

By: Vasut

H.R. No. 8

R E S O L U T I O N

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 87th
2 Legislature, that Rule 1, Section 15, of the permanent rules of the
3 House of Representatives of the 87th Legislature is amended to read
4 as follows:

5 Sec. 15. Standing Committee Appointments - (a) The speaker
6 shall designate the chair and vice-chair of each standing
7 substantive committee and shall also appoint membership of the
8 committee, subject to the provisions of Rule 4, Section 2.

9 (b) If members of equal seniority request the same
10 committee, the speaker shall decide which among them shall be
11 assigned to that committee.

12 (c) In announcing the membership of the standing
13 substantive committees, the speaker shall designate which are
14 appointees and which acquire membership by seniority.

15 (d) The speaker shall appoint the chair and vice-chair of
16 each standing procedural committee and the remaining membership of
17 the committee.

18 (e) If a new speaker is elected to fill a vacancy in the
19 office after the appointment of standing committees, the new
20 speaker may not alter the composition of any standing committee
21 before the end of the session, except that the new speaker may:

22 (1) vacate the new speaker's membership on any
23 committee;

24 (2) make committee appointments for the member who was

1 removed as speaker;

2 (3) designate a different member of a standing
3 committee as committee chair; and

4 (4) fill vacancies that occur on a committee.

5 (f) (1) A member shall be removed as chair and vice-chair of
6 all standing and procedural committees the member serves on, but
7 shall retain his or her membership on the committee, if a majority
8 of the house adopts a motion to remove a committee chair or
9 vice-chair for any of the following reasons:

10 (A) the member is absent from the sessions of the
11 house without leave under Rule 5, Section 3, for more than seven (7)
12 cumulative days during any regular session;

13 (B) the member is absent from the sessions of the
14 house without leave under Rule 5, Section 3, for more than three (3)
15 cumulative days during any special session;

16 (C) the member is absent from the sessions of the
17 house without leave under Rule 5, Section 3, for more than fourteen
18 (14) cumulative days, with the intent to cause a lack of quorum
19 under Rule 5, Section 1, during the past six (6) months.

20 (2) A motion under Subdivision (1) must be seconded by
21 twenty-five (25) members, of whom the speaker may be one, and shall
22 be recognized as a privileged motion if otherwise in order.

23 (3) A motion under Subdivision (1) is not in order
24 unless a member has previously provided at least twenty-four hour's
25 notice of intent to make the motion by addressing the house when the
26 house is in session and stating that a member intends to make a
27 motion for the removal of a member(s) as chair or vice-chair of a

1 standing or procedural committee.

2 (4) A member that is subject to a motion under
3 Subdivision (1) is permitted, but not obligated, to address the
4 house for not more than 10 minutes on a motion being considered by
5 the full house under Subdivision (1). The time limits established
6 by this rule shall include time consumed in yielding to questions
7 from the floor. The time limit established by this rule shall not
8 be extended.

9 (5) No member may be subject to a motion under
10 Subdivision (1) more than once during any regular or special
11 session.

12 (6) A motion under Subdivision (1) is incidental to a
13 call of the house, under Rule 5, Section 7.

14 (g) The speaker may not appoint a member as a chair or
15 vice-chair of any committee if the member was removed as a chair or
16 vice-chair of any committee during the previous twelve (12) months
17 pursuant to Subsection (f).

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
19 87th Legislature, that Rule 5, Section 8, of the permanent rules of
20 the House of Representatives of the 87th Legislature is amended to
21 read as follows:

22 Sec. 8. Securing a Quorum. (a) When a call of the house is
23 moved for one of the above purposes and seconded by 15 members (of
24 whom the speaker may be one) and ordered by a majority vote, the
25 main entrance to the hall and all other doors leading out of the
26 hall shall be locked and no member permitted to leave the house
27 without the written permission of the speaker. The names of members

1 present shall be recorded. All absentees for whom no sufficient
2 excuse is made may, by order of a majority of those present, be sent
3 for and arrested, wherever they may be found, by the
4 sergeant-at-arms or an officer appointed by the sergeant-at-arms
5 for that purpose, and their attendance shall be secured and
6 retained. The house shall determine on what conditions they shall
7 be discharged. Members who voluntarily appear shall, unless the
8 house otherwise directs, be immediately admitted to the hall of the
9 house and shall report their names to the clerk to be entered in the
10 journal as present.

11 (b) Until a quorum appears, should the roll call fail to
12 show one present, no business shall be transacted, except to compel
13 the attendance of absent members or to adjourn. It shall not be in
14 order to recess under a call of the house.

15 (c) Any member without sufficient excuse who fails to appear
16 in the hall within twenty-four (24) hours of a call of the house, or
17 within twenty-four (24) hours of the appointed time for the member
18 to appear pursuant to any written permission of the speaker, shall
19 be fined a sum equal to two times the member's per diem per day the
20 member is absent without excuse during a call of the house. Such
21 fine shall be remitted to the sergeant-at-arms and made payable to
22 the Texas House of Representatives.

23 (d) Any member without sufficient excuse who fails to appear
24 in the hall within forty-eight (48) hours of a call of the house, or
25 within forty-eight (48) hours of the appointed time for the member
26 to appear pursuant to any written permission of the speaker, shall
27 be re-designated as having zero years and zero days of cumulative

1 service as a member of the house of representatives for purposes of
2 seniority under these Rules and any privileges appurtenant thereto.
3 There shall be no method by which to reinstate the seniority of a
4 member that has been re-designated as having zero years and zero
5 days of cumulative service as a member of the house of
6 representatives for purposes of seniority under this subsection.

7 (e) Any member without sufficient excuse who fails to appear
8 in the hall within seventy-two (72) hours of a call of the house, or
9 within seventy-two (72) hours of the appointed time for the member
10 to appear pursuant to any written permission of the speaker, shall
11 be removed as chair and vice-chair of all standing and procedural
12 committees the member serves on, but shall retain his or her
13 membership on the committee.