

RESOLUTION NO. 340

AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATURE'S RULES OF ORDER REGARDING RATIO OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Introduced: 7/9/18

By: Rules Reform Task Force

WHEREAS, Clear guidance is necessary to conduct legislative businesses in a productive and effective manner, and

WHEREAS, Duplicative and improperly placed language currently exists in our Rules of Order regarding specific assignments to standing committees, and

WHEREAS, Clarifying this language will better serve this body and any future iterations of this body, and

WHEREAS, All of the aforementioned clauses should be construed to help effectuate the most transparent and publicly engaging legislative body as possible which will be facilitated by the adoption of the following amendments, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the Albany County Legislature that Rules 21 and 22 of the Albany County Legislature's Rules of Order be amended in part to read as follows:

RULE 21 - STANDING COMMITTEES

The following standing committees, to consist of [~~nine~~] ten members for each committee, shall be appointed by the permanent Chairperson of the County Legislature from the membership of the County Legislature within twenty (20) days after said Chairperson's election, and a list thereof shall be filed with the Clerk of the Legislature, and each committee shall perform the duties as hereafter set forth.

The Chairperson of the County Legislature shall appoint members of standing committees from the membership of the County Legislature as recommended by the majority and minority leaders. The total number of majority members within all committees shall be in the same ratio as the majority members of the legislature are to the entire membership of the Legislature rounded up to the nearest whole person for fractions consisting of ½ percent or higher and rounded down to the nearest whole person for fractions consisting of less than ½ percent. The majority leader shall recommend his or her first choice for each committee followed by the minority leader who shall then recommend his or her first choice for each committee, thereby constituting the first two members of each committee. It shall continue in this fashion until the minority leader has recommended all of his

or her's allocated committee appointments which shall, in totality, be in the same ratio as the minority members of the legislature are to the entire membership of the Legislature rounded up or down to the nearest whole person. In instances where the recommendation of the majority or minority leader is rejected by the Chairperson of the Legislature, then the majority or minority leader shall retain the ability to resubmit additional names until one is approved by the Chairperson.

Within thirty (30) days of the listing of the committee assignments, each Committee Chairperson shall assign and officially list a time and a day for the regular monthly committee meetings. No Standing Committee of the Albany County Legislature shall meet on a civic holiday and consideration shall be given to avoid meeting on a religious holiday. The Committee Chairperson may cancel any meeting if there is no business for the Committee. In the event a member cannot attend a "rescheduled regular meeting" and to the extent it is legally permitted, such member may submit to the Chairperson a written statement of their opinion on business items which are on the Committee's agenda and those written opinions shall become part of the Committee's minutes.

Each and every Committee Chairperson shall, to the extent practicable, submit a copy of the Committee Agenda no later than forty-eight (48) ~~twenty-four (24)~~ hours prior to the scheduled Committee meeting. Every committee meeting shall be open to the public, however, this provision shall not preclude the right of the Chairperson to call for an executive session.

Vacancies on standing committees shall be filled by the Chairperson of the County Legislature as recommended by the majority leader and minority leader from the membership of the Legislature.

RULE 22 - SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The County Legislature may from time to time create special committees, and any resolution creating such special committee shall specify the powers and duties of the committee and the number of its members. Vacancies on ~~standing and~~ special committees shall be filled by the Chairperson of the County Legislature as recommended by the majority leader and minority leader from [its] the membership of the Legislature. ~~[Vacancies on special committees shall be filled by the Chairperson of the County Legislature.]~~ The majority leader and the minority leader shall be ex officio (non-voting) members of all committees. The Chairperson of the County Legislature shall appoint members of ~~standing~~ special committees from the membership of the County Legislature as recommended by the majority leader and minority leader[s]. ~~The number of majority members of each committee shall be in the same ratio as the majority members of the legislature are to the entire membership of the Legislature.]~~ No meetings of any Special Committee of the

Albany County Legislature shall be held on a civic holiday and consideration shall be given to avoid meeting on a religious holiday.

and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Legislature forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Chairperson of the Legislature and the appropriate County Officials.

Referred to Law Committee – 7/9/18