

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

House Resolution

H.R. 6

House resolution amending the Rules and Orders of the House of Representatives related to the introduction of bills

Offered by: Representatives Higley of Lowell, Bancroft of Westford, Bock of Chester, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Goslant of Northfield, Harrison of Chittenden, Kimbell of Woodstock, Lefebvre of Newark, Leffler of Enosburgh, Martel of Waterford, Page of Newport City, Potter of Clarendon, Quimby of Concord, Rosenquist of Georgia, Savage of Swanton, Seymour of Sutton, Smith of Derby, Strong of Albany, and Terenzini of Rutland Town

Whereas, the Office of Legislative Council's receipt of a large number of standard-form bill drafting requests from members after the convening of the biennial and adjourned sessions of the General Assembly has proven increasingly challenging, and

Whereas, placing a limit on the number of member-initiated standard-form bill drafting requests, after the convening of the biennial and adjourned sessions of the General Assembly, combined with the authority of the House Rules Committee to grant a waiver in specific circumstances, would ease the heavy early-session workload on the Office of Legislative Council and still allow for legitimate bill requests that could not have been anticipated by the first day of the biennial or adjourned sessions, and

Whereas, members would still be authorized to request an unlimited number of standard-form bills prior to the convening of the biennial session and during the legislative interim, and these rule changes would not impact the ability of members to introduce municipal charter amendment legislation following the Town Meeting Day recess, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

First: That Rule 40(a)(1) of the Rules and Orders of the House of Representatives be amended to read:

40(a) During the first year of the biennium:

(1) Except with the prior consent of the Committee on Rules, no member may introduce a bill into the House drafted in standard form unless he or she submits the request to Office of Legislative Council on or before the last legislative day of January and approves the bill for public release on or before the fourth legislative day before the end of February. Prior to the first day of the first year of the biennium, a member may request an unlimited number of bills drafted in standard form that shall be approved for public release on or before the fourth legislative day before the end of February. Thereafter, except with the prior consent of the House Rules Committee, a member may request a maximum of five bills drafted in standard form from the first day of the biennium until the last legislative day of January that shall be approved for public release on or before the fourth legislative day before the end of February.

Second: That Rule 40(b)(1) of the Rules and Orders of the House of Representatives be amended to read:

40(b) During the second year of the biennium:

(1) ~~Except with the prior consent of the Committee on Rules,~~

~~no member may introduce a bill into the House drafted in standard form unless he or she submits the request to the Office Legislative Council on or before the fifteenth day of January, and approves the bill for public release on or before the last legislative day of January. Prior to the first day of the second year of the biennium, a member may request an unlimited number of bills drafted in standard form that shall be approved for public release on or before the last legislative day of January. Thereafter, except with the prior consent of the House Rules Committee, a member may request a maximum of five bills drafted in standard form from the first day of the second year of the biennium until the 15th day of January that shall be approved for public release on or before the last legislative day of January.~~