

REPORT OF SPEAKERS

SPKR Report 2 2020

Subject: House Standing Rules

Presented by: Arlo Weltge, MD, Speaker, and Bradford Holland, MD, Vice Speaker

1 At the 2020 TMA Winter Conference, the TMA speakers and caucus chairs discussed the
2 implementation of house standing rules for future TMA House of Delegates meetings. The
3 adoption of standing rules would help codify many of the house's traditions that are not covered
4 by TMA's Constitution and Bylaws or the American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code
5 of Parliamentary Procedure.

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7 According to TMA Bylaws:

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9 **3.73 Standing Rules.** The House of Delegates shall have the authority to establish
10 standing rules. The house shall be guided in its actions by its standing rules and this
11 Constitution and Bylaws. In all instances not covered by this Constitution and Bylaws or
12 its own standing rules, the American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of
13 Parliamentary Procedure shall govern.

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15 Consensus was reached at the Winter Conference caucus chair meeting that the speakers would introduce
16 a basic framework of house standing rules with essential operating procedures defined, allowing for the
17 addition of rules through subsequent amendments. One rule to be included in the initial house standing
18 rules was the allowance for submission of reference committee testimony prior to the house meeting, as
19 adopted by Resolution 102-A-19 at TexMed 2019.

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21 Resolution 102-A-19 was adopted as amended:

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23 That the Texas Medical Association House of Delegates reference committees may
24 receive testimony prior to the meeting of the House of Delegates for resolutions and
25 recommendations assigned to the reference committees from any member of the Texas
26 Medical Association. The speakers of the House of Delegates shall determine an
27 appropriate process to receive, compile, and make available this testimony.

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29 Additionally, at TexMed 2019, Resolution 104-A-19 was referred to the Board of Trustees for action.
30 Resolution 104-A-19 states:

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32 **Alternate Delegates May Address the House of Delegates (Lone Star Caucus):** That alternate
33 delegates to the TMA House of Delegates be allowed to address the house on matters pending
34 before the House of Delegates without being credentialed as a delegate and that under these
35 circumstances may suggest but cannot make any changes to the content of any resolution or
36 recommendation being considered by the House of Delegates

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38 At the 2019 TMA Fall Conference, the board voted not to adopt Resolution 104-A-19. Since the TMA
39 Bylaws do not prohibit alternate delegates from addressing the TMA House of Delegates, the Board of
40 Trustees directed the speakers instead to include in the house standing rules language regarding rights and
41 privileges for delegates and alternate delegates, for adoption by the house at the 2020 meeting, without
42 making formal policy and thus changes to the TMA Bylaws.

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1 To comply with the Board of Trustee’s action on Resolution 104-A-19, the speakers have developed the
2 attached TMA House of Delegates Standing Rules. These rules cover those issues not addressed by the
3 TMA Bylaws, including the issue of submission of testimony prior to the house meeting (Resolution 102-
4 A-19) and the issue of alternate delegates addressing the House of Delegates (Resolution 104-A-19).

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6 At its June 28, 2020 meeting, the TMA Board of Trustees, acting on behalf of the TMA House of
7 Delegates as a disaster board, adopted these TMA House Standing Rules and referred them to the Council
8 on Constitution and Bylaws and the TMA speakers for further recommendations with a report back at
9 TexMed 2021. The board approved also that the speakers will work with the Council on Constitution and
10 Bylaws to evaluate formalizing a House of Delegates “advisory body” composed of caucus chairs and
11 representatives to help facilitate house function and report back at TexMed 2021.

Texas Medical Association
House of Delegates Standing Rules

Preamble

These House of Delegates Standing Rules serve as an operational guide and description for how the Texas Medical Association's House of Delegates conducts its business at the annual meeting and throughout the year in accordance with the Texas Medical Association's Constitution and Bylaws, the American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, and standing tradition. The TMA House of Delegates will adopt these standing rules at the opening of each yearly session, and these rules shall be in effect until revoked.

Alternate Delegates Addressing the House of Delegates

Alternate delegates may address the house by approaching the alternate delegate microphone and waiting to be called upon by the speaker. Recognition of alternate delegates is at the discretion of the speaker. Alternate delegates may neither make motions, nor alter the business of the house, nor vote.

Amendments to House Standing Rules

These rules shall be amended by a majority vote using the formal house resolution process outlined in TMA's Constitution and Bylaws and become effective immediately upon adoption.

Overruling the Speaker of the House

The speaker of the house can be overruled by a two-thirds vote.

Suspension of the House Standing Rules

Suspension of these house standing rules requires a two-thirds vote.

Written Testimony

The acceptance of written testimony for reference committees will close 14 days before the start of each year's TexMed.

Collection: Physicians will be required to log in at texmed.org to submit written testimony through a dedicated form submission page.

Staff Review: Once written testimony is received, TMA staff will review each submission for potential viruses/worms or other cyber attacks. Submissions will then be reviewed by TMA legal counsel to make sure no submission contains slander, libel, or antitrust or HIPAA violations.

Dissemination: Once the submission is approved, it will be formatted and placed on the House of Delegates portal for all TMA members to access.

Testimony submitted after the 14-day window can be sent to a shell email address (refcom@texmed.org) monitored by House of Delegates staff. Such submissions will be disseminated to the reference committee members but will not be available to all TMA members since these submissions will not have time to undergo review. There is no guarantee that any submission sent after the 14-day window will be seen by any reference committee members. The reference committee chair will inform the session about any additional submissions that will be considered as part of the consideration of each agenda item.