

I-R Proposal for House Organization:  
Contract, Committee Structure,  
Rules Committee and Speaker

Tuesday, December 12, 1978

I. Written Contract

- A. Valid for the 1979 portion of the 71st legislative session; except that:
  - 1. if there is no change in the 67-67 split, the contract shall remain in force for the remainder of the 71st session;
  - 2. if either caucus obtains an organizational majority (i.e., 68 votes) during the 1979 portion of the 71st legislative session, the Speaker and the chairman of the Rules Committee may be changed, but the other provisions of the contract shall remain in force until the end of the 1979 portion of the 71st legislative session; and
  - 3. if either caucus obtains an organizational majority (i.e., 68 votes) during the 1979 portion of the 71st legislative session, the contract shall be subject to review and modification by the Rules Committee during the 1979 interim.
- B. Signed by all ten negotiators.
- C. Ratified by voice vote of the House on the first day of session.
- D. Published in the House Journal.
- E. The signatories of the caucus opposite from the caucus of the Speaker shall support the election of the Speaker on the first day of session.
- F. Upon ratification of the contract, the Rules Committee shall assume the functions of the Negotiation Team for the period of time that the contract remains in effect.

II. Committee Structure

A. Committee	Caucus Chairing	No. of Subcommittees	Size Committees
Agriculture	DFL	2	23
Appropriations	DFL	--	35
Education	DFL	--	11
Health, Welfare & Corrections	IR <i>P.F.L.</i>	--	11
Semi-State	IR	--	7
State Departments	IR	--	11
Commerce, Economic Development, & Housing	IR	2	29
Criminal Justice	DFL	2	23
Education	DFL	2	35
School Aids	<del>IR</del> <i>P.F.L.</i>	--	13
Higher Education	IR	--	13
Energy & Utilities	IR	2	27
Environment & Natural Resources	DFL	2	29
Financial Institutions & Insurance	DFL	2	27
General Legislation & Veterans Affairs	DFL	2	21
Governmental Operations	<del>IR</del> <i>P.F.L.</i>	2	33
Health and Welfare	DFL	2	27
Judiciary	IR	2	21
Labor-Management Relations	DFL	2	21
Local and Urban Affairs	IR	2	31
Rules and Legislative Administration	<del>DFL</del> <i>+</i>	--	26
Taxes	IR	2	31
Transportation	<i>Local Aids &amp; Property Tax</i> DFL	2	29

B. Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen; Division Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen; and Committee Members shall be selected by their respective caucuses in any manner they so choose.

C. Committee and Division Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen shall be members of the same caucus.

- D. The caucus which chairs a specific committee, division or subcommittee shall have a one vote majority among its members.
- E. Powers of the committee chairman shall be as presently constituted except that a majority of the committee members can force action on legislation within the committee.
- F. Subcommittee chairmen shall be members of the same caucus as the committee chairman.
- G. There shall be no more than two subcommittees per committee, designated by the chairman, unless agreed upon by the Rules Committee when requested by the appropriate committee chairman.

III. Rules Committee

- A). The Rules Committee shall be chaired by a DFLer and be composed of an equal number of members of both caucuses selected by their respective caucuses in any manner they so choose.
- B). No more than 26 members.
- C). To fill vacancies in those commissions and boards listed in Section IV of the House Research memorandum of December 5, 1978 (i.e., these specified by law to be filled by the Rules Committee), the Rules Committee shall appoint a proportionate number of DFLers and Republicans. The caucus that suffers the vacancy shall choose the successor who shall be appointed by the Rules Committee.
- D). The Rules Committee shall devise a method to determine the proportionality of appointments to those commissions and boards listed in Section I of the House Research memorandum dated December 6, 1978. Upon devising such a method, each caucus shall select members for those commissions and boards in any manner it chooses.
- E). The power to hire, fire and reassign House employees ~~shall be discussed in conjunction with space and staff.~~
- F). The Rules Committee shall be scheduled to meet on a regular basis with proper notification given to each member.
- G). All duties presently provided in the rules remain the same with the following modifications:
1. Reference of bills to committee. The Speaker shall make the initial reference unless the chief author objects to the reference on the same day as the bill is referred. In this case, the bill will be referred to the Committee on Rules and Legislative Administration for referral to committee. The Rules Committee report on the referral is not subject to objection on the floor. If the Rules Committee does not make such a reference within five legislative days, the referral of the Speaker shall stand.
  2. Before action by the full House, all constitutional amendments shall be referred or re-referred to the Committee on Rules and Legislative Administration.
  3. No amendment to the report of the Committee on Rules and Legislative Administration on the Permanent Rules of the House shall be allowed on the floor of the House.
  4. The Speaker's power to supervise the Chief Clerk under Rules 7.3 shall be subject to review by the Committee on Rules and Legislative Administration.
- H). The Rules Committee shall retain all other present powers; and a majority may place an item upon the agenda of any meeting.

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agree

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IV. Speaker

- A. The Speaker shall be an Independent-Republican; shall represent the House of Representatives at all ceremonial functions; and shall be the liaison with the Governor's office and the Senate.
- B. The power to require any motion to be in writing shall be subject to consultation between the Caucus Leaders if abused.
- C. Directs the Chief Clerk in preparation of General Orders. Committee reports shall be given their second reading in numerical order of introduction with House Files placed ahead of Senate Files.
- D. Appoints Chief Sergeant-at-Arms.
- E. Power to issue permits for admission to floor continued with understanding that each caucus leader would have equal number of floor passes available to him until one hour before each daily session.
- F. Schedule of committee meetings shall be worked out by the agreement of the two caucus leaders.
- G. The power to set times during the interim when per diems are not charged against committee budgets (Rule 6.12) may be exercised by either caucus leader.
- H. Power to direct Chief Clerk. Speaker's supervision subject to review by the Committee on Rules and Legislative Administration. All supervision will be with the understanding that the Chief Clerk will fully cooperate with the caucus leader opposite the Speaker.
- I. Reference of bills to committee see Item III, Section G, Point 1.
- J. Shall appoint all conference committees, except that conference committees shall be composed of an equal number of members from both caucuses and that the chief author shall be a member of the conference committee. *Unless he refuses or at the request of chief author.*
- K. In filling a vacancy in a House Committee during interim, the Speaker shall follow the recommendations of the leader of the caucus which suffered the vacancy.
- L. Regarding appointments to statutory commissions, special committees and boards as provided by law:
  - 1. In those cases where statutory provisions refer to "minority leader", the Speaker shall make the appointments to assure proportional representation of the two caucuses.
  - 2. In making appointments of members of the opposite caucus, the Speaker shall follow the recommendations of that particular caucus leader.
  - 3. Where regular appointments are combined with automatic ex-officio appointments on a commission, special committee, or board,

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balancing appointments will be made to another commission in order to assure overall proportionality.

5. In filling vacancies occurring after the initial appointments, the Speaker shall follow the guidelines set forth above.
- M. A copy of all reports or lists received by the Speaker pursuant to statutory direction shall, immediately upon receipt, be provided to the caucus leaders.
- N. Retain all other present powers.

V. Floor Motions

1. The position of floor leader alternates weekly between both caucuses until after the deadline for committee action when it alternates every legislative day.
2. All information pertaining to floor motions for that day shall be provided by the Speaker to both caucus leaders prior to the beginning of that day's session.