

**Special Rules of Order for the House of Deputies:  
For deliberations during the 80<sup>th</sup> General Convention  
DRAFT June 13, 2022**

*Resolved*, That, notwithstanding any other House of Deputies Rule of Order to the contrary, and in light of the extraordinary challenges presented by the COVID-19-shortened General Convention, the House of Deputies adopts the following Special Rules of Order to govern all committee and legislative deliberations and actions for the 80<sup>th</sup> General Convention, including those taken prior to the convening of the convention. To the extent that these rules conflict with the Rules of Order of the House, these rules control:

**I. General Rules**

- a. Notwithstanding any Rule of Order, only seated deputies, first alternates, essential volunteers, essential staff, officers and those invited by the President will be allowed in the Hall or on the floor of the House. First alternates will be provided a special seating area distanced from and adjacent to the floor of the House.
- b. A public live stream will be provided for viewing open sessions of the House.

**II. Committee Meetings, Hearings and Deliberations**

- a. Before General Convention, all committees will meet, conduct hearings, deliberate and act only by remote means. All meetings and hearings will be conducted to enable all committee members to simultaneously hear one another with reasonable accommodations and participate in the meetings. All committee meetings and hearings conducted under the guidelines of this special rule will be considered valid, notwithstanding any conflict with the standing House of Deputies Rules of Order.
- b. Committees will be required to conduct at least one electronic hearing for all resolutions submitted before convention. Following an electronic hearing, the committee may adopt its final report to the convention on the resolutions referred to the committee.
- c. All committee pre-convention hearings and work, including committee actions commending amendments to resolutions, must be completed by June 25, 2022.
- d. Except for the Committees on Dispatch of Business, Credentials, Privilege & Courtesy, and Certification of Minutes, or as directed by the President or by the House, committee meetings during the convention will be limited to considering floor amendments adopted by the House of Bishops to resolutions for which the House of Bishops is the House of Initial Action, or which were previously adopted by the House of Deputies. Attendance of non-members at these committee meetings may be limited to accommodate social distancing and capacity requirements.

**III. Resolutions**

- a. Notwithstanding any other rule of the House, except for resolutions proposed by the Committee on Dispatch of Business, the Committee on Privilege & Courtesy

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or the President, any resolution submitted for consideration to the Secretary after June 6, 2022, will be considered out of order unless the House votes to consider it.

**IV. Legislative Calendar and Consent Calendar**

- a. The Legislative Calendar and Consent Calendar must be published at least 12 hours in advance of the session at which it is to be considered.
- b. The Consent Calendar will be considered twice a day, as the first legislative order of the morning and afternoon sessions.
- c. A resolution may only be removed from the Consent Calendar by a vote of the House, the Committee on Dispatch of Business or by the President.
- d. A motion to remove an item from the Consent Calendar is not debatable and requires a vote of one-third plus one.
- e. All courtesy resolutions will automatically be placed on the Consent Calendar unless the Committee on Privilege & Courtesy or the Committee on Dispatch of Business votes to remove one from the Consent Calendar.

**V. Debate; Committee Reports**

- a. Debate on all resolutions will be governed by the following rules:
  - i. A total of 20 minutes will be allowed for debate on a matter and all amendments and motions related to the matter.
  - ii. During the first six minutes, no deputy may move to amend, substitute or end debate, unless no one wishes to speak on the matter.
  - iii. Following the first six minutes of debate, the House will automatically consider any amendments submitted on a matter in the order they are submitted. Debate on any amendment will be limited to four minutes. Once the 20-minute limitation expires, the matter will be automatically put to a vote.
- b. Committee reports may not exceed two minutes in length, or up to four minutes if the presenter requires translation into English.

**VI. Amendments**

- a. Any deputy wishing to propose a primary amendment on a matter during a session must submit that amendment to the Secretary after 12 noon EDT on July 5, 2022, and before the beginning of the session at which the matter is to be considered. All amendments must be submitted in the manner prescribed by the

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Secretary. Any primary amendments not submitted in advance will be out of order. Primary amendments will be taken up in the order in which they were filed.

**VII. Motions and Deferral**

a. Changes to existing motions:

- i. A motion to recall from committee may be brought on or after the second legislative day. A motion to limit or extend debate is not debatable.

b. Additional Type of Motion:

i. Deferral to the 81<sup>st</sup> General Convention

1. The House may vote to defer consideration of a resolution to the 81<sup>st</sup> General Convention. A motion to defer is:

- a. a secondary motion;
- b. not debatable;
- c. not amendable; and
- d. requires a majority vote.

2. A Legislative Committee or the Committee on Dispatch of Business may vote to defer consideration of a resolution to the 81<sup>st</sup> General Convention during a committee meeting.

- ii. The vote of any Legislative Committee or the Committee on Dispatch of Business recommending deferral of action on a resolution to the 81<sup>st</sup> General Convention will be deemed accepted by the House without coming to the floor unless the House votes to suspend the rules, recall the resolution from the committee and place it on the Legislative Calendar.

- iii. Any resolution on which the House takes no vote of any kind on the floor will be deemed submitted for consideration to the 81<sup>st</sup> General Convention in its original form. Any proposed amendments or recommended actions by the Legislative Committee to which the resolution was referred will be included as a supplemental report to the 81<sup>st</sup> General Convention.

**VIII. Nominations and Elections**

a. Nominations:

- i. All nominations must be submitted to the Secretary on the form provided by the Secretary. No nominations will be made from the floor.

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- ii. Deadlines for nominations are as follows:
  - 1. Nominations for all offices, except for the office of Secretary and Vice-President, must be submitted by 12 noon on the first legislative day.
  - 2. Nominations for the office of Vice-President must be submitted by 6 p.m. on the second legislative day.
- iii. All nominations must meet the standard qualifications required by the Constitution, Canons or Rules of Order.

b. Elections:

- i. Elections will take place on the following schedule:
  - 1. Elections for the office of Secretary will take place on the first legislative day.
  - 2. Elections for all offices except Vice President and Secretary will be the first item of business following the consent calendar on the second legislative day.
  - 3. Elections for the office of Vice President will be the first item of business following the consent calendar in the afternoon session on the third legislative day.

And be it further,

*Resolved*, That the need to adopt these Special Rules of Order, both for decisions and actions made and taken already to conduct the legislative process and for the effective management of legislation during the 80th General Convention, arises from unprecedented specific and unique circumstances, details, and considerations relating to the COVID-19 pandemic; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the decisions and actions stated and reflected in these Special Rules of Order are not intended to establish, act, operate, be construed, be cited, be interpreted, or serve as precedent, policy, analysis, evidence of past practice, interpretation, or determination, in any way or for any purpose, of the Constitution, Canons, House of Deputies Rules of Order, or the authority of any office or body, or any other matter.