

Filed by Mr. Barrett of Reading, October 26.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Three.

Ordered, That the rules of the House of Representatives for the year 1984 be amended, as follows:

In Rule 18 by striking out the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following:

“The Speaker may nominate persons to majority party floor leadership positions. The total number of such positions shall not exceed three positions for the majority party.

The minority floor leader may nominate persons to minority party floor leadership positions. The total number of such positions shall not exceed three positions for the minority party.

Each nomination under this section must be ratified by a separate majority vote on a written ballot by the respective party caucus. In the event that an appointment is rejected by such caucus, another appointment may be made by the person designated in this section to make the initial appointment, which shall also be subject to ratification in the same manner.

All committees shall be appointed by the Speaker, with the exception of the chairs, the nomination and ratification shall be governed by the provisions of this rule.

The Speaker shall nominate a candidate for chair of each legislative committee and vice chair of Ways and Means and Post Audit and Oversight.

The majority party caucus shall then vote by written ballot to accept or reject each such nomination by a separate majority vote.

In the event that any such nomination is rejected by the caucus, the Speaker shall nominate a new candidate for the chair of that committee. The procedure of this section shall be repeated until a nomination for a candidate for chair of that committee has been approved by the caucus.

A vacancy in any position which is regulated by the provisions of this section shall be filled in the same manner as provided in this section for the original appointment.

Any person in a position which is regulated by the provisions of this section shall be subject to removal by majority vote of the respective party caucus on a written ballot.”;

By inserting after Rule 18 the following rule:

“19. A caucus shall be called if twenty-five percent or more of a party’s members so petition for the calling of a caucus. A caucus may entertain resolutions, motions, or other means of ascertaining the sense of the party members on any subject.”;

By striking out Rule 28 and inserting in place thereof the following rule:

“28. The members of the House, may, by filing a petition signed by forty percent (40%) of the membership, discharge the committee on Counties on the part of the House, the House committee on Ways and Means, the House committee on Bills in the Third Reading, and the House committee on Rules from further consideration of a legislative matter.

Upon the filing of the petition with the House Clerk, the committee shall be discharged from further consideration of all legislative matters specified in the petition and the House Clerk shall place the matter in the Orders of the Day for the next calendar day that the House is meeting. Said matter shall be given preference over all other new business.

A legislative matter which has been reported by a legislative committee and which has not been referred to another legislative committee or placed in the Orders of the Day in the House shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the House committee on Rules, and shall be subject to discharge by petition from the House committee on Rules as provided in this section.”; and

By inserting after Rule 33 the following rule:

“Rule 33A. All bills shall be in print and available to all members of the House and the public at least twenty-four hours in advance of consideration by the House.

The report of any legislative committee on a legislative matter filed in the House which amends, rewrites or otherwise alters a previously printed form of a legislative matter shall also be subject to this section.

House members may consider a particular legislative matter not in print only upon a roll call vote of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the House members present and voting.”.

The provisions of this order shall take effect on the first Wednesday in January, nineteen hundred and eighty-four.