

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS OF SENATE AND HOUSE RULES 304

1 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Senate Rule 304 is amended as follows:

2 **304. Order and decorum.** The presiding officer shall preserve order and decorum and
3 decide all questions of order subject to an appeal to the Senate. During debate, a member may
4 refer to another member by title and last name if done in a respectful manner. When the
5 presiding officer is putting the question, no member may walk out, or across the Senate, nor
6 when a member is speaking, may any person entertain any private discourse, or pass between
7 the person speaking and the chair. A member called to order shall immediately sit down unless
8 permitted to explain, and the Senate, if appealed to, shall decide the case. If there is no appeal,
9 the decision of the chair stands. On appeal, no member may speak more than once without
10 leave of the Senate. When a member is called to order for offensive language, there may be no
11 debate.

12 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** House Rule 304 is amended as follows:

13 **304. Order and decorum.** The Speaker shall preserve order and decorum and decide all
14 questions of order subject to an appeal to the House. During debate, a member may refer to
15 another member by title and last name if done in a respectful manner. When the Speaker is
16 putting the question, no member may walk out, or across the House, nor when a member is
17 speaking, may any person entertain any private discourse, or pass between the person
18 speaking and the chair. A member called to order shall immediately sit down unless permitted to
19 explain, and the House, if appealed to, shall decide the case. If there is no appeal, the decision
20 of the chair stands. On appeal, no member may speak more than once without leave of the
21 House. When a member is called to order for offensive language, there may be no debate.

NOTE: This proposed amendment is in response to the following "Rules Questions or
Inquiries That Arose During the 2011 Legislative Session":

Although *Mason's Rules* state that another member should be addressed as the gentleman from the 5th District, in the House we have the practice of addressing another member by stating Rep. Smith or Rep. Jones. It would seem to allow our present practice if done respectfully, as our members do it.

Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure, Section 110(2), provides:

To guard against the appearance of personalities in debate, it has long been the rule in legislative bodies that no member should refer to another by name in debate. The other member should be described by district, by seat, as the member who last spoke or by describing the member in some other manner.

The practice in the Senate is to follow *Mason's* Section 110, while the practice in the House is to address another member by title and last name.