

MINUTES

LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE
JANUARY 24, 1977

Members Present: Chairman Glover
Mrs. Brookman
Mr. Bennett
Mr. Coulter
Mrs. Wagner

Members Absent: Mr. Bremner
Mr. Murphy

Guests Present: Speaker Dini
Assemblyman Weise
Mouryne Landings, Chief Clerk
Mr. Andrew Grose

Chairman Glover called a brief meeting in the lounge at 1:15 p.m. in order to give members an opportunity to ask Mr. Grose questions regarding the Consent Calendar.

Assembly Resolution #2: Amends Assembly Standing Rules to provide for a Consent Calendar. The questions that arose were the length of time that a bill would be on the calendar, would there be a record of how an assemblyman voted on a bill, and when would a bill that was removed go to the second reading file.

Answers to these questions were that as it is now written a bill would remain on the Consent Calendar for three days. Also there would be a roll call vote which would indicate how each assemblyman voted and any bill that had been removed from the Consent Calendar would go immediately to a second reading and could be read that same day.

Speaker Dini made the suggestion that a Consent Calendar be published each day and brought to a vote after two days which could mean a calendar vote every day. He also suggested that the Consent Calendar be the tenth order of business rather than the eleventh so that a bill could go immediately to a second reading.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Hatch

Patricia Hatch, Assembly Attache

JANUARY 24, 1977
1:30 p.m.

PRESENTATION BY MR. ANDREW GROSE TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Assembly Resolution #2: Amends Assembly Standing Rules to provide for a consent calendar. Mr. Grose stated there were five points covered by the bill:

- (1) How to put a bill on the consent calendar
- (2) How to remove a bill from the calendar
- (3) Scheduling of bills
- (4) Floor consideration of bills
- (5) Removal after coming to the floor

(1) A bill must be recorded as Do Pass with no amendments by a unanimous vote of a Standing Committee in order to be placed on the consent calendar. Mr. Weise questioned what a unanimous vote of the committee means. Mr. Grose stated that the Legislative Council would interpret unanimous to mean a unanimous vote of the members present. The bill would have to be amended to include all members, present or not.

(2) Any member may remove a bill from the consent calendar by filling out a form in Mrs. Landing's office. Once a bill has been removed, it may not be put back on the calendar and will be sent to the second reading file. Speaker Dini recommended having a consent calendar each day as item #10 in the order of business. The question was raised as to whether a bill on the assembly consent calendar would be on the senate consent calendar. In answer to this, Mr. Grose stated that this would not be necessarily so because senate procedures differ from the assembly and a bill might be amended in committee.

(3) Any bill unanimously voted by a committee would automatically be placed on the consent calendar by the Chief Clerk and posted on the board. Under the present bill they would remain there a minimum of three days allowing ample time for removal. It was suggested again that the consent calendar be considered as item #10 rather than #11 in the order of business so that a bill which had been removed could go immediately to the second reading file. The suggestion was made that the calendar be used only for "house cleaning" bills, but it was felt that this would not save the time that was intended by the use of a consent calendar.

(4) Time is allowed by the bill for questions and explanations before the speaker calls for a vote on passage on the floor. The responsibility lies with the speaker to keep these brief.

(5) Any member may remove a bill from the consent calendar up to the time the speaker calls for a vote on passage by written notice to the clerk or by recognition on the floor by the speaker. If a bill is removed on the floor, there can be a vote for reconsideration of the consent calendar after that bill is removed. An amendment could be made to require two or three members for removal of a bill as is done in other states.

It was suggested that we might run a dummy calendar for a few days so that members could see how it works which might answer their questions and alleviate their fears.