

Amending The Rules Of Order To Require Participation On Standing Committees

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

Legislators Belfiglio, Fabiano, Gerentine, Litts, Lopez, Maio, Maloney, Roberts, Ronk, and Wawro offer the following:

WHEREAS the Ulster County Legislature is the legislative, appropriating and policy-determining body of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature is comprised of 23 duly elected legislators; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature conducts its business by passing resolutions; and

WHEREAS, it is important for resolutions to be vetted before reaching the floor for a vote by the full legislative body; and

WHEREAS, the vetting of resolutions is done through the committee process whereby the resolution is considered by each committee that has jurisdiction over the subject of the resolution; and

WHEREAS, serving on a committee is integral to being a county legislator and the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, as each legislator should serve on at least one committee; and

WHEREAS, Section C-17(B) of the Ulster County Charter and Section A-2-12(B) of the Administrative Code state, "*The Chairman shall appoint members of the County Legislature to serve on such committees as are provided by the rules of such Legislature.*"; and

WHEREAS, Rule 5 (A) of the Legislature's Rules of Order states, "All members of Standing Committees of the Legislature shall be appointed by the permanent Chairperson within twenty (20) days after his/her election or appointment, and the list of Committees shall be filed with the Clerk of the Legislature and printed in the County Directory."; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon each legislator to abide by the appointments made by the Chairperson of Legislature under Rule 5(A); now, therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that Rule 5 of the Rules of Order of the Ulster County Legislature, entitled "Standing and Special Committees of the Legislature and Calendaring of the Legislative Sessions", is amended to add the following provisions:

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F. Every legislator shall serve on at least one Standing Committee of the Ulster County Legislature. No Legislator shall be required to serve on more than three Standing Committees of the Ulster County Legislature.

G. In making appointments to each Standing Committee:

(a) Within seven (7) days after the Legislature's Annual Organizational Meeting, 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.

(b) 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.

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

~~H. Any and all appointments to Standing Committees made by the Chairperson of the Legislature shall be accepted by every legislator regardless of their knowledge experience, expertise, or interests.~~

H. Legislators may be excused from serving on Standing Committees only upon written notification to the Chairperson of the Legislature which may be granted due to a conflict of interest, illness, or family obligations, or any other reason as deemed sufficient by the Chairman. In a circumstance where a Legislator only serves on one Standing Committee and excusal from service on said Committee is granted for any reason absent an illness, the Chairperson shall appoint the Legislator to another Committee to be determined at the discretion of the Chairperson.

and, be it further

RESOLVED, that these changes to the Rules of Order of the Ulster County Legislature shall take effect upon an affirmative vote of this body subsequent to two consecutive readings,

and move its adoption.

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FIRST READING: April 15, 2014

SECOND READING: May 20, 2014

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

Defeated in Committee: Laws and Rules, Governmental Services as amended on March 17, 2014

Petition to Discharge Successfully Executed: March 18, 2014

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE

Legislator Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Legislator Loughran, to refer the resolution back to the Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 12

NOES: 10

(Noes: Legislators Belfiglio, Fabiano, Gerentine, Litts, Lopez, Maio, Maloney, Roberts, Ronk and Wawro)

(Absent: Legislator Provenzano)

REFERRED BACK TO LAWS AND RULES, GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE