

Amending The Rules Of Order To Ensure Standing Committee Assignments Correspond With The Term Of The Legislature

Referred to: The Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee (Chairman Roberts and Legislators Belfiglio, Donaldson, R. Parete and Rodriguez)

Legislator Chris Allen offers the following:

WHEREAS, the Rules of Order of the Ulster County Legislature govern the selection process and accompanying terms of service associated with the committee assignments for individual legislators on Standing Committees within the Ulster County Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the current procedure for committee assignments calls for Legislators to submit committees of interest in rank order of preference which is then turned into the respective Caucus leaders and submitted for consideration by the Chairman of the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, after considering all input, the Chairman of the Legislature then makes committee assignments which typically set the composition, make-up and structure of Standing Committees for only 12 months of the 24 month legislative term; and

WHEREAS, the term of service for individual legislators on Standing Committees affects how much continuity and chemistry can be affectively utilized towards the expression of ideas and the facilitation of debate and analysis of monthly resolutions, and towards the advancement of legislative initiatives by individual legislators; and

WHEREAS, the chemistry, continuity and structure of Standing Committees increases over time when the same committee members have an opportunity to serve continuously, making a 24-month term of service more valuable while also increasing the effectiveness of debate, analysis and the advancement of legislative initiatives; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Section G. of RULE 5. STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATURE AND CALENDARING OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS, is hereby amended to read as follows:

G. In making appointments to each Standing Committee:

(a) Within seven (7) days after the ~~Legislature's Annual Organizational Meeting~~, **FIRST ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR EACH NEW COUNTY LEGISLATURE**, every Legislator shall inform the appropriate Majority or Minority Leader and the newly appointed Chairperson, in writing, his/her five Committees of interest in rank order of preference.

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(b) Within seven (7) days after the ~~Legislature's Annual Organizational Meeting~~, **FIRST ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR EACH NEW COUNTY LEGISLATURE**, the Chairperson shall inform the appropriate Majority and Minority Leader of the whole number of seats available on each standing committee.

(c) The Majority and Minority Leaders will meet with the newly appointed Chairperson to present the Legislator requests and provide insight to the Chairperson regarding each Legislator's knowledge, experience, expertise and interests.

(d) The Chairperson of the Legislature shall consider each legislator's knowledge, experience, expertise, and/or interests, and will assign each legislator at least one of their requested Committees. Other assignments will be at the discretion of the Chairperson.

(e) **Nothing shall preclude the Chairperson from removing a Legislator from a Committee for health reasons or non-attendance, with the consent of the Legislator's party leader.**

(f) **In the event that there is a change of Chairperson after a Chairperson is elected at the first organizational meeting for a new body, nothing shall preclude the new Chairperson from altering committee assignments in consultation with the Majority and Minority leaders.**

and, be it further

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Rule 2, entitled "AMENDMENT OF RULES," of the Rules of Order of the Ulster County Legislature, this resolution and the amendment proposed herein shall be read at two consecutive meetings of the Ulster County Legislature, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this rule change shall take effect upon an affirmative vote of this body subsequent to two consecutive readings,

and moves its adoption.

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FIRST READING:

SECOND READING:

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

Postponed in Committee: Laws and Rules, Governmental Services on December 19,
2016

Passed Committee: Laws and Rules, Governmental Services on _____.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE