

## Committee on Rules of Procedure

### List of issues studied during the period from October 2012 to July 2013

Item	Issue	Relevant rule(s)	Progress/remarks
1	<b>Provision of slots for asking questions at Council meetings</b>	Rule 23(2) of the Rules of Procedure  Rule 7(b) of the House Rules	The Committee's proposal to increase the number of written questions (a) from 14 to 16 for each Council meeting at which both oral questions and written questions may be asked and (b) from 20 to 22 for each Council meeting at which only written questions may be asked and the relevant proposed amendment to rule 7(b) of the House Rules were endorsed by the House Committee at its meeting on 8 February 2013. The relevant proposed amendment to Rule 23(2) of the Rules of Procedure was passed at the Council meeting of 20 March 2013. The increase in the number of written questions has taken effect since the Council of 17 April 2013.
2	<b>Provision of slots for moving motions not intended to have legislative effect</b>	Rules 13, 14, 14A, 15 of the House Rules	The Committee's proposed revised amendments to rules 13, 14, 14A and 15 of the House Rules were endorsed by the House Committee at its meeting on 23 November 2012, and the new arrangements for the allocation of motion debate slots has taken effect since then.
3	<b>Provision of the subject and wording of a proposed motion at the time of application for a debate slot</b>	Rule 14(b) of the House Rules	The Committee has concluded that there is no need to change the existing arrangement regarding the provision of the subject and the wording of a proposed motion at the time of application for a debate slot.

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4	<b>Rules of Procedure and practices on the handling of proposed amendments to bills and discussions in committee of the whole Council</b>	Rules 38, 57 and 92 of the Rules of Procedure  Article 72(1) of the Basic Law	The Committee agrees that Members of various political parties and groupings would discuss among themselves with a view to arriving at a substantive proposal acceptable to the majority of both groups of Members returned from the geographical and functional constituencies. The Committee would further deliberate the subject as and when members desire.
5	<b>Motions on subsidiary legislation not dealt with before expiry of the vetting period due to unfinished preceding business</b>	Rules 18 and 19 of the Rules of Procedure  Article 72(2) of the Basic Law	The Committee agrees to seek the Administration's views on the option of making amendment(s) to Section 34 of Cap. 1 to provide that whilst LegCo's power to amend subsidiary legislation subject to the negative vetting procedure may continue to be subject to a fixed timetable, there should be provided a mechanism to enable extension of the fixed timetable by operation of law under certain circumstances.
6	<b>Persons who may draw the attention of the attention of the President / Chairman to the absence of a quorum</b>	Rules 17(2) and 17(3) of the Rules of Procedure  Rule 24(h) of the House Rules	The Committee's proposal to amend rule 24(h) of HR to clarify that during a committee meeting, only members of the committee may draw the attention of the chairman to the absence of a quorum, thereby triggering the quorum procedure under the provision, was endorsed by the House Committee on 12 July 2013.
7	<b>Proposal for the Committee to study the amendments proposed by a Member to paragraph 37A of the Finance Committee Procedure, paragraph</b>	Rules 74(1) and 71(13) of the Rules of Procedure	The Committee considers that it is up to the Committee to decide whether it should study matters relating to the Finance Committee Procedure. In any event, the Committee's role is advisory and it is the Finance Committee which would make decisions on its

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	<b>31A of the Establishment Subcommittee Procedure and paragraph 32A of the Public Works Subcommittee Procedure</b>		procedure. As the proposed amendments to the Finance Committee Procedure and the procedures of its subcommittees are being dealt with by the Finance Committee, the Committee considers it preferable to leave it to the Finance Committee to continue to deal with them.
8	<b>Role of the Member in charge of a bill in the relevant Bills Committee</b>	Rule 76(1A) of the Rules of Procedure  Rules 21(c) and 21(d) of the House Rules	The Committee considers that the existing arrangement whereby the Member in charge of a bill is allowed to join the relevant Bills Committee to serve as a member should continue.  The Committee also considers that the established practice that the Member in charge of a bill will not serve as the Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the relevant Bills Committee should continue, and there is no need to formalize the practice into a written rule.
9	<b>Refining Rule 23(1) of the Rules of Procedure to accurately reflect the practice</b>	Rule 23(1) of the Rules of Procedure	The Committee's proposal to amend Rule 23(1) of the Rules of Procedure was supported by the House Committee at its meeting on 8 February 2013 and was approved by the Council on 20 March 2013.