

1 HR15  
2 207995-2  
3 By Representative Jones (M)  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 03-FEB-21

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8 AMENDING THE RULES OF THE ALABAMA HOUSE OF  
9 REPRESENTATIVES.

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11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
12 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Rules 32, 35, 51, 56, 57, 58,  
13 71, 74, and 93 of the Alabama House of Representatives are  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 "Rule 32. (a) When taking the yeas, nays, and  
16 abstentions, the electrical roll call system shall be used.

17 "(b) When the electrical roll call system is not  
18 operable, votes shall be viva voce and names of members shall  
19 be called alphabetically and each member shall answer from his  
20 or her seat.

21 "(c) When the House is ready to vote upon any  
22 question requiring a roll call, the Speaker shall announce:  
23 "The question is on (as the question may be). Those in favor  
24 shall vote 'yea', and those opposed, 'no'. The Clerk will  
25 unlock the machine and the members will vote."

1           "(d) Members may vote yea, no, or may indicate  
2           abstention by pressing the appropriate button on the  
3           vote-recording equipment.

4           "(e) The Clerk shall immediately start the  
5           vote-recording equipment and when the Speaker has determined  
6           that every member who wishes to has voted, the Clerk shall  
7           lock the machine and record the vote and the Speaker shall  
8           announce the vote to the House.

9           "(f) No member shall vote for another member, except  
10          by unanimous consent; nor shall any person not a member cast a  
11          vote for a member.

12          "(g) (1) Previous rolls may be used on uncontested  
13          local bills. When previous roll calls are used, the Speaker  
14          shall call the first uncontested local bill and instruct the  
15          Clerk to open and close the voting machine as he or she would  
16          with any other bill. The vote total for that bill or  
17          resolution, including yeas, nays, and abstentions, may be used  
18          as the vote on subsequent uncontested local bills and  
19          amendments upon adoption of a motion to use the previous roll.

20          "(2) Previous roll calls may also be used on  
21          resolutions and amendments to resolutions, including budget  
22          isolation resolutions.

23          "Rule 35. (a) When any person sitting in the gallery  
24          attempts to attract attention of anyone on the floor by word,  
25          deed, or otherwise, or when any person in the gallery engages  
26          in conduct or commits any action deemed by the Speaker to be  
27          detrimental to the orderly business of the House or contrary

1 to the health and safety of others, such person shall be  
2 ousted from the gallery pursuant to instructions from the  
3 Speaker. Signs, banners, placards, and posters shall not be  
4 displayed in the gallery and shall be confiscated by House  
5 Security.

6 "(b) Any member of the House who deems any person  
7 guilty of conduct described in subsection (a) may request the  
8 Speaker to oust such person from the gallery. If the Speaker  
9 does not agree with the member, the member shall be entitled  
10 to a vote.

11 "Rule 51. (a) When a member desires to speak he or  
12 she shall so indicate by pressing the speak button at his or  
13 her desk or on his or her virtual voting tablet and  
14 respectfully requesting recognition from the Speaker.

15 "(b) When a member has been recognized by the  
16 Speaker, the member, unless physically impaired, shall speak  
17 from the podium or at a microphone designated by the Speaker.

18 "Rule 56. All correspondence or communications  
19 placed in members' mailboxes, offices, or on desks shall have  
20 the author or sponsor identified. Anonymous correspondence or  
21 communications placed in the members' mailboxes or offices, or  
22 placed on the members' desks, shall be investigated by the  
23 House Clerk upon the receipt of a written complaint from any  
24 member. Any member found responsible for distributing  
25 anonymous correspondence or communications that are the  
26 subject of a complaint may be censured, and any other  
27 individual found responsible for placement of anonymous

1 correspondence or communications may be banned from the floors  
2 of the State House where members' offices are located or any  
3 other location used by the House for legislative purposes,  
4 pursuant to a recommendation from the Internal Affairs  
5 Committee.

6 "Rule 57. (a) The Speaker shall preserve order and  
7 decorum when the House is in session. In the case of any  
8 disturbance or disorderly conduct in the chamber or other  
9 location used by the House for legislative purposes by any  
10 person, any action that is contrary to the public health and  
11 safety of others in the chamber or other location used by the  
12 House for legislative purposes, or a breach of the peace by  
13 any member, the Speaker may have the person or member engaging  
14 in such conduct removed from the chamber or other location.  
15 For members, the removal may be for no more than one  
16 legislative day; provided, however, a member may be admitted  
17 sooner upon satisfaction of any terms and conditions  
18 prescribed by the Speaker.

19 "Rule 58. (a) The Speaker may direct House Security  
20 to remove any member who is engaging in a breach of the peace  
21 from areas of the State House that are under the control of  
22 the House or other locations used by the House for legislative  
23 purposes.

24 "(b) The Clerk may direct House Security to remove  
25 any individual or groups of individuals who are engaging in a  
26 disturbance or disorderly conduct or acting in a manner that  
27 is contrary to the health and safety of others from areas of

1 the State House that are under the control of the House or  
2 other locations used by the House for legislative purposes.

3 "(c) Whenever necessary to provide safety and  
4 security for the members and staff, or upon the written  
5 request of eleven members, the Speaker shall direct the Clerk  
6 to clear all areas of the State House under the control of the  
7 House, or other locations used by the House for legislative  
8 purposes, of everyone except members and legislative staff.  
9 Provided, however, a member may authorize the use of his or  
10 her office by any individual(s) of his or her choosing.

11 "Rule 71. (a) The chair of a committee shall  
12 preserve order and decorum in committee meetings and hearings,  
13 including periods immediately before and after a committee  
14 meeting or hearing, and may order House Security to remove any  
15 disorderly person or member engaging in a breach of the peace  
16 or acting contrary to the health and safety of others from the  
17 committee room.

18 "(b) The chair shall report any removal of an  
19 individual for disorderly conduct, ~~or~~ breach of the peace, or  
20 conduct contrary to the health and safety of others to the  
21 Speaker. If the violation is by a member, the Speaker may  
22 consider discipline of the member, including removal from the  
23 committee.

24 "Rule 74. The chair of a standing committee shall  
25 honor a written request for a public hearing on a bill if such  
26 request is received by the chair prior to the posting of the  
27 notice of the committee meeting at which the bill is to be

1 considered. A public hearing shall take place in a manner  
2 designated and prescribed by the chair.

3 "Rule 93. On all matters not specifically addressed  
4 in these rules, Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure, ~~2010~~  
5 2020 Edition, shall apply."