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## DIGEST

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HR 74 Original

2015 Regular Session

Harris

**Abstract:** Limits the discussion and actions of House conference committee appointees on a legislative instrument, other than an appropriation bill, the Capital Outlay Bill, and the omnibus bond authorization bill, to resolving the differences between the two houses regarding the amendments which were rejected by the house of origin and recommending technical amendments, unless permission of the House is obtained by adoption of a debatable motion by a favorable vote of a majority of the elected members. Prohibits consideration of a conference committee report unless conferees have complied with requirements.

Present House Rule (6.14) provides for the appointment of conference committee appointees from the House, including the member who authored or handled the instrument, the chairman of the committee that reported the instrument, and one member appointed by the Speaker. Further provides that conference committee appointments on a Senate instrument shall be made only after the speaker has received a request from the member who handled the instrument or a member of the committee that reported the instrument.

Proposed House Rule further provides that conference committee appointees from the House on a legislative instrument, other than an appropriation bill, the Capital Outlay Bill, and the omnibus bond authorization bill, shall limit their discussions and their actions solely to resolving the differences between the two houses regarding the amendments which were rejected by the house of origin and recommending technical amendments. However, the author or member handling a legislative instrument, with the concurrence of all other members of the conference committee, may request permission of the House to allow the conference committee to consider recommending amendments to the instrument which are not confined to resolving the differences regarding the amendments rejected by the house of origin and recommending technical amendments. Provides that the adoption of such motion requires the favorable vote of a majority of the elected members of each house and is a debatable motion. Further prohibits the Clerk from accepting or placing on the calendar a conference committee report unless the conferees have complied with the provisions of the proposed House Rule. Provides that the adoption of a motion to waive any provision of the proposed House Rule requires the favorable vote of a majority of the elected members of the House and is debatable.

Present House Rule (8.21(A)) provides that a conference committee report shall be a privileged report and notice of receipt shall be given by the Clerk at the first opportunity without interrupting pending business. Provides that the question of consideration of a conference committee report shall lie over until the appropriate order of business during the Regular Orders on the next legislative day. Present House Rule further provides that, on the last calendar or legislative day of a session, the favorable vote of a majority of the elected members of the House is required to adopt a motion to

suspend the requirement that the question of consideration of a conference committee report lie over until the appropriate order of business during Regular Orders on the next legislative day. Additionally provides that a motion to suspend these provisions is a debatable motion. Present House Rule (8.21(C)) provides that the House shall consider a conference committee report confined to resolving the differences between the two houses regarding the amendments which were rejected by the house of origin and recommending technical amendments received on the last day (calendar or legislative) of a session upon motion of any member duly adopted by a majority of those present and voting. Present House Rule provides that a motion to take up consideration of a conference committee report is a privileged incidental motion, in order when another motion or instrument is not pending, and to be adopted by a majority of those present and voting is applicable only to such confined reports received on the last day. Present House Rule (8.21(D)(1)) specifies that if a conference committee report on any appropriation bill supplementing the General Appropriation Act, the Capital Outlay Bill, the bill appropriating funds for the judicial branch, the bill appropriating funds for the legislative branch, or the omnibus bond authorization bill is received on the last day, the provisions of Present House Rule (8.21(C)) shall apply even if the conference committee report is not confined to resolving the differences between the two houses regarding the amendments which were rejected by the house of origin and recommending technical amendments. Present House Rule (8.21(D)(2)) specifies that Present House Rule (8.15), which provides that a vote on a conference committee report on the General Appropriation Bill shall not occur until at least 48 hours have intervened after the receipt of the report and requires (at least 24 hours prior to voting) an unofficial enrollment and a summary, applies to conference committee reports on the General Appropriation Bill. Present House Rule (8.15) provides that the requirements may be waived by a majority vote of the elected members of the House.

Proposed House Rule changes "motion to suspend" to "motion to waive", makes technical changes, and otherwise retains Present House Rule.

(Amends House Rule 8.21(A); Adds House Rule 6.14(C))