

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
121ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 1, "Joint Order to Adopt the Joint Rules"

Amend the Joint Order by striking out all of the first paragraph and inserting in its place the following:

'ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Joint Rules of the 120th Maine Legislature shall be adopted as the Joint Rules of the 121st Maine Legislature, except for the following change.

Joint Rule 304 is amended by striking out all of Joint Rule 304 and inserting in its place the following:

'Rule 304. Procedures for Public Hearings and Work Sessions.

At the beginning of each legislative biennium, all committees shall adopt procedures that govern public hearings, work sessions and confirmation hearings, which shall include the order in which testimony will be heard. Copies of the procedures must be sent to the presiding officers, the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House and the Executive Director of the Legislative Council upon adoption and must be posted and made available upon request at all public hearings and work sessions.

The rules of procedure in committee are the same as the rules of the Senate and the House of Representatives to the extent applicable. Committee procedures must be consistent with these rules.

The presiding chair shall decide all questions of order, subject to appeal to the committee. The chair's ruling stands unless overruled by a majority vote of the committee membership.

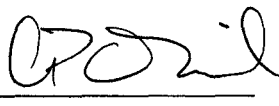
HOUSE AMENDMENT

2 Scheduling of bills to be considered in public hearings and
work sessions must be arranged by the Senate chair with the
4 agreement of the House chair; if agreement is not reached, the
committee shall decide by majority vote of the membership.

6
8 At public hearings, the chair may limit testimony as
necessary for the orderly conduct of the hearing. Members may
question witnesses to clarify testimony and to elicit helpful and
10 pertinent information. While aggressive and probing questions
may sometimes be appropriate, members shall exhibit respect for
12 the witnesses and for one another. Members shall refrain from
interrogation that is argumentative, oppressive, repetitive or
14 unnecessarily embarrassing to hearing participants. Advocacy and
discussion among members are not appropriate at public hearings.
16 A committee member who is the primary sponsor of a bill and any
member who testifies for or against the bill should ordinarily
18 refrain from questioning other witnesses.' '

20
22 **SUMMARY**

24 This amendment requires that, when the joint standing
committees adopt committee rules, the committees adopt a
26 procedure for the order of speakers testifying before the
committee.

28
30 SPONSORED BY: 
(Representative O'NEIL)

32 TOWN: Saco
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