

# SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

## Montgomery County House Delegation Rules

Preamble: It is the role of the Delegation to

- Advocate for the interests of Montgomery County priorities;
- Debate and decide local delegation bills; and
- Provide opportunities and support for individual members to develop capacity to be effective legislators in the General Assembly.

### I. Rules and Amendments to the Rules

- A. These rules can be permanently changed with a vote of 2/3 of the total Delegation, which includes all elected or appointed members.
- B. The Chair of the Delegation may request a temporary suspension of these rules for a limited term and purpose to be determined by 2/3 of those present, provided there is a quorum.
- C. For purposes of these rules, “Delegation” means each elected or appointed Delegate whose district or portion thereof is in Montgomery County.
- D. Proxy voting shall be prohibited.

### II. Meetings:

- A. Meetings can be called at any time by the chair. A meeting can be petitioned if 2/3 of the total Delegation submits a request to the chair in writing.
- B. A majority of the Delegation shall constitute a quorum for all purposes.
- C. A majority vote of the full Delegation determine the outcome of the vote except as otherwise provided.

### III. Officers

- A. Chair and Vice Chair
  - A.1. Eligibility: Any member elected or appointed to the office of the Speaker, Speaker Pro Tem, Majority Leader, Minority Leader, or Chair or Vice Chair of a House Standing Committee may not serve as the Chair or Vice Chair. All other members of the Delegation may run for Delegation Chair or Vice Chair.

- A.2. Terms: The term of the Chair and Vice Chair is one year. Elections will be held after the date of the general election of each gubernatorial year and in May of each non-election year. In gubernatorial election years, the Delegates-elect will be included in the vote in lieu of outgoing Delegates.
- A.3. Term Limits: In order to maximize the opportunities for leadership, the Chair and Vice Chair may serve for a maximum of four consecutive one-year terms. These individuals may run for the position again after a 2-year hiatus from the position of Chair or Vice Chair.
- A.4. Elections: Chair and Vice Chair elections will be held by open roll call voice vote. The individuals receiving a majority of the votes of the Delegation shall be elected. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes of the Delegation, the candidate with the lowest number of votes shall be removed and another round of voting shall commence. Run-offs shall continue until a candidate receives a majority. If there is a tie in two subsequent rounds of voting, the outgoing Chair will remain as chair for seven days and another meeting shall be convened to re-vote.
- A.5. Vacancy: If a vacancy occurs in the office of Chair, the Vice Chair shall act as Chair until the vacancy is filled. During the legislative session, a special election shall be held within seven (7) days. Outside of a legislative session, a special election shall be held within 30 days. In the event of a dual Chair and Vice Chair vacancy, the longest serving Delegation member shall act as chair until a special election is held and the position is filled.

#### IV. Delegation Committees

##### A. Delegation Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs.

- A.1. Eligibility: Any member of the Delegation who is not Speaker, Speaker Pro Tem, Majority Leader, Minority Leader, or Chair or Vice Chair of a House Standing Committee may serve as a Chair or Vice Chair.
- A.2. Terms: Delegation Committee chairs shall serve for one year, commencing at the time of appointment.
- A.3. Appointments and Vacancies: The Chair of the Delegation shall appoint Delegation Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs. The Chair of the Delegation shall fill any vacancies.

- B. Delegation Committee Membership
  - B.1. Any change to the Delegation Committee structure at the time of adoption requires a majority vote of the Delegation.
  - B.2. The Chair of the Delegation shall appoint all Delegation Committee members.
  - B.4. Each member of the Delegation shall serve on one Delegation Committee.
- C. The responsibilities of each Delegation Committee are as follows:
  - C.1. To debate, decide and present bills to the full Delegation;
  - C.2. To engage with agencies, elected bodies and advocates on all issues within their purview, not only on bills; and
  - C.3. To provide to the Chair and the Delegation, a list of recommended priorities prior to each legislative session.

V. Generally

The Delegation Chair shall be guided by the Maryland House Rules and the rules of parliamentary practice set forth in Mason’s “Manual of Legislative Procedures” to the extent those rules are applicable and do not conflict with these rules.