

## AMA-RFS 2020 Interim Meeting

### LATE AND EMERGENCY RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

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Late resolutions should be avoided whenever possible. The introduction of timely resolutions allows Assembly members time to research background information and AMA policy and prepare testimony either for or against a resolution. In addition, it gives Reference Committee members an opportunity to study background information in order to make an informed recommendation on the disposition of a resolution to the Assembly.

The submission of late resolutions was eliminated in 1989, due to the high referral/not adopt rate of resolutions that were introduced at the AMA-RFS Assembly Meetings. At the last two meetings prior to the elimination of late resolutions, seven of the eight late resolutions were not adopted or were referred to the Governing Council mainly due to a lack of basic factual information for both the Assembly and the Reference Committee members. The procedure for emergency resolutions was not eliminated.

However, the Assembly and Governing Council felt a need to have a mechanism to admit resolutions that have a legitimate reason for being late, while attempting to maintain an atmosphere of informed discussion of such resolutions. The following mechanisms must be used to introduce late and emergency resolutions.

For purposes of these rules, the following definitions will apply:

**LATE RESOLUTIONS** - Resolutions that are submitted after the 42-day deadline but at least 7 days prior to the Assembly meeting being called to order shall require a two-thirds vote of the Assembly to be debatable on the floor. The Rules Committee shall make recommendations to the Assembly on whether or not they should be considered as business. Late resolutions approved for consideration shall be referred to a reference committee, and handled in the same manner as those resolutions introduced before the 42-day deadline.

**EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS** - Resolutions that are submitted within 7 days of the meeting or after the meeting has been called to order shall require a three-fourths vote of the Assembly to be debatable on the floor. The Rules Committee shall make recommendations to the Assembly on whether or not they should be considered for business. Emergency resolutions approved for consideration shall be debated on the floor of the Assembly without referral to a reference committee.

### PROCEDURES

#### Late Resolutions

Late resolutions must be accompanied by a written statement addressing the following points:

- the timeliness/urgency of the resolution
- the importance of the resolution to the resident community
- why the resolution is being presented late

Copies of the resolutions will be available for members of the Assembly. In accordance with Parliamentary Procedure, limited debate will be allowed on acceptance of the resolutions only. Debate will not be allowed on the content of any of the resolutions. The author of each resolution will be given the opportunity to address the Assembly for one minute on the reasons to accept the resolution. Following this limited debate,

the Assembly should judge the merits of accepting the resolution on the three criteria listed above. The Assembly will then vote on whether to accept each resolution. A majority vote is required for acceptance.

**Emergency Resolutions**

The Rules Committee shall make recommendations to the Assembly on whether or not they should be considered for business. Emergency resolutions approved for consideration shall be debated on the floor of the Assembly without referral to a reference committee.

To accept an emergency resolution, the Assembly must suspend the AMA-RFS Rules of Order, which requires a two-thirds vote. To accept an emergency resolution it must be a true "emergency;" i.e) an issue which was not previously known to the Assembly and which must be dealt with immediately in order to have an impact. The mechanism for accepting these types of resolutions must be extremely difficult to prevent abuse of this system, and to ensure that only issues that are important and timely are heard by the Assembly.