal

Task Group on the Rules of Order of the House of Deputies

4 Church in Liberia, ~~and like representatives of The Episcopal Church in Navajoland,~~ shall have seat and
5 voice in a designated section on the floor of the House. In addition, up to 18 youth (not more than two
6 youth from each Province) who are duly authorized representatives known as the Official Youth
7 Presence, shall have seat and voice in a designated section on the floor of the House.
8

9 And be it further

10

11 *Resolved*, That Rule of Order 60(b) of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:

12 (b) Alternate Deputies and former members of the House; the Presidents of ~~Church colleges~~ *the*
13 *Association of Episcopal Colleges* and Deans of Church seminaries; the President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary,
14 Treasurer and elected Members of the Executive Council ~~the Directors and Associate Directors of the~~
15 ~~Departments and General Divisions of the Executive Council~~ may be seated in a section reserved for
16 Special Guests, except during Executive Sessions.

EXPLANATION

To more clearly describe which “church colleges” and to delete language that is no longer used in the church.

RESOLUTION A026 AMENDING RULE 60 OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES RULES OF ORDER

1 *Resolved*, That Rule of Order 60 of the House of Deputies be amended by adding a new subsection (a), to read as
2 follows, with subsequent subsections to be re-lettered:

3 (a) *Each deputation shall elect a Chair, and notify the Secretary of the House of the results of that election, no later than*
4 *the day on which the House organizes itself.*

EXPLANATION

There has previously been no provision for the designation of a Chair, although there is reference to duties of the Chair in other Rules. In addition, it is important that the Secretary know the identity of the Chair of the deputations to facilitate proper communication.

RESOLUTION A027 AMENDING RULE 64 OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES RULES OF ORDER

1 *Resolved*, That Rule of Order 64 of the House of Deputies is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 64. The President may invite a distinguished visitor to speak for not more than ~~ten~~ *five* minutes, or may
3 extend the privileges of the floor to a representative of a Church agency, although not a Deputy, to speak
4 for not more than five minutes to a report of that agency.

EXPLANATION

In light of the press of business at General Convention, it is proposed to limit the time for guest speakers to five minutes.

RESOLUTION A028 AMENDING RULE 66 OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES RULES OF ORDER

1 *Resolved*, That Rule of Order 66 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:
2 66. Except when otherwise ordered by majority vote of the House, no books, pamphlets or other printed
3 matter shall be distributed in the House, or be placed on the seats or desks of the Deputies, without the
4 express permission of the President; but this prohibition shall not apply to reports of Committees or to
5 any papers or other documents ~~present~~ *presented* to and accepted by the House or printed by its authority.

EXPLANATION

To correct a typographical error.

RESOLUTION A029 AMENDING STANDING ORDER I OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES

1 *Resolved*, That Standing Order I of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:

- 2 I. Prior to the meeting of each General Convention, the Secretary of the House of Deputies shall
3 determine, by lot, the seats to be occupied by the Deputation from each Diocese, *except that the Deputations*
4 *of members serving on the platform shall be seated in the front of the House, near the platform.*

EXPLANATION

In order to facilitate communication and participation by platform members with their respective deputations, the deputations of those individuals serving on the platform who are also deputies have been seated in the front of the hall near the platform. This is especially helpful, for example, when there is a vote by orders requiring the signatures of deputies.

RESOLUTION A030 AMENDING STANDING ORDER IV OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES

- 1 *Resolved*, That Standing Order IV of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:
2 IV. At all times when the House is in session, the ~~National~~ and Church flags *and such other flags as the*
3 *President shall deem appropriate* shall be flown on the platform.

EXPLANATION

The Episcopal Church encompasses more than just the United States. This modification would give the President the discretion to recognize the wider church.