
DIGEST

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Lopinto

HR No. 113

Abstract: Allows a committee member to abstain from voting if, in the discretion of the member with the concurrence of the chairman, the member would be unable to make an informed vote because the member was absent from all or a significant part of the committee discussion on the matter.

Present House Rules authorize each standing committee adopt rules to govern its procedure not inconsistent with Rules of Order of the House of Representatives.

Present House Rules provide that every member who is in the House when the question is put shall give his vote, except the Speaker shall not be required to vote unless the House is equally divided.

Present House Rules require the approval of a majority of the quorum present for a committee to decide a question or to take official action on any matter. Provides that a member recused or disqualified from voting on a question for reasons provided in the Rules shall not be counted for the purpose of determining the number necessary for or for establishing a quorum to act on that question. Specifies that members appointed to the committee during the interim for matters under study or investigation may vote only on questions relating to the subject matter which they were appointed to study. Present House Rules further provides that no committee member shall be allowed to vote by proxy under any circumstances, and no member shall be permitted to vote on a matter before a committee if he was not in the committee room before the vote is announced by the chairman. Present House Rules provide that the chairman of a committee may vote, but he shall be required to vote only when the committee is equally divided.

Proposed House Rule provide that except as otherwise provided in the Rules, each committee member present shall give his vote on a question pending before the committee when his name is called. Proposed House Rule authorizes a committee member to abstain from voting if, in the discretion of the member with the concurrence of the chairman, the member would be unable to make an informed vote because the member was absent from all or a significant part of the committee discussion on the matter.

(Amends House Rule 14.42)