

Senate Resolution 122

By: Senator Crotts of the 17th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Amending the Rules of the Senate; and for other purposes.

2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the Rules of the Senate are amended by striking  
3 paragraphs (a) and (c) of Senate Rule 185, which read as follows:

4 "(a) The Committee on Assignments shall appoint the following standing committees,  
5 which shall not exceed the following number of Senators each:

6 AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS - 7

7 APPROPRIATIONS - 29

8 BANKING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS - 9

9 CHILDREN AND YOUTH - 5

10 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM - 9

11 EDUCATION - 9

12 ETHICS - 12

13 FINANCE - 9

14 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - 10

15 HIGHER EDUCATION - 7

16 INSURANCE AND LABOR - 11

17 INTERSTATE COOPERATION - 5

18 JUDICIARY - 11

19 NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT - 13

20 PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY - 7

21 REAPPORTIONMENT AND REDISTRICTING - 23

22 REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES - 11

23 RETIREMENT - 7

24 RULES - 14

25 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - 8

26 SPECIAL JUDICIARY - 10

27 STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS - 7

28 STATE INSTITUTIONS AND PROPERTY - 13

TRANSPORTATION - 10

VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS - 8"

"(c) Each Senator shall be appointed to serve on four committees provided for in this Rule and no more; except that: (1) the President Pro Tempore and the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations shall serve ex officio as voting members of the Committee on Economic Development and Tourism and such membership shall not count as one of the four committees; and (2) membership on the Committee on Reapportionment and Redistricting, membership on the Committee on Ethics, membership on the Committee on Assignments, and membership on the Committee on Interstate Cooperation (which is created by law) shall not count as one of the four committees."

And inserting in lieu thereof, respectively, the following:

"(a) The Committee on Assignments shall appoint the following standing committees, which shall not exceed the following number of Senators each:

AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS - 7

APPROPRIATIONS - 29

BANKING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS - 9

CHILDREN AND YOUTH - 5

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM - 9

EDUCATION - 9

ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT REFORM - 12

FINANCE - 9

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - 10

HIGHER EDUCATION - 7

INSURANCE AND LABOR - 11

INTERSTATE COOPERATION - 5

JUDICIARY - 11

NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT - 13

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY - 7

REAPPORTIONMENT AND REDISTRICTING - 23

REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES - 11

RETIREMENT - 7

RULES - 14

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - 8

SPECIAL JUDICIARY - 10

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS - 7

STATE INSTITUTIONS AND PROPERTY - 13

TRANSPORTATION - 10

VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS - 8"

"(c) Each Senator shall be appointed to serve on four committees provided for in this Rule and no more; except that: (1) the President Pro Tempore and the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations shall serve ex officio as voting members of the Committee on Economic Development and Tourism and such membership shall not count as one of the four committees; and (2) membership on the Committee on Reapportionment and Redistricting, membership on the Committee on Ethics and Government Reform, membership on the Committee on Assignments, and membership on the Committee on Interstate Cooperation (which is created by law) shall not count as one of the four committees."

By striking subsections (a) and (b) of Rule 185A, which read as follows:

"(a) OPINIONS AND ADVICE. A Senator or staff member may request in writing the opinion or advice of the Committee on Ethics with regard to interpretation of this Rule. The Committee on Ethics shall expeditiously respond in writing to such request.

(b) INVESTIGATION. (1) Initiation: A complaint shall be initiated by the filing of a statement alleging a violation of this Rule with the Secretary of the Senate. A complaint may be brought only by any Senator or staff. The complaint shall specifically describe the nature of the alleged violation and the party or parties involved and shall be signed by the complainant and verified under oath. The Secretary of the Senate shall promptly refer the complaint to the Chairman of the Committee on Ethics, who shall schedule a meeting of the Committee to investigate the complaint utilizing in-house staff and such outside counsel and investigators as the Committee deems necessary. The Committee shall promptly serve the named respondent with a copy of the complaint. Service of such complaint shall be by personal service or by certified mail, return receipt requested. The Committee may also initiate an investigation on its own initiative by majority vote. Within a reasonable time following the Committee's initiation of such investigation, however, a majority of the Committee shall sign a complaint that specifically describes the nature of the alleged violation and the party or parties involved. The Committee shall promptly serve the named respondent with a copy of the complaint and service of such complaint shall be by personal service or by certified mail, return receipt requested. Any complaint brought by or before the Committee shall remain confidential until the Committee has determined that substantial cause exists that a violation occurred."

1 And inserting in lieu thereof, respectively, the following:

2 "(a) OPINIONS AND ADVICE. A Senator or staff member may request in writing the  
3 opinion or advice of the Committee on Ethics and Government Reform with regard to  
4 interpretation of this Rule. The Committee on Ethics and Government Reform shall  
5 expeditiously respond in writing to such request.

6 (b) INVESTIGATION. (1) Initiation: A complaint shall be initiated by the filing of a  
7 statement alleging a violation of this Rule with the Secretary of the Senate. A complaint  
8 may be brought only by any Senator or staff. The complaint shall specifically describe the  
9 nature of the alleged violation and the party or parties involved and shall be signed by the  
10 complainant and verified under oath. The Secretary of the Senate shall promptly refer the  
11 complaint to the Chairman of the Committee on Ethics and Government Reform, who shall  
12 schedule a meeting of the Committee to investigate the complaint utilizing in-house staff  
13 and such outside counsel and investigators as the Committee deems necessary. The  
14 Committee shall promptly serve the named respondent with a copy of the complaint.  
15 Service of such complaint shall be by personal service or by certified mail, return receipt  
16 requested. The Committee may also initiate an investigation on its own initiative by  
17 majority vote. Within a reasonable time following the Committee's initiation of such  
18 investigation, however, a majority of the Committee shall sign a complaint that specifically  
19 describes the nature of the alleged violation and the party or parties involved. The  
20 Committee shall promptly serve the named respondent with a copy of the complaint and  
21 service of such complaint shall be by personal service or by certified mail, return receipt  
22 requested. Any complaint brought by or before the Committee shall remain confidential  
23 until the Committee has determined that substantial cause exists that a violation occurred."