

Amending The Rules Of Order Of The Ulster County Legislature

Referred to: The Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee (Chairman Richard Parete and Legislators Donaldson, Greene, Roberts, and Ronk)

Chairman John Parete offers the following:

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature considers and evaluates all proposed legislation through a committee system; and

WHEREAS, Committees are responsible to complete a thorough examination and full vetting of proposals to ensure completeness, fairness and benefit to the County and its residents before said proposals are presented to the full Legislative body for vote; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the Rules of Order of the Ulster County Legislature to prevent “committee shopping” or intentionally directing legislation toward a particular committee, or preventing the referral of legislation to a specific committee; and

WHEREAS, there is a distinct and purposeful difference between a Legislator voting “No” on proposed legislation because he or she feels the proposal is lacking in some way and should not be advanced to the full Legislature for a vote versus voting “No” to defeat the measure; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the Rules of Order of the Ulster County Legislature to prevent a Committee from postponing a resolution indefinitely, thereby circumventing the spirit of the Rules and disallowing a vote by the full Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that RULE 3. RESOLUTIONS, LOCAL LAWS, RULES FOR PROCEDURE FOR PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION; C. Procedure for the submission and consideration of Resolutions in Committee.; 1 is hereby amended as follows:

“1. Introduction: A Legislator or Legislators together may introduce a Resolution by drafting or causing the same to be drafted and filing the same with the Clerk of the Legislature. The Sponsors shall be deemed those representing themselves as the sponsors when the Resolution is filed with the Clerk (one Legislator may represent to the Clerk that multiple Legislators are sponsors). Other Legislators may co-sponsor the Resolution by asking the Sponsor or Clerk to add their name to the Resolution as a Co-Sponsor. The Clerk shall refer the Resolution to a Committee of Original Jurisdiction based on the Rules of the Legislature and may also refer the matter to one or more Committees of Secondary Jurisdiction. The

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Sponsor(s) may request that the Clerk refer the Resolution to a particular Committee of Original Jurisdiction. **The referral of Resolutions to committees shall be the exclusive authority of the Clerk of the Legislature.**”; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that RULE 7. RULES FOR COMMITTEES; is hereby amended as follows:

A. The Rules of Order of the Legislature, except Rules 10(J) and **10(U)**, shall apply to all Committee meetings; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that RULE 7. RULES FOR COMMITTEES; is hereby further amended to include an additional subsection as follows:

“K. No motion shall be considered during a Standing Committee Meeting except as herein specified:

1. Move for discussion.
2. To adopt.
3. To amend. (Rule 3.C.2. shall apply)
4. To call the question.
5. To refer to a Standing Committee.
6. To postpone to the next Regular Committee Meeting.
7. To withdraw a motion
8. To recess.
9. To adjourn.

All motions listed above, with the exception of numbers 4 and 7, shall require a second.”; and, be it further

RESOLVED that RULE 7. RULES FOR COMMITTEES is hereby further amended to include an additional subsection as follows:

“L. A Resolution may not remain in committee for more than 90 consecutive days unless the Resolution’s sponsor(s) agrees. When a Resolution has remained in committee for 91 consecutive days without the permission of the sponsor, it shall be immediately placed on the agenda of the next regular monthly meeting of the committee where it has remained whereupon the Resolution shall be either moved out of committee or defeated therein.”; and, be it further

