

Committee on Rules of Procedure

List of issues studied during the period from October 2013 to June 2014

| Item | Issue | Relevant rule(s) | Progress/remarks |
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| 1 | Members' motions on subsidiary legislation not being able to be dealt with before the expiry of the vetting period | Rule 18(1) of the Rules of Procedure | Having regard to the Administration's response on this matter, the Committee considers that there is no need to further study the subject matter at this stage. |
| 2 | Moving of amendments to amendments to motions not intended to have legislative effect | Rule 17 of the House Rules | The Committee's proposal to amend rule 17 of the House Rules was endorsed by the House Committee at its meeting on 24 January 2014. The new arrangement of not allowing the moving of amendments to amendments to motions not intended to have legislative effect took effect from the Council meeting of 19 February 2014. |
| 3 | Display of objects by Members during Council meetings | - | Members of the Committee have divergent views on the matter. Their views have been conveyed to the President for his consideration. |
| 4 | Procedural options to deal with filibusters | Rule 57(4)(d) of the Rules of Procedure | The Committee has conducted a consultation exercise to gauge the views of all Members on three procedural proposals to deal with filibusters, including a proposed procedure for allocation of time to debates at the Committee Stage of bills and two proposals for handling voluminous amendments to bills. The Committee will consider the outcome of the consultation at its coming meeting. |

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| 5 | Procedures on quorum at Council meetings | Article 75(1) of the Basic Law and Rule 17 of the Rules of Procedure | The Committee has not taken a view on the issues of whether the quorum requirement in Article 75(1) of the Basic Law should be regarded as generally applicable throughout the proceedings of Council meetings, and whether it is feasible to impose restriction on Members' right to make quorum calls during Council meetings. The Committee will continue to study matters relating to the procedures on quorum at Council meetings at its future meetings. |
| 6 | Repeated grossly disorderly conduct of Members at Council meetings | - | The Committee has conducted a consultation exercise to gauge the views of all Members on whether there is a need to provide for specific sanction in the Rules of Procedure to deal with repeated grossly disorderly conduct of Members at Council meetings, as well as a proposed procedure with specific sanction to deal with repeated grossly disorderly conduct of Members at Council meetings. The Committee will discuss the consultation results at its coming meeting. |
| 7 | Practices for the making of oral representations by members of the public at committee meetings | - | The Committee in principle agrees that a member of the public should be allowed to make oral representation once only at committee meetings held for the purpose of receiving public views on a subject, and committee chairmen should continue to have the discretion to handle special requests flexibly. The Committee considers that suitable guidelines should be provided in the handbooks for committee chairmen. The Committee will further study |

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| | | | other issues relating to the practices for receiving public views at committee meetings. |
| 8 | Arrangements for committee meetings during tropical cyclone warning signals and rainstorm warning signals | Rule 28 of the House Rules | The Committee agrees that rule 28 of the House Rules should be amended to ensure its clarity and to align with the terminology currently used by the Hong Kong Observatory. The Committee will present its proposal to the House Committee in due course. |
| 9 | Access to documents and records of the Legislature | Rules 6(5A) and 74A of the Rules of Procedure | The Committee's proposals including the proposal to amend the Rules of Procedure were endorsed by the House Committee on 28 February 2014. The proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure were passed at the Council meeting of 19 March 2014. |
| 10 | Amendments to Rule 83(5) of the Rules of Procedure to tie in with the commencement of the new Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622) | Rule 83(5) of the Rules of Procedure | The Committee supported the proposal of the Committee on Members' Interests to amend Rule 83(5) of the Rules of Procedure. With the support of the House Committee, the Chairman of the Committee on Members' Interests moved a motion to amend Rule 83(5) of Rules of Procedure at the Council meeting of 8 January 2014. The motion was passed at the Council meeting and the amended Rule 83(5) took effect on 3 March 2014. |