

SUBJECT TO RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REVIEW

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 618
(N-21)

Introduced by: Resident and Fellow Section

Subject: Dissolution of the Resolution Committee

Referred to: Reference Committee F

Whereas, One of the central tenets of parliamentary procedure, including the parliamentary authority of the AMA, The American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure (B-11.1, G-600.054), is to protect the rights of minority viewpoints¹; and

Whereas, Robust, “actualized” democracies, defined as “the ideal in which all citizens share full, informed, equal participation in decision making,” have been touted as superior forms of government with the best potential for freedom of expression and action, protection of human rights, and transparent and responsive governance²⁻⁶; and

Whereas, A 2019 study published in *The Lancet* found that “when enforced by free and fair elections, democracies are more likely than autocracies to lead to health gains for causes of mortality (i.e., cardiovascular diseases and transport injuries) that have not been heavily targeted by foreign aid and require health-care delivery”⁷; and

Whereas, The United Nations recognizes the value of democracy and “promotes democratic governance as a set of values and principles that should be followed for greater participation, equality, security and human development”⁸; and

Whereas, At the Annual 2002 House of Delegates, Board of Trustees Report 23 was adopted, which included a recommendation establishing a Resolution Committee “to ensure that the emphasis of the Interim Meeting is placed on advocacy and legislation”⁹; and

Whereas, At the Annual 2003 House of Delegates, Council on Constitution and Bylaws Report 2 was adopted, which codified the establishment of the Interim Meeting focus as currently reflected in B-2.13.3; and

Whereas, The number of resolutions not considered based on Resolutions Committee recommendations for the past eight Interim Meetings has never exceeded 10 (2 at the Interim 2019 House of Delegates, 8 at the Interim 2018 House of Delegates, 4 at the Interim 2017 House of Delegates, 3 at the Interim 2016 House of Delegates, 9 at the Interim 2015 House of Delegates, 8 at the Interim 2014 House of Delegates, 10 at the Interim 2013 House of Delegates, and 9 at the Interim 2012 House of Delegates)¹¹, indicating that it has not been substantively constraining the business of the House of Delegates; and

Whereas, In reflecting upon the formation of the Resolution Committee, the Report of the Executive Vice President at the Interim 2002 House of Delegates noted that “while I appreciate the need to streamline, I strongly believe that everything the AMA does is advocacy,” and elaborated that “this includes activities you might not initially view as advocacy, like the public stances we take on issues of public health and science”¹²; and

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Whereas, AMA policy G-600.060, "Introducing Business to the AMA House", reaffirms the AMA's commitment to democracy and directs the AMA to "continue to safeguard the democratic process in our AMA House of Delegates and ensure that individual delegates are not barred from submitting a resolution directly to the House of Delegates"; and

Whereas, AMA policy G-640.020, "Political Action Committees and Contributions", "opposes legislative initiatives that improperly limit individual and collective participation in the democratic process"; and

Whereas, The AMA Bylaws dictate that "Reports, recommendations, resolutions, or other new business presented prior to the recess of the opening session of the House of Delegates shall be referred to an appropriate reference committee for hearings and report, subject to acceptance as business of the House of Delegates" (B-2.11.4), to allow for full consideration of each item; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association remove the Interim Meeting focus requirement by amending the AMA Bylaws B-2.12.1.1 "Business of Interim Meeting," as follows by deletion:

~~2.12.1.1 Business of Interim Meeting.~~

~~The business of an Interim Meeting shall be focused on advocacy and legislation. Resolutions pertaining to ethics, and opinions and reports of the Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs, may also be considered at an Interim Meeting. Other business requiring action prior to the following Annual Meeting may also be considered at an Interim Meeting. In addition, any other business may be considered at an Interim Meeting by majority vote of delegates present and voting; and be it further~~

RESOLVED, That our AMA dissolve the Resolution Committee by amending the AMA Bylaws B-2.13.3, "Resolution Committee," as follows by deletion:

~~Resolution Committee. B-2.13.3~~

~~The Resolution Committee is responsible for reviewing resolutions submitted for consideration at an Interim Meeting and determining compliance of the resolutions with the purpose of the Interim Meeting.~~

~~2.13.3.1 Appointment. The Speaker shall appoint the members of the committee. Membership on this committee is restricted to delegates.~~

~~2.13.3.2 Size. The committee shall consist of a maximum of 31 members.~~

~~2.13.3.3 Term. The committee shall serve only during the meeting at which it is appointed, unless otherwise directed by the House of Delegates.~~

~~2.13.3.4 Quorum. A majority of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.~~

~~2.13.3.5 Meetings. The committee shall not be required to hold meetings. Action may be taken by written or electronic communications.~~

~~2.13.3.6 Procedure. A resolution shall be accepted for consideration at an Interim Meeting upon majority vote of committee members voting. The Speaker shall only vote in the case of a tie. If a resolution is not accepted, it may be submitted for consideration at the next Annual Meeting in accordance with the procedure in Bylaw 2.11.3.1.~~

~~2.13.3.7 Report. The committee shall report to the Speaker. A report of the committee shall be presented to the House of Delegates at the call of the Speaker.~~

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Fiscal Note: Minimal - less than \$1,000

Received: 11/06/21

AUTHORS STATEMENT OF PRIORITY

Currently accepted business for the House of Delegates includes a resolution about making the Resolution Committee permanent. Our resolution regarding the opposing stance on the exact same priority subject will not necessarily be part of that conversation or vote, and should receive a separate hearing during this meeting. By limiting the business heard at each meeting to an unprecedented extent, the democratic process of the HOD has been undermined and numerous relevant and time-sensitive resolutions have not been heard while many reaffirmations have occurred. This directly harms efforts to improve priority issues of trainees and physicians in general, shown by the acceptance of zero RFS resolutions by the Resolution Committee for this meeting. If a single resolution from the RFS is accepted for business during this meeting, we request that it be this one.

1. American Institute of Parliamentarians. *American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure*. New York, New York: McGraw-Hill; 2012.
2. Moghaddam FM. *The Psychology of Democracy*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association; 2016.
3. Mandel DR. Threats to Democracy: A Judgment and Decision-Making Perspective. *Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy*. 2005;5(1):209-222. doi:10.1111/j.1530-2415.2005.00067.x
4. Dalton RJ, Jou W, Shin DC. Understanding Democracy: Data from Unlikely Places. *Journal of Democracy*. 2007;18(4):142-156. <https://www.journalofdemocracy.org/articles/understanding-democracy-data-from-unlikely-places/>. Accessed March 18, 2021.
5. Galston WA. The Enduring Vulnerability of Liberal Democracy. *Journal of Democracy*. 2020;31(3):8-24. doi:10.1353/jod.2020.0042
6. Inglehart R, Foa R, Peterson C, Welzel C. Development, Freedom, and Rising Happiness: A Global Perspective (1981–2007). *Perspectives on Psychological Science*. 2008;3(4):264-285. doi:10.1111/j.1745-6924.2008.00078.x
7. Bollyky TJ, Templin T, Cohen M, Schoder D, Dieleman JL, Wigley S. The relationships between democratic experience, adult health, and cause-specific mortality in 170 countries between 1980 and 2016: an observational analysis. *The Lancet*. 2019;393(10181):1628-1640. doi:10.1016/s0140-6736(19)30235-1
8. Democracy. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/democracy>. Accessed March 18, 2021.
9. Board of Trustees Report 23, American Medical Association Annual 2002 House of Delegates. <https://ama.nmtvault.com/jsp/browse.jsp>. Accessed March 18, 2021.
10. Council on Constitution and Bylaws Report 2, American Medical Association Annual 2003 House of Delegates. <https://ama.nmtvault.com/jsp/browse.jsp>. Accessed March 18, 2021.
11. American Medical Association Archives. <https://ama.nmtvault.com/jsp/browse.jsp>. Accessed March 18, 2021.
12. Report of the Executive Vice President, American Medical Association Interim 2002 House of Delegates. <https://ama.nmtvault.com/jsp/browse.jsp>. Accessed March 18, 2021.

Resolution Committee. B-2.13.3

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Parliamentary Procedure. B-11.1

In the absence of any provisions to the contrary in the Constitution and these Bylaws, all general meetings of the AMA and all meetings of the House of Delegates, of the Board of Trustees, of Sections and of councils and committees shall be governed by the parliamentary rules and usages contained in the then current edition of The American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure.

Procedures of the House of Delegates G-600.054

1. Our AMA reaffirms The American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure as our parliamentary authority, including the use of the motion to table and the motion to adopt in-lieu-of, and treat amendments by substitution as first-order amendments.
2. The rules and procedures of the House of Delegates will be amended as follows:
 - A. The motion to table a report or resolution that has not yet been referred to a reference committee is not permitted and will be ruled out of order.
 - B. A new motion is added to the House of Delegates Reference Manual, Object to Consideration. If a Delegate objects to consideration of an item of business by our HOD, the correct motion is to Object to Consideration. The motion cannot interrupt a speaker, requires a second, cannot be amended, takes precedence over all subsidiary motions and cannot be renewed. The motion requires a 3/4 vote for passage. Debate is restricted to why the item should not be considered.
3. The procedures of our House of Delegates distinguish between a motion to refer, which is equivalent to a motion to refer for report, and a motion to refer for decision and that the motion to refer for decision be one step higher in precedence.
4. The procedures of our House of Delegates specify that both sides must have been heard before a motion to close debate is in order and that absent an express reference to "all pending matters" the motion applies only to the matter under debate.
5. The procedures of our House of Delegates clarify that adjournment of any House of Delegates meeting finalizes all matters considered at that meeting, meaning that items from one meeting are not subject to a motion to recall from committee, a motion to reconsider or any other motion at a succeeding meeting.
6. The Council on Constitution and Bylaws, in consultation with the speakers, will review the House of Delegates Reference Manual and revise it accordingly. [Report of the Speakers: Rep. 02, A-16; Modified: CCB Rep. 01, A-17]

Introducing Business to the AMA House G-600.060

AMA policy on introducing business to our AMA House includes the following:

1. Delegates submitting resolutions have a responsibility to review the Resolution checklist and verify that the resolution is in compliance. The Resolution checklist shall be distributed to all delegates and organizations in the HOD prior to each meeting, as well as be posted on the HOD website.
2. An Information Statement can be used to bring an issue to the awareness of the HOD or the public, draw attention to existing policy for purposes of emphasis, or simply make a statement. Such items will be included in the section of the HOD Handbook for informational items and include appropriate attribution but will not go through the reference committee process, be voted on in the HOD or be incorporated into the Proceedings. If an information statement is extracted, however, it will be managed by the Speaker in an appropriate manner, which may include a simple editorial correction up to and including withdrawal of the information statement.

3. Required information on the budget will be provided to the HOD at a time and format more relevant to the AMA budget process.
4. At the time the resolution is submitted, delegates introducing an item of business for consideration of the House of Delegates must declare any commercial or financial conflict of interest they have as individuals and any such conflict of interest must be noted on the resolution at the time of its distribution.
5. The submission of resolutions calling for similar action to what is already existing AMA policy is discouraged. Organizations represented in the House of Delegates are responsible to search for alternative ways to obtain AMA action on established AMA policy, especially by communicating with the Executive Vice President. The EVP will submit a report to the House detailing the items of business received from organizations represented in the House which he or she considers significant or when requested to do so by the organization, and the actions taken in response to such contacts.
6. Our AMA will continue to safeguard the democratic process in our AMA House of Delegates and ensure that individual delegates are not barred from submitting a resolution directly to the House of Delegates.
7. Our AMA encourages organizations and Sections of the House of Delegates to exercise restraint in submitting items on the day preceding the opening of the House.
8. Resolutions will be placed on the Reaffirmation Consent Calendar when they are identical or substantially identical to existing AMA policy. For resolutions placed on the Reaffirmation Consent Calendar, the pertinent existing policy will be clearly identified by reference to the Policy Database identification number. When practical, the Reaffirmation Consent Calendar should also include a listing of the actions that have been taken on the current AMA policies that are equivalent to the resolutions listed. For resolutions on the Reaffirmation Consent Calendar which are not extracted, the existing, pertinent AMA policy will be deemed to be reaffirmed in lieu of the submitted resolution which resets the sunset clock for ten years.
9. Updates on referred resolutions are included in the chart entitled "Implementation of Resolutions," which is made available to the House. [Sub. Res. 120, A-84; BOT Rep. D and CLRPD Rep. C, I-91; CLRPD Rep. 3 – I-94; CLRPD Rep. 5, I-95; Res. 614, and Special Advisory Committee to the Speaker of the House of Delegates, I-99; Res. 604, I-00; Consolidated: CLRPD Rep. 3, I-01; Modified: CLRPD Rep. 2, A-03; Reaffirmed: BOT Rep. 19, A-04; CC&B Rep. 3, I-08; Modified: CCB/CLRPD Rep. 1, A-12]

Meetings of the House of Delegates. B-2.12

- 2.12.1 Regular Meetings of the House of Delegates. The House of Delegates shall meet twice annually, at an Annual Meeting and an Interim Meeting.
 - 2.12.1.1 Business of Interim Meeting. The business of an Interim Meeting shall be focused on advocacy and legislation. Resolutions pertaining to ethics, and opinions and reports of the Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs, may also be considered at an Interim Meeting. Other business requiring action prior to the following Annual Meeting may also be considered at an Interim Meeting. In addition, any other business may be considered at an Interim Meeting by majority vote of delegates present and voting.
 - 2.12.2 Special Meetings of the House of Delegates. Special Meetings of the House of Delegates shall be called by the Speaker on written or electronic request by one-third of the members of the House of Delegates, or on request of a majority of the Board of Trustees. When a special meeting is called, the Executive Vice President of the AMA shall mail a notice to the last known address of each member of the House of Delegates at least 20 days before the special meeting is to be held. The notice shall specify the time and place of meeting and the purpose for which it is called, and the House of Delegates shall consider no business except that for which the meeting is called.
 - 2.12.3 Locations. The House of Delegates shall meet in cities selected by the Board of Trustees.

2.12.3.1 Invitation from Constituent Association. A constituent association desiring a meeting within its borders shall submit an invitation in writing, together with significant data, to the Board of Trustees. The dates and the city selected may be changed by action of the Board of Trustees at any time, but not later than 60 days prior to the dates selected for that meeting.

2.12.4 Meetings.

2.12.4.1 Open. The House of Delegates may meet in an open meeting to which any person may be admitted. By majority vote of delegates present and voting, an open meeting may be moved into either a closed or an executive meeting.

2.12.4.2 Closed. A closed meeting shall be restricted to members of the AMA, and to employees of the AMA and of organizations represented in the House of Delegates.

2.12.4.3 Executive. An executive meeting shall be limited to the members of the House of Delegates and to such employees of the AMA necessary for its functioning.

Political Action Committees and Contributions G-640.020

Our AMA: (1) Believes that better-informed and more active citizens will result in better legislators, better government, and better health care;

(2) Encourages AMA members to participate personally in the campaign of their choice and strongly supports physician/family leadership in the campaign process;

(3) Opposes legislative initiatives that improperly limit individual and collective participation in the democratic process;

(4) Supports AMPAC's policy to adhere to a no Rigid Litmus Test policy in its assessment and support of political candidates;

(5) Encourages AMPAC to continue to consider the legislative agenda of our AMA and the recommendations of state medical PACs in its decisions;

(6) Urges members of the House to reaffirm their commitment to the growth of AMPAC and the state medical PACs;

(7) Will continue to work through its constituent societies to achieve a 100 percent rate of contribution to AMPAC by members; and

(8) Calls upon all candidates for public office to refuse contributions from tobacco companies and their subsidiaries. [BOT Rep. II and Res. 119, I-83; Res. 175, A-88; Reaffirmed: Sunset Report, I-98; Sub. Res. 610, A-99; Res. 610, I-00; Consolidated: CLRPD Rep. 3, I-01; Modified: CC&B Rep. 2, A-11]

Guiding Principles for House Elections G-610.021

The following principles provide guidance on how House elections should be conducted and how the selection of AMA leaders should occur:

(1) AMA delegates should: (a) avail themselves of all available background information about candidates for elected positions in the AMA; (b) determine which candidates are best qualified to help the AMA achieve its mission; and (c) make independent decisions about which candidates to vote for.

(2) Any electioneering practices that distort the democratic processes of House elections, such as vote trading for the purpose of supporting candidates, are unacceptable.

(3) Candidates for elected positions should comply with the requirements and the spirit of House of Delegates policy on campaigning and campaign spending.

(4) Candidates and their sponsoring organizations should exercise restraint in campaign spending. Federation organizations should establish clear and detailed guidelines on the appropriate level of resources that should be allocated to the political campaigns of their members for AMA leadership positions.

(5) Incumbency should not assure the re-election of an individual to an AMA leadership position.

(6) Service in any AMA leadership position should not assure ascendancy to another leadership position.

[CLRPD Rep. 4, I-01; Reaffirmed: CC&B Rep. 2, A-11]