

Synopsis of Proposed Changes to the House Rules of Procedure 89th Legislature

Note: Some proposed changes require language changes to be made to several different rules. In this synopsis, a proposed change is described under the rule in which the significant portion of the changes has been made.

Statement of Authorization and Precedence

No change.

Rule 1—Duties and Rights of the Speaker

1. The speaker is expressly authorized to designate in writing a member other than the speaker pro tempore to preside as temporary chair in the speaker's absence and to clarify that the temporary chair does not become speaker in the event of a vacancy, as is currently expressly provided for the speaker pro tempore. *(Rule 1, § 10)*

Rule 2—Officers and Employees

1. The rule is amended to provide that house officers, their chief assistants, and supervisory administrative employees are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the speaker, who may delegate this authority to the Committee on House Administration as necessary. *(Rule 2, § 10)*

Rule 3—Standing Committees

1. The jurisdictions of the standing committees have been updated to reflect the creation, abolition, or name changes of state agencies by action of a previous legislature.
2. The following changes, which appear throughout Rule 3, are made to the standing committee structure:
 - a. The following standing committees are abolished:
 - Business and Industry – the committee's former jurisdiction is generally combined with the jurisdiction of the former International Relations and Economic Development Committee, which is renamed as the Trade, Workforce, and Economic Development Committee.
 - County Affairs – the committee's jurisdiction is transferred to a new Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.
 - Defense and Veterans Affairs – the committee's jurisdiction is transferred to the former Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee, to be renamed the Homeland Security, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs Committee.
 - Juvenile Justice and Family Issues – the committee's criminal law jurisdiction, including juvenile detention facilities, is transferred to the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, and the committee's family law jurisdiction is transferred to the Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee.
 - Resolutions Calendars – the committee's jurisdiction is transferred to the Local and Consent Calendars Committee.
 - Urban Affairs – the committee's jurisdiction is transferred to a new Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.
 - b. The following new standing committees are created:
 - Delivery of Government Efficiency – the committee is given general jurisdiction over government efficiency and waste, fraud, and abuse; jurisdiction from the 85R Government Transparency and Operations Committee; jurisdiction over advances in science and technology, including 88R jurisdiction of the Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies.
 - Intergovernmental Affairs – the committee is given the combined jurisdictions of the former County Affairs and Urban Affairs Committees, in addition to the jurisdiction of the former International Relations and Economic Development Committee over state-federal relations.

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3. Permanent standing subcommittees (PSCs) are established for certain substantive standing committees. The speaker would directly appoint the PSC chair, vice-chair, and membership (seniority does not apply to appointment of PSCs); directly refer legislation to a PSC (committee chair may also refer legislation to PSC, but is not required to); and directly issue interim charges to a PSC. (*Rule 1, §§ 4, 15; Rule 4, §§ 2, 8, 24, 43, 44, 48*)
4. The permanent standing subcommittees are:
 - a. Criminal Jurisprudence
 - PSC on Juvenile Justice (former criminal law jurisdiction of Juvenile Justice and Family Issues Committee)
 - b. Homeland Security, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs
 - PSC on Defense and Veterans Affairs (generally jurisdiction of former Defense and Veterans Affairs Committee)
 - c. Intergovernmental Affairs
 - PSC on County and Regional Government (jurisdiction of former County Affairs Committee)
 - PSC on State-Federal Relations (jurisdiction of former International Relations and Economic Development Committee over state-federal relations)
 - d. Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence
 - PSC on Family and Fiduciary Relationships (jurisdiction over probate and guardianship matters and jurisdiction of former Juvenile Justice and Family Issues Committee over family law)
 - e. Public Education
 - PSC on Academic and Career-Oriented Education (new specific jurisdiction over subject matter)
 - f. Public Health
 - PSC on Disease Prevention and Women's and Children's Health (new specific jurisdiction over subject matter)
 - g. State Affairs
 - PSC on Telecommunications and Broadband (jurisdiction over the telecommunications utilities/industry and provision of broadband services)
 - h. Trade, Workforce, and Economic Development
 - PSC on Workforce (jurisdiction over workforce issues from the former Business and Industry Committee and the former International Relations and Economic Development Committee)
 - PSC on International Relations (jurisdiction over international relations and trade from the former International Relations and Economic Development Committee)
 - i. Transportation
 - PSC on Transportation Funding (new specific jurisdiction over subject matter)
 - j. Ways and Means
 - PSC on Property Tax Appraisals (new specific jurisdiction over subject matter)

Rule 4—Organization, Powers, and Duties of Committees

1. The restriction on the speaker pro tempore serving on more than one substantive committee or serving as a committee chair is repealed. (*Rule 4, § 2*)
2. The rule is amended to restrict the appointment of chairs of a standing committee to those members of the political party that constitutes a majority of the house membership and to provide that a majority party member may *not* be appointed as a vice chair of a standing committee. Committee chairs would directly consult with vice-chairs in scheduling committee business, and vice-chairs may designate measures to be considered and witnesses to be invited. Vice-chairs may request impact statements for legislation. (*Rule 4, §§ 2(a)(7), 4A, 6, 6A*)

Rules 5–16

No changes other than conforming changes described above.