

**Steering Committee:**  
Alma Allen, Acting Chairman

Rafael Anchia  
Drew Darby

Joe Deshotel  
Joe Farias

Donna Howard

Susan King  
J. M. Lozano

Eddie Lucio III  
Joe Pickett

# HOUSE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

## daily floor report

Thursday, January 15, 2015  
84th Legislature, Number 3  
The House convenes at 9 a.m.

The House is expected to consider HR 4 by Smithee, the proposed House Rules for the 84th Legislature. The proposed changes to last session's rules are summarized starting on page 1.

Pursuant to SCR 3 by Whitmire (Kuempel), the House and the Senate are scheduled to meet today at 1 p.m. in joint session in the House chamber to canvass officially the statewide vote for governor and lieutenant governor. A summary of that procedure is on page 5. Gov. Rick Perry is scheduled to address the House and the Senate in joint session in the House chamber at 2:30 p.m.

Ballots have been distributed to all House members to approve or disapprove the election of a slate of members to the House Research Organization Steering Committee: Reps. Raphael Anchia, Dwayne Bohac, Myra Crownover, Joe Deshotel, John Frullo, Bryan Hughes, Ken King, Susan King, Eddie Lucio, Doug Miller, and Joe Pickett. Please return your ballot to Room 420 of the John H. Reagan Building as soon as possible. Thanks very much for your help.



Alma Allen  
Acting Chairman  
84(R) - 3

## PROPOSED HOUSE RULE CHANGES

HR 4 by Smithee contains proposed changes in the House Rules for the 84th Legislature. The resolution, as filed, would amend the rules used during the 83rd Legislature by altering the membership and jurisdiction of many House committees, allowing for the electronic filing of bills, requiring certain criminal justice information to appear in committee reports and in bill titles and captions, and revising requirements for media representatives to become accredited for access to the House chamber.

### **Electronic filing of bills and resolutions – (Rule 2, p. 10; Rule 8, p. 150; Rule 10, p. 163)**

HR 4 would revise how bills must be filed with the chief clerk's office to allow for electronic filing and to eliminate provisions relating to a specific number of hard copies that must be filed. Bills and resolutions would have to be filed in an electronic or other format specified by the chief clerk.

### **Committee membership, jurisdiction – (Rule 3, pp. 22-52)**

Under HR 4, the number of committees would remain at 38, with one committee being abolished and one created. There would be 32 substantive committees and six procedural committees. The membership of four committees would be decreased and the membership of four committees increased. Committees with proposed changes in membership or jurisdiction are shown in the table below.

| <b>Committee Name</b>  | <b>Previous Members</b> | <b>Proposed Members</b> | <b>Changes to Jurisdiction</b> |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Corrections  | 7                       | 7                       | yes                            |
| Criminal Jurisprudence   | 9                       | 7                       | no                             |
| Defense and Veterans' Affairs  | 9                       | 7                       | no                             |
| Energy Resources   | 11                      | 13                      | no                             |
| General Investigating, Transparency in Government Operations, and Ethics | 5                       | 7                       | yes                            |
| Government Transparency and Operation                                    | 7                       | 7                       | yes                            |
| House Administration   | 11                      | 11                      | yes                            |
| Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence  | 9                       | 9                       | yes                            |
| Juvenile Justice and Family Issues                                       | -                       | 7                       | new committee                  |
| Land and Resource Management   | 9                       | 7                       | no                             |
| Special Purpose Districts  | 9                       | 7                       | no                             |
| Technology   | 5                       | -                       | eliminated                     |
| Transportation   | 11                      | 13                      | no                             |
| Ways and Means   | 9                       | 11                      | no                             |

The proposed resolution would eliminate the **Economic and Small Business Development** Committee's permanent subcommittee on manufacturing. The committee chair would be required to appoint a permanent subcommittee on small business development.

The name of the **General Investigating and Ethics** Committee would be changed to the **General Investigating, Transparency in Government Operations, and Ethics** Committee, and the committee's jurisdiction would be expanded. HR 4 would give the committee authority to investigate state officers and officials for impeachment and removal under Government Code, ch. 665 as it related to matters of misconduct, malfeasance, misfeasance, abuse of office, and incompetency. The committee's current jurisdiction over the conduct of and ethical standards applicable to state and local government officers and employees would be expanded to include individuals appointed to the state's executive branch. The operation of state judicial and executive branch agencies and affiliated entities, foundations, and support groups also would fall under the committee. This authority would include jurisdiction over transparency in reporting of financial transactions.

The proposed resolution would change the name of the **Government Efficiency and Reform** Committee to **Government Transparency and Operation**. Its jurisdiction would expand to include the authority previously held by the committee on **Technology**, which would be eliminated.

The chair of the **Higher Education** Committee would be required to appoint a permanent subcommittee on postsecondary education and workforce readiness.

HR 4 would add jurisdiction over Internet broadcasting to the **House Administration** Committee's current jurisdiction over radio and television transmissions of sessions of the House.

The chair of the **Investments and Financial Services** Committee would be required to appoint a permanent subcommittee on state and local bonded indebtedness.

HR 4 would create the **Juvenile Justice and Family Issues** with jurisdiction over juvenile corrections, juvenile delinquency, and criminal law and procedures relating to juveniles. The **Corrections** Committee would no longer have jurisdiction over the juvenile justice system. The new committee also would have authority over civil family law, and the proposed resolution would eliminate the **Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence** Committee's current jurisdiction over those issues.

The chair of the **Natural Resources** Committee would be required to appoint a permanent subcommittee on special water districts.

The chair of the **Public Education** Committee would be required to appoint a permanent subcommittee on educator quality.

The chair of the **Transportation** Committee would be required to appoint a permanent subcommittee on long-term transportation infrastructure planning.

The chair of the **Ways and Means** Committee would be required to appoint one subcommittee on property taxes and could appoint additional subcommittees focusing on other specific taxes.

**Criminal justice information in committee reports and bill captions, titles – (Rule 4, p. 74; Rule 8, p. 146)**

HR 4 would require that committee reports on bills and resolutions include a statement of whether or not they:

- created a criminal offense;
- increased punishment for an existing crime or category of offenses; or
- changed the eligibility of an individual for community supervision (probation), parole, or mandatory supervision.

If a bill or resolution was designed to do any of these things, the statement would have to indicate the general effect of the measure on the offense, punishment, or eligibility.

Such bills and resolutions would have to include similar information at the end of their titles or captions. The statement would have to indicate the general effect of the bill's enactment on the offense, punishment, or eligibility. For example, the statement could read: "creating a criminal offense," or "increasing a criminal penalty."

**Media access to the House chamber – (Rule 5, pp. 90-97)**

HR 4 would revise the requirements media representatives must meet to become accredited for access to the House chamber or admittance to the House floor and its privileges.

The proposed resolution would eliminate the current requirement that media admitted to the House floor or allowed its privileges be salaried staff correspondents, reporters, or photographers regularly employed by:

- a newspaper;
- a press association;
- a news service serving newspapers;
- a publication requiring telegraphic coverage; or
- a licensed radio or television station or network.

HR 4 would require that those admitted to the floor or allowed its privileges be employed by a print, broadcast, or Internet news organization that had been published or operated continuously for 18 months and was in the principal business of periodically disseminating original news and opinion of interest to a broad segment of the public. The publications or operations of the news organization also would have to be editorially independent of any institution, foundation, or interest group that was lobbying the government or was not principally a general news organization. The media representatives also could not lobby or be engaged in paid advocacy, advertising, publicity, or promotion work for any individual, political party, corporation, organization, or government agency.

The proposed resolution would change the materials that media representatives would be required to submit to House Administration to obtain House floor access and privileges. Instead of submitting fully accredited credentials from their employers certifying that they were primarily engaged in reporting the legislative session, media representatives would have to submit letters from their employers to this effect, along with a notarized application in a form determined by the committee. Information about the source of a media representative's salary would have to be included in the letters instead of in a written statement submitted by the media representative. The letter would have to certify that no part of the media representative's salary for legislative coverage would be paid from a source other than the employing news organization.

Failure to maintain these requirements could result in the revocation of access privileges.

The House Administration Committee could assess a fee to cover the cost of issuing passes to media representatives who were granted access privileges.

House members who believed that a media representative who was granted access to the House chamber did not meet the requirements or had abused the privileges could submit a written complaint to the House Administration Committee. The committee would be required to investigate the complaint and could temporarily suspend the media representative's privileges pending the investigation. After a hearing, if the committee determined that the allegations in the complaint were valid, the media representative's privileges would be revoked..

## **CANVASSING OF VOTES FOR GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

The Legislature canvasses – officially counts – the returns for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor. Art. 4, secs. 3 and 4 of the Texas Constitution and Election Code, secs. 67.008 and 67.011 outline the procedures for the canvass and the installation of the governor and the lieutenant governor.

The county clerks of the 254 counties send the results of the county canvasses for governor and lieutenant governor to the speaker of the House in care of the secretary of state, who delivers them to the newly elected speaker on the first day of the regular legislative session. During the first week of the session, the speaker is required to open and publish the returns in the presence of both houses of the Legislature.

SCR 3 by Whitmire (Kuempel), adopted by both houses earlier this week, designated today for a joint session to canvass the election returns. A joint committee of six House members appointed by the speaker and six senators appointed by the lieutenant governor were to arrange the canvass. SCR 3 sets January 20, 2015, as the inauguration date for the individuals declared to have been elected governor and lieutenant governor following the canvass. A joint committee of five House members appointed by the speaker and five senators appointed by the lieutenant governor are to make arrangements for the inaugural ceremonies to be held in a joint session of the Legislature.