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January 21, 2009

THIS WEEK: The Rules of the Committee on Noncontroversial Bills

BACKGROUND: Taken from the Journal of the House of Representatives February 27, 1970

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON NONCONTROVERSIAL BILLS

1. The committee shall consist of ten (10) members.
2. Seven (7) members shall constitute a quorum for meetings of this committee.
3. Seven (7) affirmative votes are required to recommend a bill to the noncontroversial calendar.
4. Meetings shall be held at the call of the chairman. Notices of such meetings shall be by announcement placed on the desk of committee members, announcement from the well of the House, and posting on the blackboard at the rear of the House.
5. House members may submit requests to have bills currently on the regular calendar considered for the noncontroversial calendar by placing this request with any member of the noncontroversial committee.
6. The vote on all bills shall be by roll call and a record of such a vote maintained. The short form may be used, but anyone voting nay shall be so recorded.
7. The rules of the House shall apply in any case not covered by special rules of this committee, provided however that the committee shall have no rule which is inconsistent with standing rules of the House or the joint rules of House and Senate.
8. Except for the first noncontroversial calendar this session, all bills must appear on the noncontroversial calendar for two (2) legislative days before being eligible for consideration on the floor of the House.
9. Any bill may be removed from the noncontroversial calendar by filing with the Chief Clerk, within three (3) legislative days after its appearance on the noncontroversial calendar, a written request for removal signed by at least five (5) members of the House.

10. Any bill on the noncontroversial calendar to which an amendment, other than a corrective amendment, has been filed, may be removed from the noncontroversial calendar by motion of the chairman or the majority or minority ranking member of the noncontroversial bill committee and approved by the House.

11. The Speaker may, at his discretion, declare any bill controversial after five (5) minutes of debate and return it to the regular calendar.