

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)1915/99-00

Ref: CB1/R/3

**Paper for the House Committee meeting
on 23 June 2000**

Committee on Rules of Procedure

**Proposed amendments to House Rules
— Rule 7(a) and New Rule 19A**

Purpose

This paper invites members to approve the amendments to be made to the House Rules, following the passage of the resolution on the amendments to the Rules of Procedure at the Council meeting on 22 June 2000.

Proposed amendments

2. The resolution passed at the Council meeting on 22 June 2000 amended the Rules of Procedure to, inter alia, allow Members to give notice of the same amendment so that in the event that the first Member does not move the amendment, other Members who have given notices of the same amendment may do so. The Committee on Rules of Procedure proposes that the steps which will be taken to call upon those Members who have given such notices to move the amendment be set out in the House Rules. A new House Rule 19A (**Appendix I**) is therefore proposed.

3. The resolution also made a number of textual amendments, including amendment to Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure to replace "a motion with no legislative effect" by "a motion not intended to have legislative effect" for the purpose of better clarity. Since the same reference has been made in the House Rules, amendment to House Rule 7(a) (**Appendix II**) is proposed.

Advice sought

4. Members are invited to endorse the proposed amendments in Appendices I and II. Members may wish to note that background information on the above-mentioned amendments to the Rules of Procedure is provided in LC Paper Nos. CB(1)1437/99-00 and CB(1)1772/99-00 submitted to the House Committee for its meetings on 28 April and 9 June 2000 respectively.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
22 June 2000

Proposed new House Rule 19A

19A. Amendments to Motions

- (a) Members may give notices of the same amendment to a motion or a bill, subject to the notice requirements given in Rules 29(6) and 57(2) of the Rules of Procedure, as appropriate.
- (b) Where more than one Member give notices of the same amendment, the amendment will be issued under the list of Members who have given notices of the amendment in the order in which the notices were received by the Clerk.
- (c) The first Member on the list shall be called upon to move the amendment. If he has withdrawn the notice or decides not to move the amendment, the Member next on the list shall be so called upon and so on until the list is exhausted.

Proposed amendment to House Rule 7

7. Number and Allocation of Questions

- (a) Where there is no debate on a motion ~~with no~~ not intended to have legislative effect at a meeting, no more than 10 oral questions shall be asked. Where, in the opinion of the President, there will be such a debate at a meeting, no more than six oral questions shall be asked and the time limit shall, depending on the Agenda for the meeting, normally be one to one and a half hours. Where 10 oral questions are to be asked at a meeting, the duration of question time shall be not more than two and a half hours.
- (b) Under Rule 24(3) of the Rules of Procedure, each Member is normally limited to asking only one oral and one written or alternatively two written questions at any one meeting. However, if 20 or more Members wish to raise questions at a meeting, each Member is allowed to raise only one question.
- (c) The allocation of questions to be asked at a meeting is normally based on the order of registration of the questions by the Secretariat. Where there are more questions to be raised by Members than can be scheduled for the same meeting and subject to (b) above, priority will be given to Members who have been allocated the least slots respectively for oral or written questions within the session.
- (d) Members may be accorded priority to ask questions with the agreement of the House Committee. Topical interest, public concern and urgency of questions, if any, will be taken into account by the House Committee when making decisions in this regard.
- (e) At the Council meetings for debate on the Appropriation Bill and for the policy debate, there will be no arrangement for Members to put oral questions to the Government.