

HCR

12

(FILE 2) 1-26-88



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Committee on Rules

P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Phone:
(907) 465-3764
465-3765

AGENDA - HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE MEETING

JANUARY 26, 1988 8:00a.m.

HCR 12 - Proposing amendments to Rule 23 of the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature relating to committee meetings.

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- II. MEMO - DATED JANUARY 25, 1988 - proposed changes to HCR 12
- III. HCR 12 **PROPOSED CHANGES ARE MARKED ON THIS VERSION**
- IV. MEMO - DATED MARCH 27, 1987 "BACKGROUND INFORMATION RELATING TO THE WEEKLY COMMITTEE SCHEDULE PROVISION"
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5-0408B
Cook
1/19/88

Original sponsor: Rules Committee

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12 (Rules)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Proposing amendments to Rule 23 of the
6 Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legis-
7 lature relating to committee meetings.

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 * Section 1. Rule 23 of the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legisla-
10 ture is amended to read:

11 RULE 23. COMMITTEE MEETINGS. (a) At least five days before the
12 meeting, written [WRITTEN] notice of the time, place and subject
13 [MATTER] of all meetings of standing, special, and joint committees
14 [DURING A WEEK] shall be provided by the person who chairs the commit-
15 tee. If the legislature is in session, notice shall be given to the
16 chief clerk or secretary by 3:00 [4:00] p.m. If the legislature is
17 not in session the notice shall be provided to a Legislative Infor-
18 mation Office. The office to which the notice is provided shall
19 distribute the notice to each other Legislative Information Office or
20 Legislative Teleconference Center that is open during the interim [ON
21 THE PRECEDING THURSDAY. THE PERSON WHO CHAIRS THE COMMITTEE TO WHICH
22 A BILL OR RESOLUTION IS FIRST REFERRED SHALL PROVIDE TO THE CHIEF
23 CLERK OR SECRETARY WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE FIRST
24 PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BILL OR RESOLUTION AT LEAST FIVE DAYS BEFORE THE
25 HEARING].

26 (b) The notice requirement of (a) of this rule [HOWEVER, THIS
27 REQUIREMENT] may be waived by motion of the person who chairs the
28 committee to which a bill or resolution is [FIRST] referred if con-
29 curred in by majority vote of the full membership of the house.

1 (c) The chief clerk or secretary shall publish and distribute
2 each day the house is in session a [COPIES OF THE WEEKLY] schedule of
3 committee meetings scheduled for the next seven days.

4 (d) A scheduled meeting of a standing, special, or joint commit-
5 tee or consideration of a bill, resolution, or other subject may be
6 cancelled, postponed, or continued at any time. The place of a
7 scheduled meeting may be altered at any time. [AND OF THE FIVE-DAY
8 NOTICE OF HEARING. (b)] The person who chairs the [A STANDING,
9 SPECIAL, OR JOINT] committee shall provide the chief clerk or secre-
10 tary written notice of the change. Notice [IN THE TIME, PLACE OR
11 SUBJECT MATTER OF A MEETING. AT THE NEXT DAILY LEGISLATIVE SESSION,
12 NOTICE] of the schedule change shall be [ANNOUNCED BY THE CHIEF CLERK
13 OR SECRETARY AND] published as a notice in the journal of the house
14 and, if a regular floor session occurs before the time of the changed
15 meeting, the schedule change shall be announced.

16 [(c) A SCHEDULED MEETING OF A STANDING, SPECIAL, OR JOINT COMMIT-
17 TEE MAY BE CANCELLED AT ANY TIME. IF POSSIBLE, NOTICE OF THE CANCEL-
18 LATION SHALL BE GIVEN IN THE SAME MANNER AS PROVIDED FOR NOTICE OF
19 CHANGE IN (b) OF THIS RULE.]

20 (e) [(d)] The requirements [PROVISIONS] of (a) - (d) [AND (b)]
21 of this rule do not apply to a standing, special, or joint committee
22 meeting scheduled after the date a conference committee has been
23 chosen to consider amendments to or differences between versions of
24 the general appropriation act. However, a person who chairs a stand-
25 ing, special, or joint committee shall post written notice of the
26 time, place, and subject [MATTER] of a meeting at least 24 hours
27 before the meeting.

28 (f) [(e)] The requirements [PROVISIONS] of (a) - (e) [(d)] of
29 this rule do not apply to meetings of

1 (1) the Rules Committee when it meets for the purpose of
2 preparing the daily calendar;

3 (2) the Committee on Committees referred to in Rule 1(e);
4 or

5 (3) standing, special, or joint committees during a special
6 session [WHEN THE COMMITTEE MEETS DURING THE INTERIM BETWEEN SES-
7 SIONS].

8 (g) [(f)] Each standing, special, and joint committee

9 (1) shall record its meetings electronically and prepare a
10 log of the recording adequate to locate specific testimony;

11 (2) shall prepare minutes of each meeting of the committee
12 on a standard form prescribed jointly by the Rules Committees of the
13 house and the senate; the minutes shall include

14 (A) a list of the names of each member present during
15 the meeting;

16 (B) a list of the name and affiliation of each witness
17 testifying before the committee;

18 (C) a brief statement of the position of the witness
19 on the subject testified upon; and

20 (D) each amendment formally considered by the commit-
21 tee, the name of the member moving adoption of the amendment, the
22 action taken on the amendment, and the yeas and nays if a com-
23 mittee member has requested a roll call vote on adoption of an
24 amendment;

25 (3) shall maintain a chronological file of minutes, copies
26 of which shall be made available upon request to committee members and
27 the public; committee minutes, tapes and other materials of research
28 value shall be delivered by the committee at the end of each session
29 or each legislature to the legislative reference library for

1 appropriate disposition;

2 (4) shall [MAY] make available to the Legislative Affairs
3 Agency a copy of all minutes of committee meetings during the session
4 for entry of the minutes as a data base on the legislative computer
5 system.

6 (h) The requirements of (a) - (g) of this rule do not apply to
7 subcommittees of standing, special, or joint committees. However,
8 reasonable notice of the time, place, and subject of a subcommittee
9 meeting shall be provided.
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Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Committee on Rules

II

P. O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Phone:
(907) 465-3764
465-3765

Official Business

MEMORANDUM

January 25, 1988

To: House Rules Committee Members

From: Mike Navarre, Chairman
House Rules Committee

Subject: HCR 12

I have outlined the changes made to the original version of HCR 12 below which are included in the new version, CS HCR 12.

IN REFERENCE TO THE ORIGINAL VERSION OF HCR 12:

PAGE 1, LINE 15,
PAGE 2, LINE 29, to PAGE 3, LINE 1,
PAGE 4, LINE 13 --DELETE:

[IF THE SUBJECT OF THE MEETING INCLUDES CONSIDERATION OF A BILL OR RESOLUTION, THE NOTICE SHALL IDENTIFY THE BILL OR RESOLUTION BY NUMBER]

NOTE - The current version of Uniform Rule 23 does not include this requirement - Legal interpretation of this added requirement would not allow the current practice of hearing the identical piece of legislation which has passed from the opposite body in place of the bill scheduled for hearing, I.E. HB 5 is scheduled for hearing in House Transportation and the Senate passes over SB 7 (which is identical to HB 5). The House Transportation Committee may currently change their schedule to include SB 7.

IN REFERENCE TO THE ORIGINAL VERSION OF HCR 12:

PAGE 2 SECTION D AND E -
Currently, Committee Chairman continue meetings to a later time in the day or week. We have added language to the Uniform Rules which clarifies current practice in relation to continuance of meetings. In adding this, the legal drafter felt that it would be easier to understand if we combined D and E into ONE SECTION which deals with cancellation, postponement, continuation, or a meeting place changed.

IN REFERENCE TO THE ORIGINAL VERSION OF HCR 12:

PAGE 2, LINE 22 change wording: delete:[provisions] add: requirements
PAGE 3, LINE 3 change wording: delete:[provisions] add: requirements
PAGE 4, LINE 10 change wording: delete:[provisions] add: requirements

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

2

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Proposing amendments to Rule 23 of the

6

Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legis-

7

lature relating to committee meetings.

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 * Section 1. Rule 23 of the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legisla-
10 ture is amended to read:

11 RULE 23. COMMITTEE MEETINGS. (a) At least five days before the
12 meeting, written [WRITTEN] notice of the time, place and subject
13 [MATTER] of all meetings of standing, special, and joint committees
14 [DURING A WEEK] shall be provided by the person who chairs the commit-
15 tee. ^{delete:} [If the subject of the meeting includes consideration of a bill
16 or resolution, the notice shall identify the bill or resolution by
17 number.] If the legislature is in session, notice shall be given to
18 the chief clerk or secretary by 3:00 [4:00] p.m. If the legislature
19 is not in session the notice shall be provided to a Legislative Infor-
20 mation Office. The office to which the notice is provided shall
21 distribute the notice to each other Legislative Information Office or
22 Legislative Teleconference Center that is open during the interim [ON
23 THE PRECEDING THURSDAY. THE PERSON WHO CHAIRS THE COMMITTEE TO WHICH
24 A BILL OR RESOLUTION IS FIRST REFERRED SHALL PROVIDE TO THE CHIEF
25 CLERK OR SECRETARY WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE FIRST
26 PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BILL OR RESOLUTION AT LEAST FIVE DAYS BEFORE THE
27 HEARING].

28 (b) The notice requirement of (a) of this rule [HOWEVER, THIS
29 REQUIREMENT] may be waived by motion of the person who chairs the

1 committee to which a bill or resolution is [FIRST] referred if con-
2 curred in by majority vote of the full membership of the house.

3 (c) The chief clerk or secretary shall publish and distribute
4 each day the house is in session a [COPIES OF THE WEEKLY] schedule of
5 committee meetings scheduled for the next seven days [AND OF THE
6 FIVE-DAY NOTICE OF HEARING].

7 (d) The place of a scheduled meeting of a standing, special, or
8 joint committee may be altered or the time or a subject postponed at
9 any time. [(b)] The person who chairs the [A STANDING, SPECIAL, OR
10 JOINT] committee shall provide the chief clerk or secretary written
11 notice of the change. Notice [IN THE TIME, PLACE OR SUBJECT MATTER OF
12 A MEETING. AT THE NEXT DAILY LEGISLATIVE SESSION, NOTICE] of the
13 schedule change shall be [ANNOUNCED BY THE CHIEF CLERK OR SECRETARY
14 AND] published as a notice in the journal of the house and, if a
15 regular floor session occurs before the time of the changed meeting,
16 the schedule change shall be announced.

17 (e) [(c)] A scheduled meeting of a standing, special, or joint
18 committee may be cancelled or consideration of a scheduled bill,
19 resolution, or other subject may be cancelled at any time. Notice [IF
20 POSSIBLE, NOTICE] of the cancellation shall be given in the same
21 manner as provided for notice of change in (d) [(b)] of this rule.

22 (f) [(d)] The ^{delete:}provisions of (a) - (d) [AND (b)] of this rule do
23 not apply to a standing, special, or joint committee meeting scheduled
24 after the date a conference committee has been chosen to consider
25 amendments to or differences between versions of the general appro-
26 riation act. However, a person who chairs a standing, special, or
27 joint committee shall post written notice of the time, place, and
28 subject [MATTER] of a meeting at least 24 hours before the meeting.

29 ^{delete:}
[If the subject of the meeting includes consideration of a bill or

1 resolution, the notice shall identify the bill or resolution by num-
2 ber.]

3 ~~(g)~~ ^{delete:} [(e)] The ~~provisions~~ of (a) - ~~(f)~~ [(d)] of this rule do not
4 apply to meetings of ~~add requirements~~

5 (1) the Rules Committee when it meets for the purpose of
6 preparing the daily calendar;

7 (2) the Committee on Committees referred to in Rule 7(e);

8 or

9 (3) standing, special, or joint committees during a special
10 session [WHEN THE COMMITTEE MEETS DURING THE INTERIM BETWEEN SES-
11 SIONS].

12 (h) [(f)] Each standing, special, and joint committee

13 (1) shall record its meetings electronically and prepare a
14 log of the recording adequate to locate specific testimony;

15 (2) shall prepare minutes of each meeting of the committee
16 on a standard form prescribed jointly by the Rules Committees of the
17 house and the senate; the minutes shall include

18 (A) a list of the names of each member present during
19 the meeting;

20 (B) a list of the name and affiliation of each witness
21 testifying before the committee;

22 (C) a brief statement of the position of the witness
23 on the subject testified upon; and

24 (D) each amendment formally considered by the commit-
25 tee, the name of the member moving adoption of the amendment, the
26 action taken on the amendment, and the yeas and nays if a com-
27 mittee member has requested a roll call vote on adoption of an
28 amendment;

29 (3) shall maintain a chronological file of minutes, copies

1 of which shall be made available upon request to committee members and
2 the public; committee minutes, tapes and other materials of research
3 value shall be delivered by the committee at the end of each session
4 or each legislature to the legislative reference library for appropriate
5 disposition;

6 (4) shall [MAY] make available to the Legislative Affairs
7 Agency a copy of all minutes of committee meetings during the session
8 for entry of the minutes as a data base on the legislative computer
9 system.

10 ^{delete:} (i) The provisions of (a) - (h) of this rule do not apply to
11 subcommittees of standing, special, or joint committees. However,
12 reasonable notice of the time, place, and subject of a subcommittee
13 meeting shall be provided. ^{delete:} [If the subject of the subcommittee meeting
14 includes consideration of a bill or resolution, the notice shall
15 identify the bill or resolution by number.]



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Committee on Rules

IV.
P. O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Phone:
(907) 465-3764
465-3765

MEMORANDUM

March 27, 1987

To: House Rules Committee Members

From: Rep. Mike Navarre^{MN}, Chairman
House Rules Committee

Subject: BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON UNIFORM RULE 23 - RELATING
TO THE WEEKLY COMMITTEE SCHEDULE PROVISION.

The two sentences which separate committee meeting notifications into a "5-day notice" and a "weekly committee schedule" requirement, create the largest problem area within the entire Uniform Rules. This proposed rules change would remove the current "weekly committee schedule" requirement and provide for a 5-day notice requirement.

It is extremely critical to note that no matter what day of the week the current weekly committee schedule would be maintained, it would cause the same situations which are outlined below.

The only current provision for adding a bill or a joint resolution which does not appear on this weekly schedule is by submitting a Concurrent Resolution suspending Rule 54 which allows for suspension of the Uniform Rules. (27 Vote Requirement for suspension of Rules for the House and 14 Vote Requirement for the Senate) This creates a tremendous amount of paperwork and must be passed with the bill or joint resolution on the Senate side also. In the final hours of adjournment, these resolutions become even more cumbersome and can get overlooked and separated from the bill they were originally passed with to the opposite body.

During the first session of each legislature in particular, a large turn-over of representatives in the House creates a lot of new staff members. A significant amount of time is lost within the committee process mainly attributed to these two separate notice requirements.

This proposal would allow bills to be scheduled for hearings from the first day of the session each year. Currently in order to legally comply with the Rules, a chairman would have to wait until Thursday to schedule their bills for hearings.

Under Rule 23(a), if a new bill is sent to a committee on a Friday, the chairman cannot give notice of a hearing on that bill until the following Thursday and could not hear the bill until the following Tuesday. This is a time frame of at least 12 days. A bill which has had a previous hearing in the same situation would require at least eleven days.

Senate Bills.....

The serious problems relating to Rule 23 occur when the 120-day session limit is close and the conference committee on the budget is not appointed (*by both bodies). We are unable to go into the 24-hour notice provision included within Uniform Rule 23(d). At this stage, Senate bills are impacted by the current version of Rule 23.

Senate bills which are referred to the House may require an 11-day time frame before they can be heard in a House committee. Because of this, house committees are not given adequate time to hear the senate bills.

May 15, 1983



Pages 9 - 10 below

2. The Alaska Legislature should maintain the five-day posting requirement for committee meetings and apply it to all meetings of committees. The provision that the notice be given to the chief clerk or secretary by 4:00 P.M. on the preceding Thursday should be eliminated.

The suggested language change for Rule 23(a) is: The person who chairs a standing, special or joint committee shall provide to the chief clerk or secretary written notice of the time, place and subject matter of all committee meetings at least five days before the meeting. However, this requirement may be waived by motion of the person who chairs the committee if concurred in by a majority vote of the full membership of the house. The chief clerk or secretary shall publish and distribute copies of the five day meeting notice.

Many members of the Alaska Legislature feel that Rule 23 is cumbersome. Several indicated that the five day posting requirement is too stringent and should be shortened. Part of the problem with the rule is that it specifies two different notice requirements which for some committees are not possible to meet. The notice requirements also refer to different types of meetings. The Thursday 4:00 p.m. requirement applies to all meetings of standing, special and joint committees, while the five day posting requirement applies only to public hearings. Also, because of the way the rule is written only the Thursday 4:00 p.m. requirement can be waived.

Given the large geographic size of the state of Alaska, the five-day notice is imperative. In order to make maximum use of the legislative teleconference network the lead time is essential. Alaska's teleconferencing network, consisting of forty-two in-state sites, is unique and affords the public an excellent opportunity to participate in the process.

Over two-thirds of the state legislative bodies require committees to give advance public notice of all committee meetings. Generally, 24 to 48 hours is required, however, lengthier notification requirements are not uncommon. Washington, Arizona and Connecticut all require five days, while Tennessee requires six days, Rhode Island seven days, and Massachusetts ten days. Nevada has established different posting requirements for public hearings and meetings. A five-day posting requirement is required for public hearings, and three days is required for all other meetings of committees.

The National Conference of State Legislatures has reviewed the changes proposed for Rule 23 recommended by the Special Joint Committee on Legislative Reform. The changes adequately address the technical problems with the rule and help to clarify the language and strengthen the rule.

STATE OF ALASKA
1988 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION: _____
PUBLISH DATE: _____

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: January 25, 1988
Title: Proposing amendments to
Uniform Rule 23
Sponsor: House Rules Committee
Requestor: Mike Navarro, Chairman

Agency Affected: none
BRU: _____
Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars) n/a

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS: n/a

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

No fiscal impact.

Prepared by: Rep. Mike Navarro, Chairman Phone: 465-3764
Division: House Rules Committee Date: 1/25/88

Approved by Commissioner: _____ Date: _____
Agency: _____

- Distribution (by preparer):
- Legislative Finance
 - Legislative Sponsor
 - Requestor
 - Office of Management and Budget
 - Impacted Agency(ies)

5-1412A ✓
Cook
10/26/87

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IN THE HOUSE

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

Proposing an amendment to Rule 37(a) of the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature relating to introduction and sponsorship of measures.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

* Section 1. Rule 37(a) of the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature is amended to read:

(a) Any member, group of members, standing, special, or joint committee may introduce a bill or resolution, subject to the provisions of these Uniform Rules. A member of one house may co-sponsor a measure introduced by a member of the other house. A measure [BILL] must be introduced, in proper form as approved by the enrolling secretary of the legislature, with the original and two carbon copies delivered to the chief clerk or secretary. The measure [BILL] is then assigned a number which it retains through subsequent changes and substitutions. The measure [BILL] is considered formally introduced when the clerk or secretary reads the heading and title aloud in open session (first reading). Measures [BILLS] may be introduced through the Rules Committees by the governor and the permanent interim committees pursuant to provisions of law.

5-1418A ✓
Cook
10/26/87

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Proposing an amendment to Rule 24(a) of
6 the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State
7 Legislature relating to committee action
8 on referred bills.

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. Rule 24(a) of the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legis-
11 lature is amended to read:

12 (a) A committee may act [ACTS] on all bills referred to it and
13 shall report [REPORTS] its actions and recommendation: to the house as
14 soon as practicable. Committee reports must be in writing and the
15 report must be signed by a majority of the members of the committee.
16 The report will note the recommendation of each member signing the
17 report.

5-1411A ✓
Cook
10/26/87

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Proposing an amendment to Rule 30 of the
6 Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legis-
7 lature relating to reconsideration of
8 measures.

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. Rule 30 of the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legisla-
11 ture is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

12 (f) When a notice of reconsideration has been given with respect
13 to a vote on final passage of a bill or resolution the measure may not
14 be returned to a committee until reconsideration is taken up. Not-
15 withstanding (e) of this rule, a subsequent vote on final passage of a
16 measure that was returned to committee upon taking up reconsideration
17 may be reconsidered, subject to the limitations of (c) of this rule.
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STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY

POUCH Y - STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907-465-3800

May, 1988

Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS database CMPR. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Van Nimwegen

H. Rules

1-26-88

TO: Jeannie Smith
Rules Committee Aide

FROM: Kris Gray
Chief Clerk's Office

DATE: 1/25/88

While posting the committee announcements into the computer last week, I was interested to see the Rules committee is having a hearing on HCR 12. As the person responsible for maintaining the House Committee Schedule I have seen the problems that arise from the Uniform Rules that dictate the scheduling of committee hearings on legislation.

From my prospective, the most dominate problem lies in Rule 23(a) pertaining to the weekly schedule that should be submitted to the Chief Clerk by 4:00 pm the preceding Thursday. The last two sessions the publish date has been generally moved back a day to accommodate the 'five day-first hearing' provision (also contained in Rule 23(a)). This 'working change' helped committees to meet this '5-day' advance notice on all bills they were to hear the next week. However, this earlier deadline does require committees to schedule quite far in advance towards the end of the week.

One of the biggest problems with this weekly notice occurs when Senate bills come over and need to be scheduled for hearings. The committee must wait until the regular 'Wednesday' notice day and can't, for example, schedule a bill that comes over Thursday or Friday until the following deadline- which can be as much as 12 days later! Logistically this is a hardship towards the end of the session.

Finally, I have noticed much confusion about the two different types of notice required--i.e. weekly and a five-day advance notice on first hearings. It seems to me that since the original adoption of these uniform rules, we have changed our methods of printing and notification on committee announcements. The on-line computer system is updated constantly, as soon as possible whenever written notices are received in the Clerk's office or announced on the House floor. By printing a daily, revised version of the schedule, a simple 5-day advance notice could be given on all bills. Whatever exceptions or allowable changes are desired in the Uniform Rules could be taken care of on a daily basis.

I urge the committee members to consider making long overdue revisions to the Uniform Rule 23(a).

Pieces of legislation are moved through both bodies of the legislature to expedite the passage of legislation. It may be previously agreed that one body or the other will pass the bill to the opposite side, however, the bill is moved through the appropriate committees of referral in both bodies. This practice is used to ensure that legislation has adequate time for hearing in both bodies. Near the end of session, it is especially helpful if the identical version of a bill has moved through committees in the opposite body since we may not receive the bill in time to hear the bill properly.

At the end of session, for instance, we have previously scheduled a committee hearing for a bill which is sent over from the Senate side. Currently, we can add the Senate version to our schedule since it meets the "subject" requirements. This provision would eliminate this practice.