

## CHAPTER 300 - STANDING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE HOUSE

*Amended by: H.B. 2014-2015.01 "Revision of the House Acts"*

### ARTICLE I. AUTHORIZATION OF STANDING RULES

§1 **SCOPE AND PURPOSE.** The House shall establish a *Standing Rules and Regulations of the House* or Standing Rules which shall be authorized herein by this chapter. The Standing Rules shall be confined to the internal rules and operations of the House and shall never regulate or infringe on the other branches of government. These rules are subject to amendment by the House exclusively, with Presidential approval.

### ARTICLE II. HOUSE ORGANIZATION

§1 **MEMBERSHIP.** House Membership and appointment of the House shall be established by and set forth in the Student Government Constitution.

§2 **THE CHAIRPERSON.** The Vice President shall serve as the Chairperson of the House until the floor is yielded to the House Leader or unless the House acts by Simple House Resolution to install the Speaker of the House as Chairperson. In either case the House Leader shall be Chairperson of the House. The Chairperson shall preside over all formal meetings of the House. Qualifications, powers, and duties shall be established and set forth in the Student Government Constitution. The Chairperson shall:

- (a) Have no vote in the House except in the event of a tie or when the vote is by secret ballot;
- (b) With the consent of the House, set the chambers agenda;
- (c) Maintain order at all times;
- (d) Be thoroughly versed in parliamentary procedure;
- (e) Not debate from the Chair except in the case of an appeal;
- (f) At no time decide on a question involving the constitutionality of a piece of legislation;
- (g) Follow the order of business as prescribed by the agenda unless the rules are suspended;
- (h) Remain impartial at all times while conducting meetings;
- (i) Make clear to all Representatives the issue in question;

- (j) Execute all powers and duties found in the Student Government Constitution, the House Standing Rules and Regulations, and ensure the House functions are in compliance with all University policies as well as the rules and regulations of the Texas State University System Board of Regents;
- (k) Appoint House Committee Chairpersons with two-thirds approval of the House;
- (l) Remove the Chairperson and/or members of any committees for not fulfilling the responsibilities taken while under oath;
- (m) Be the only person authorized to recognize individuals wishing to speak during a House meeting;
- (n) Not recognize anyone except Representatives, the President, the Student Government Advisors, Guest Speakers, and Ex-Officio members during the Old Business and New Business sections of the Agenda;
- (o) Recognize qualified persons wishing to speak in a fair and impartial manner.

§3 **THE HOUSE LEADER.** The House Leader is the second-highest ranking member of the House. The House Leader shall be elected by a majority of the House, at the first meeting in the fall or any specially-called meetings for that purpose, using the procedures found in Roberts Rules of Order. In the event the House Leader is installed as Chairperson they shall assume all of these duties and powers as well as:

- (a) Assume the duties of Chairperson in the absence of the Vice President;
- (b) Preside as Chairperson when the House is moved into Committee of the Whole;
- (c) Meet with the Chairpersons of all committees as deemed necessary by the Chairperson;
- (d) Be a Graduate Student Representative;
- (e) Assist the Chairperson in the managing and scheduling of the House's legislative agenda;
- (f) Chair the Select Committee on Selections and Appointments;
- (g) Chair the House Budget and Finance Committee;
- (h) If installed as Chairperson of the House by a simple resolution the House Leader shall act as Chair until such time as the House prescribes or upon the conclusion of the House Leader's term as a Graduate Representative;

(i) If installed as Chairperson of the House by the House Leader shall act as Chair until such time as the House Leader no longer requires such.

§4 **HOUSE SECRETARY.** The Secretary shall be nominated by the House Leader and confirmed by two-thirds of the House and shall assume the duties of House Secretary. They shall also:

- (a) Keep a permanent record of all House proceedings in the form of minutes that are to be posted by Monday prior to the next meeting by 11:59pm;
- (b) Keep a record of all absences and excuses;
- (c) Keep an accurate and up-to-date House roster;
- (d) Be responsible for maintaining the House's record of legislation;
- (e) Be responsible for carrying out all official correspondence for the House;
- (f) Be responsible for informing the Chairperson of the House when legislation has been officially given to the President for his/her action;
- (g) Be responsible for maintaining the House voting record.

§5 **THE PARLIMENTARIAN.** The House Parliamentarian shall be nominated by the Speaker and confirmed by two-thirds of the House and shall have final say in all matters of procedural conflict on the House floor.

- (a) Have a thorough knowledge of the House and Parliamentary procedures including the most up-to-date edition of Robert's Rules of Order and the Standing Rules. They shall also:
  - (b) Point out serious errors in procedure to the Chairperson of the House.
  - (c) Record all questions of order and other questions of procedure for future reference.
  - (d) Keep time during periods of limited debate and/or speech.
  - (e) Remove any person deemed out of order by the Chairperson or by the Parliamentarian.
- (f) Act as Sergeant-at-Arms.

### **ARTICLE III. LEGISLATIVE AND HOUSE PROCEDURES**

§1 **VACANCIES.** The Duties and Powers of the House stipulate that it shall confirm the House Select Committee on Selections and Appointment by a majority vote.

§2 **QUORUM.** Quorum shall be defined as two-thirds the total membership.

- (a) Membership shall be determined by the total number of Representatives active on the roll at the time a meeting is called to order.

§3 **ORDERS OF BUSINESS.** Order of Business shall be determined by the agenda. The agenda shall be determined by the Chairperson of the House and confirmed by the House.

The general order of business may be:

- (a) Call to Order
- (b) Roll Call
- (c) Orders of the Day
- (d) Approval of Minutes
- (e) Guest Speakers
- (f) Public Forum
- (g) Executive Reports
- (h) Commission Reports
- (i) Committee Reports
- (j) Old Business
- (k) New Business
- (l) Adjourn

§4 **GUEST SPEAKERS.** A Guest Speaker must be on the posted Agenda in order to address the House. A Guest Speaker shall not be allowed to speak during the Old Business or New Business sections of the agenda. A guest speaker shall be limited to no more than fifteen minutes of speaking time. All persons requesting time on the agenda shall be given fair and impartial consideration.

- (a) The order of speakers for House meetings with multiple speakers shall be determined by the Chairperson of the House.

§5 **PUBLIC FORUM.** Students may be allowed to address the House under the rules for guest speakers if adequate notice is given to the Chairperson of the House prior to the start of the meeting. Otherwise each student may address the House during the Public Forum for a maximum of two (2) minutes. Public Forum shall be limited to four (4) students.

§6 **DEBATE AND DECORUM.** Members of the House shall conduct themselves in an orderly fashion at all times while on the House floor. Excessive unruliness shall be defined as any premeditated or persistent distraction which disrupts the normal business of the meeting and

is deemed as disorderly. The Chairperson of the House and the Parliamentarian of the House shall have the authority to decide what action is disorderly.

- (a) During debate all Representatives shall confine their remarks to the subject at hand or they shall be ruled out of order.
- (b) Any Representative who has the floor shall not be interrupted by another Representative or officer for any purpose except as provided in Robert's Rules of Order or unless he consents to yield the floor to that Representative or officer.
- (c) All rules of debate and decorum shall be enforced by the Chairperson and Parliamentarian. Transgressors of these rules shall be considered out of order.
- (d) All Representatives ruled out of order shall automatically lose the floor. Any Representative ruled out of order two times may be asked to leave the House Chambers by the Chairperson or Parliamentarian, and shall be removed from the roll. The removal of the Representative from chambers shall be considered as an unexcused absence.
- (e) Except in the cases of conflict with these Standing Rules, Robert's Rules of Order shall prevail in matters of procedure unless a suspension of the rules has been called for.
- (f) Proper attire is required at House meetings in order to vote. Proper attire at a minimum should be business casual for both male and female members and wardrobe selections should be those that both preserve and honor the dignity of the meeting. Wardrobe selection should include, but is not limited to, a collared shirt, or sweater, with slacks for male members and either slacks or skirt with a conservative blouse for female members. Complimentary footwear should be worn. Proper attire in question will be determined by the Chairperson.

§7 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.** A Committee of the Whole shall be formed by a motion "to consider the question in the Committee of the Whole" and must pass with a two-thirds vote of the House.

- (a) Be a committee composed of the entire House.
- (b) Be formed when the assembly decides that a particular question can best be discussed with the more liberal House rules.
- (c) Be chaired by the House Leader.

- (d) Move to "rise and report" when the necessary business is completed.
- (e) Cease to exist upon passage of this motion, which requires a two-thirds vote of the Committee of the Whole.
- (f) Not have its business recorded in the official House minutes. However, the Committee of the Whole will submit a report that is to be entered into the minutes.
- (g) Be used to consider disciplinary matters within the House, excluding any impeachment hearings.

§8 **EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Executive Session shall be used to consider all disciplinary matters, less than impeachment.

- (a) Be called by the Chairperson of the House.
- (b) Follow the guidelines for executive session as outlined in Robert's Rules of Order.
- (c) Be placed on the posted agenda and shall follow guidelines for placing legislation on the agenda.
- (d) Only have Student Government members and advisors in attendance.

§9 **VOTING.** Representatives must be present on the House floor in order to vote or as set forth by the House Rules of Order.

§10 **ABSTINTION.** Members not wishing to vote may abstain. Members wishing to abstain shall not be counted when determining the number needed to obtain a majority.

§11 **UNDECIDED.** Undecided Representatives may pass and then cast their vote at the conclusion of voting before the final vote is announced.

§12 **TIE VOTES.** A tie vote is considered a lost vote unless the tie is broken by the Chairperson.

§13 **DIVISION OF THE HOUSE.** At the desire of any Representative present, a division of the house can be called as prescribed in Robert's Rules of Order.

§14 **ROLL CALL.** All final votes on legislation shall be taken by roll call vote.

§15 **EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.** The House may have *ex officio* members including five (5) non-voting *ex officio* seats. Two (2) to be filled by members of the Freshmen Council, two (2) to be filled by Texas State Transfer students, (1) seat per member of the Graduate Council, one (1) to be filled by a Representative from the Residence Hall Association. Each of the freshmen and Transfer *ex officio* seats must have fewer than twelve (12) Texas State credit hours. Such *ex officio* members of the House shall:

- (1) Serve as advisors to the House;

- (2) Have a voice in all debate and discussion and will be encouraged to actively participate in all House matters;
- (3) Have no official vote in House matters or in internal committees;
- (4) May author legislation;
- (5) May sponsor legislation, so long as it has a second sponsor by a full Representative;
- (6) Take an oath of office and comply with all Student Government Rules and Regulations;
- (7) The *ex officio* seats will apply through the Select Committee on Selection and Appointments and be confirmed by two-thirds majority vote of the House.

#### **ARTICLE IV. LEGISLATION**

§1 **CODING LEGISLATION.** Each measure will receive a code determined by its type, and set by the House Clerk, the legislation shall thereafter be referenced to, in any formal capacity, by this code. House Resolutions will be designated by the "HR"; Simple House Resolutions will be designated by the "SHR"; House Bills will be designated by the "HB"; and Constitutional Amendments will be designated by "CA". Following this there will be the last two digits of the two years constituting the academic year in which the measure is introduced. Following these two digits will be the number assigned by the House Secretary. Each measure will be measured successively, according to its type, beginning at the start of each school year. Every resolution or bill shall carry:

- (a) The name or names of sponsor(s) and the author(s);
- (b) A title if the sponsor or co-sponsor wished to give it one;
- (c) Each piece of legislation passed by the House shall carry:
- (d) The date it was first introduced by the House.;
- (e) A place for the date on which the legislation passed the House;
- (f) A place to indicate committee assignment should the legislation be sent to a committee;
- (g) Any amendments approved by the House.

§2 **SUBMITTING LEGISLATION.** All legislation to be placed on the agenda must be submitted to the House Secretary no later than 5:00 PM on the Wednesday preceding the

House meeting. Thereafter, legislation to be placed on the agenda shall require special permission of the Chairperson of the House and shall not be accepted at all after 5:00 PM on Thursday. All legislation must be submitted to the Chairperson of the House for his/her signature by 8 AM of the Friday meeting.

§3 **PATH OF LEGISLATION.** All legislation shall have a first reading under New Business during formal meetings with quorum present. At this time the Chairperson of the House shall assign the legislation to the appropriate committee(s) to consider the proposed legislation and report back to the House at the next formal meeting.

§4 **READING AND DEBATE PROCEDURE.** At the next formal meeting following the meeting in which legislation was first read and after the proposed legislation has received Committee attention, legislation shall have a second reading under Old Business. At this time amendments to the legislation may be proposed and voted on. Move for Adoption-After second reading under Old Business, it may then be moved and seconded for adoption. At this time amendments to the legislation may be proposed and voted on. All amendments must be pertinent to the legislation being considered. Upon termination of debate, if the bill has not been taken from the floor, a vote shall be taken to determine passage or failure of the legislation.

§5 **EMERGENCY STATUS.** A piece of legislation may be granted emergency status by a two-thirds vote of the House or by declaration of the Chairperson of the House. A piece of legislation successfully granted emergency status will not require a second reading. A Representative wishing to make a piece of legislation emergency must give proper justification as to why the legislation needs to be made emergency. Each piece of legislation successfully granted emergency status must contain all necessary legislation coding in order to be immediately considered. If the Representative wishes his/her legislation to be considered for emergency status, it is the Representative's responsibility to provide no fewer than one copy of proposed legislation for every two members of the current House, to be available at the commencement of all House committee meetings.



## **ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE**

- §18 **DEFINITION.** Permanent Committees shall be constituted each year and shall make recommendations on their specific area of oversight. Permanent committees are as listed in this article.
- §19 **DIVERSITY INCLUSION COMMITTEE.** The Diversity and Inclusion Committee (DIVC) shall focus efforts on ensuring that diversity, in all its forms, is honored and respected by fostering an environment of inclusiveness. The DIVC shall review all legislation regarding issues of student diversity and inclusion including, but not limited to, programs, activities, and initiatives. Additionally, the DIVC shall serve as a valuable resource to the House on all matters associated with student diversity and inclusion.
- §20 Committee (SMTC) shall focus efforts on gaining and growing interest in the Student Government and the House through an online presence with the use of social media. The SMTC shall review all legislation concerning social media issues concerning the House including, but not limited to, the use of social media and implementation of new technology platforms within social media by the House, and shall recommend to the House action upon all potential outward-reaching communications for the House.
- §21 **CAMPUS LIFE.** The Campus Life Committee shall focus efforts on addressing campus concerns and issues expressed by any and all students attending Texas State University. This committee is charged with bringing all of these matters to the House to determine best course of action in order to bring these matters regarding campus life to the attention to appropriate administration. Furthermore, the Campus Life Committee shall serve as a valuable resource to the House on all matters associated with the improvement of campus life.
- §22 **BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE.** The Budget and Finance Committee is charged with advising the House on matters concerning the financial affairs of the House, creating and maintaining fiscal responsibility while acting as a control function for discretionary spending in the House. The role shall include, but not be limited to, assessing the financial impact of policies and activities within the House, monitoring the House's financial activities, and undertaking other appropriate projects as requested.
- §23 **SELECT COMMITTEES.** House Select Committees shall meet on an as needed basis as business warrants and shall be outlined, with their charge, herein:

- §24 **COMMITTEE CHAIRS.** Committee Chairs shall be nominated by the Chairperson of the House with approval of two-thirds of the House and shall outline the purpose of the committee and coordinate the committees function. They shall also:
- (a) Determine the time, place, and frequency of meetings and notify members according to guidelines established by the Chairperson of the House;
  - (b) Give periodic reports of the committees' findings to the House according to deadlines established by the Chairperson of the House.
  - (c) Preside over all committee meetings.
  - (d) Be responsible for the recording of all committee member's absences and minutes of the committee meetings and shall forward them to the House Secretary.
  - (e) Be Student Representatives.
  - (f) Meet with the Chairperson of the House as deemed necessary by the Chairperson of the House.
  - (g) Appoint a Co-Chairperson with two-thirds approval of the committee.
  - (h) A Committee Secretary shall be appointed by the Committee Chairperson to take minutes.
- §25 **VICE CHAIR.** Committee Vice Chairperson shall be an assistant to the Chairperson and preside at meetings when the Chairperson is absent. The Vice Chairperson shall also;
- (a) Assist the Chairperson.
  - (b) Keep record of attendance of members.
  - (c) Maintain a record of excuses for absences by committee members.
  - (d) Keep the Chairperson informed of attendance violations.
  - (e) Enforce absence policy as outlined in Article VI of this document.
- §26 **SECRETARY.** Committee Secretary shall take minutes and attendance at each meeting and submit them to the House Secretary.
- §27 **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.** Committee Members shall be appointed and removed by the Chairperson of the House at his/her discretion and shall attend all committee meetings scheduled by the Committee Chairperson. Committee members shall also:
- (a) Study, research, revise, and propose legislation.

- §28 **LIMITS ON NUMBER OF COMMITTEES.** House members may serve on no more than two standing House committees and two temporary, select, ad-hoc or special committees at one time.
- §29 **LIMITS ON NUMBER OF COMMISSIONS.** House members may serve on no more than one commission at any one time.
- §30 **POWERS OF COMMITTEES.** Amendments to any bill or resolution shall require a full vote of the House to be adopted. Committees shall have legislative review power over all legislation submitted to their committee.
- §31 **MEETING TIME AND PLACE.** Committees will meet every week or on a regular basis as determined by the committee Chairperson.
- §32 **SUBCOMMITTEES.** House Committee Chairpersons may form Subcommittees to address special project and issues that are being undertaken by their respective House Committees.
- (a) House Subcommittees may contain persons who are not members of the House upon approval of the Chairperson of the House.
  - (b) Each House subcommittee non-House members shall be allowed to fully participate in the discussion within the subcommittee, and shall attend all meetings, and shall act in an advisory capacity;
  - (c) House subcommittee non-House members shall not have an official vote on the subcommittee.
- §33 **AD-HOC, TEMPORARY, AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES.** Ad-hoc, temporary, and special committees are created by House or may be created by a motion or legislation when the need arises for a committee of a temporary nature:
- (a) Be appointed by the Chairperson of the House with two-thirds approval of the House.
  - (b) Chair shall be nominated by the Chairperson and Confirmed by the committee members by a majority vote.
  - (c) Will be dissolved as soon as the Chairperson of the House and the
  - (d) Chairperson of the committee feel the project is completed, or by legislation or motion.

## ARTICLE VI. SPECIAL PROVISIONS

- §1 **LEVELS OF AMENDMENTS.** A motion may be carried to only three levels at one given time.
- §2 **APPEALING A DECISION.** Decisions of the Chair may be overridden by the majority vote of those Representatives present.
- §3 **JUDICIAL PROTECTION.** The Chairperson of the House shall at no time decide on a question involving the constitutionality of a piece of legislation or other issues of actions of the House.
- §4 **OPEN MEETINGS.** All House meetings shall be open to the public. Should a sensitive matter require a closed meeting, this rule may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of those Representatives present.
- §5 **ORIGINAL INTENT.** No legislation may be amended so as to change the original purpose.
- §6 **LIMITING SCOPE OF RESOLUTIONS.** No legislation, except bills, shall embrace more than one subject.
- §7 **DEFEATED LEGISLATION.** Once legislation has been considered and defeated no legislation containing the same principle subject matter shall be considered again during the same semester it was presented. However, the original legislation may be reconsidered once.
- §8 **RECONSIDERATION.** A motion to reconsider may be made and seconded only by Representatives who vote on the prevailing side in the original vote. A motion to reconsider is debatable if the item to be reconsidered is debatable. A motion to reconsider requires a majority vote for passage. Upon passage of a motion to reconsider, the legislation may be debated and amended. Upon termination of debate on the legislation, a new vote shall be taken.
- §9 **SPECIAL ELECTIONS.** Special elections shall be elections which fill vacancies for convention delegates, selection of the Outstanding Representative, and other elections of House Officers.
- §10 **SPECIAL ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS.** All special elections of the House Leader or Committee Chairperson shall be presided over by the Chairperson of the House unless the Chairperson is a candidate, whereby the Speaker shall preside over the election. Thereafter, any Representative who is not a candidate shall preside over the meeting as soon as his/her candidacy has ended.

- (a) The Chairperson shall be aided by those Representatives he selects who are not candidates.
- (b) All special elections shall be by a secret ballot.
- (c) Winners shall be determined by a plurality vote.
- (d) All introductions, speeches, questions, and discussions shall immediately proceed balloting.
- (e) In the event of a tie, the run-off will be immediately broken by way of a secret ballot until the tie is broken.

**ARTICLE VII. ARTICLE IX. ABSENCE POLICY**

§1 **DEFINITION.** A Representative not present at the time of roll call shall be considered absent. Two unexcused absences from House meetings in one semester, either from general assembly or committee meetings, shall be just cause for removal of a Representative.

§2 **SUBMITTING AN EXCUSED ABSENCE.** All excuses shall be turned into the Chairperson, Secretary, and House Advisor no later than 5PM of the Friday afternoon for the meeting missed that same week (except holidays).

- (a) Absent Representatives who fail to turn in an excuse shall have their absences recorded as unexcused.
- (b) The Chairperson shall transmit this information to the House Secretary each week.

§3 **RECORDING ABSENCE.** The House Secretary shall keep a running list of excused and unexcused absences and a written record kept of the reasoning for the excused and unexcused absences. Excused absences shall include:

- (a) Major Family Event.
- (b) Documented illness.
- (c) Academic, not other organization nor work related, or student government sponsored out-of-town trips,
- (d) Representing the House in an official capacity.

§4 **REPORTING.** The Chairperson shall keep an attendance file of all excuses for absences along with an up-to-date running attendance record. Excuses will be kept on file for a period dating back one year. This file will be open to the public for examination. The Supreme Court Chief Justice will be transmitted these files each week by the Chairperson.

§5 **TWO ABSENCE LIMIT.** When a Representative acquires one unexcused absence he shall be given a written warning by the Rules and Ethics Committee Chair or designee that he has one more unexcused absence before removal from office by a formal memorandum with date and reason for issuance.

(a) The Chairperson shall, every two weeks, name all those who are currently recorded as having two absences.

(b) Once a Representative acquires two unexcused absences the Rules and Ethics Committee Chair shall immediately ask for his/her resignation. Should the Representative not submit his/her resignation by the next House meeting, the Rules and Ethics Committee shall issue Articles for Impeachment and issue it at the next regular meeting of the House.

(1) Should the Rules or Regulations Chair fail to do this it shall be the responsibility of either the Chairperson or Speaker to ensure it is done.

(2) The power of the House to impeach its members shall not be subject to the proper execution of these responsibilities should any officer in trusted to enforce this rule fails to do.

§6 **APPEALING AN ABSENCE.** Should the Chairperson or other office record an absence as unexcused and the Representative feel his/her excuse is justified he may appeal to the Supreme Court to amend the decision. An appeal will be filed with the Chairperson via a formal, dated written memorandum and placed on the agenda as new business at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

§7 **EXTENDED LEAVES OF ABSENCE.** Should a Representative be unable to attend meetings several weeks running due to illness or other approved absences, he shall contact the Chairperson within two weeks. The Chairperson shall see that the minutes reflect this extended leave. Upon returning the Representative will still be required to turn in a written excuse for the attendance file.

§8 **TARDY.** If a Representative enters a meeting after roll has been called the Representative must ask by way of formal motion to be added to the roll. The House Secretary will make note of the time.

(a) The House Secretary shall make record of tardy Representatives.

- (b) When a tardy Representative arrives to the House meeting, he shall speak with the Rules and Ethics Committee to see if the tardy is acceptable;
  - (1) No tardy of ten (10) minutes or more shall be excused.
  - (2) Representatives tardy for twenty (20) minutes or more shall be considered absent and not allowed to vote.
- (c) If a Representative is tardy two times in one (1) semester it will count as one unexcused absence. If a Representative is tardy four (4) times in one semester it shall equal two (2) absences.

§9 **COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE.** All committee absences shall be recorded in the roll call by the Committee Chair and the committee chair shall report the absences to the Chairperson, House Secretary, House Leader, and the Rules and Ethics Committee.

- (a) Tardy Representatives shall be recorded and reported in the same way.
- (b) Representatives twenty (20) minutes tardy shall be considered absent and not allowed to vote.

§10 **COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE REPORTING.** Committee members shall turn in written excuses to the committee Chair no later than one week after the meeting missed. These absences shall be reported to the Supreme Court Chief Justice, the Chairperson the House Leader and the House Secretary.

§11 **APPEALING COMMITTEE ABSENCE.** All excuses for committee absences shall be ruled either accepted or denied by the Supreme Court.

- (a) No tardy more than ten (10) minutes long shall be excused.
- (b) An appeal will be filed with the Committee Chairperson via a formal, dated written memorandum and will be responded to in the same format within five (5) business days.

## **ARTICLE VIII. IMPEACHMENT TRIAL**

§1 **CHAIR IMPEACHED.** Should the Chairperson of the House be impeached, he shall relinquish the Chair to the House Leader until all impeachment proceedings are completed. In the event the House Leader is Chairperson and is under impeachment they shall relinquish the Chair to the Supreme Court Chief Justice.

§2 **ACCUSED VOTE IS SUSPENDED.** Should a Representative be impeached he shall have no vote.