

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2022-645

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member Boylan

Date of Introduction: August 24, 2022

Committee(s) of Reference: R

Date of Analysis: August 25, 2022

Type of Action: Council Rules amendments

Bill Summary: The bill makes a number of amendments to the Council Rules in 4 areas: 1) streamlining the council agenda preparation process for efficiency; 2) updating rules to remove conflicting provisions and practices; 3) updating outdated references/names; and 4) adding provisions to define and authorize alternative voting mechanisms and processes under special limited circumstances. Emergency passage on one cycle is requested in order to allow changes relating to alternative voting mechanisms to take effect quickly should an emergency such as a tropical storm or hurricane or a failure of the technology of the electronic voting system in the Council Chamber make the voting system unavailable.

Background Information: Under the category of streamlining council agenda preparation, the bill eliminates the production of both a preliminary agenda and a President's marked agenda for council meetings, establishing that the Chief of Legislative Services shall prepare and publish an agenda which combines both agendas into one that reflects all of the committee actions from the previous cycle, new introductions, scheduled public hearings, and other items as provided under the Council Rules. Based on the foregoing combining of agendas, Legislative Services Division shall print the Council agenda no later than the Friday before a regularly scheduled Council meeting. The bill clarifies that the Council President or, at the President's designation, the Rules Committee Chair, assigns new legislation to committees, based on the Council Rules and draft agenda prepared by the Chief of Legislative Services, which is the current practice. This Rule change adds a provision permitting the Council President to set the deadline or procedures for adding items to an Addendum to the Agenda.

Under the category of updating the Rules to remove conflicting rules and practices, the bill amends the Rules to confirm the bill filing deadline and remove conflicting provisions. Any delay to the bill filing deadline will prevent the agenda being produced by Friday. It clarifies the provisions regarding post-committee meeting agendas and directs the Legislative Services and Research Divisions to coordinate in the completion and posting of the minutes which is a current practice. The bill deletes the provision requiring the presiding officer of a meeting to sign the minutes of that meeting in addition to the Council Secretary.

Under the category of updating outdated references/names, the bill changes references from Legislative "Aide" to "Assistant" throughout.

Under the category of authorizing alternative voting mechanisms under defined, limited circumstances, the bill allows for Legislative Services to record a Council Member's vote. This alternate voting method would be in place of paper ballots. In the event that the electronic roll-call system fails or is unavailable, votes may be taken by alternate ballots which may include hand votes. These votes will be recorded by the Legislative Services, each of which shall be certified by the Chief of Legislative Services. It adds a provision permitting the Legislative Services Division to manually enter a council member's vote into the electronic roll-call system if a council member is physically present in the meeting and can verbally or visibly express their vote on the record, upon the

direction of the presiding officer or committee chair. If the electronic roll-call system fails or is unavailable, and upon direction of the presiding officer or committee chair, the Legislative Services Division may record the vote of each Council Member by alternative ballot which must be certified in the same manner.

Policy Impact Area: Council Rules

Fiscal Impact: None

Analyst: Clements