

Steering Committee:
Alma Allen, Chairman
Gary VanDeaver, Vice Chairman

Dustin Burrows
Angie Chen Button

Mary González
Donna Howard

Ken King
J. M. Lozano

Andrew Murr
Toni Rose

HOUSE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

daily floor report

Wednesday, January 11, 2023
88th Legislature, Number 2
The House convenes at 10 a.m.

The House today is expected to consider HR 3 by Metcalf, the proposed housekeeping resolution for the 88th Legislature. A summary of HR 3 as filed begins on the following page.

The House also is expected to consider HR 4 by Hunter, the proposed House Rules for the 88th Legislature. The proposed changes to the rules are summarized beginning on the following page.



Alma Allen
Chairman
88(R) - 2

PROPOSED HOUSEKEEPING RESOLUTION CHANGES

The administration and operation of the House of Representatives are governed primarily by the housekeeping resolution adopted for the two-year term of each legislature. HR 3 by Metcalf would update provisions to reflect references to the 88th Legislature and revise other provisions.

Employee salary caps. The salary cap for employees of a member, a committee, or any person, firm, or corporation employed by a committee or subcommittee would increase from \$5,280 to \$6,000 per month, with certain exceptions. As in the 87th Legislature, the amount of the salary cap could be adjusted by the Committee on House Administration to account for any salary increase provided to all state employees.

Monthly operating accounts. The monthly allocation to members' operating accounts would increase from \$15,250 to \$17,250 for each month that falls wholly or partly within the 2023 regular session or special legislative session. In any other month, the allocation would increase from \$13,500 to \$15,500.

Use of House resources for political purposes. HR 3 would add a provision codifying a constitutional prohibition on the use of public resources for political purposes. The provision states that a house member, committee, officer, or employee may not use any House resources to further a political purpose. "House resources" would include appropriated funds, property, services, personnel, or anything else of value belonging to the government that is available to house members, committees, officers, or employees because of their public office or employment.

PROPOSED HOUSE RULES CHANGES

HR 4 by Hunter contains proposed changes in the House Rules for the 88th Legislature. The resolution, as filed, would make revisions to the jurisdiction of certain House committees and to special rules for House operations during emergencies, such as epidemics or pandemics.

Committees (Rule 3). HR 4 would maintain the House's 34 standing committees, including 28 substantive committees and six procedural committees. It would update the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Agriculture and Livestock by eliminating reference to the Food and Fibers Research Council, which was abolished by the 87th Legislature.

Rules for emergencies, including epidemic or pandemic (Rule 16). HR 4 would amend the special rule, Rule 16, relating to House and committee procedures during disruptions caused by actual or imminent threats of an emergency, including epidemics and pandemics.

HR 4 would allow Rule 16 to be activated in whole or in part only upon a disaster declaration by the U.S. president, the Texas governor, or the governing body of a political subdivision. The

special rule also could be activated if the commissioner of state health services or a local health authority made a determination of a public health disaster under the Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Act.

One or more sections of Rule 16 could be activated by resolution any time the House was in session. If the House were not in session, any section of Rule 16 could be activated by a majority vote of the Committee on House Administration. The committee would meet as already established by Rule 16. The process for reactivating and deactivating one or more sections of Rule 16 remains the same.