

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 120

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 15, 2019

Sponsored by:

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Amends Senate Rules concerning floor amendments and conditionally vetoed General Assembly bills.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 A SENATE RESOLUTION amending Rules 17:2 and 23:5 of the Rules
2 of the Senate.

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4 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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6 1. Rule 17:2 is amended to read as follows:

7 **17:2. Floor Amendments.**

8 Bills and resolutions may only be amended on second reading.
9 No floor amendment of a bill on second reading and no motion to
10 return to second reading for the purpose of amendment shall be in
11 order unless the sponsor of the amendment, at least one hour prior
12 to the calling of the bill, delivers **[50 copies]** a copy of the
13 proposed amendment to the President, Minority Leader, and
14 Secretary. The Secretary shall **[immediately deliver a copy of the**
15 proposed amendment to the President, Majority and Minority
16 Leaders, and place a copy on the desk of] make a copy of the
17 proposed amendment available to each Senator prior to
18 consideration. Floor amendments shall include a sponsor's
19 statement concisely describing their contents and effects.

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21 2. Rule 23:5 is amended to read as follows:

22 **23:5. Conditional Veto - General Assembly Bills.**

23 a. Amended in accordance with the Governor's
24 recommendations. After the General Assembly has passed a motion
25 to approve a bill conditionally vetoed by the Governor by amending
26 it in accordance with the Governor's recommendations, the General
27 Assembly shall forward the amended bill, together with the
28 Governor's recommendations, to the Senate.

29 To approve a conditionally vetoed bill which has been amended
30 in accordance with the Governor's recommendations, the bill must
31 be read three times in the Senate, with the intervention of one full
32 calendar day between second and third readings, unless it is
33 declared an emergency measure under Rule 17:4. No conditionally
34 vetoed bill shall receive first reading or be referred to committee
35 unless directed by the President. The affirmative vote of at least 21
36 Senators is required to pass the bill.

37 The passed bill, together with the Governor's recommendations,
38 shall be **[returned to the General Assembly]** presented to the
39 Governor.

40 b. Override. If the General Assembly has voted to override a
41 conditional veto and forwards the bill to the Senate, the Senate may,
42 at any time after receipt of the bill, move to override the conditional
43 veto in the same manner and subject to the same requirements as
44 necessary to override an absolute veto of a General Assembly bill.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 The resolution amends Rule 17:2 of the Senate to provide that
7 the sponsor of a floor amendment need only provide one copy to the
8 President, Minority Leader, and Secretary rather than the 50 copies
9 currently required to be provided to the Secretary. The resolution
10 would also amend the rule to require the Secretary to make a copy
11 of the proposed floor amendment available to each Senator prior to
12 consideration.

13 The resolution also corrects a longstanding issue in the Senate
14 Rules concerning the handling of conditionally vetoed General
15 Assembly bills. Senate Rule 23:5 currently provides that a
16 conditionally vetoed General Assembly bill amended in accordance
17 with the conditional veto and approved by the Senate be returned to
18 the General Assembly. The appropriate course for such a bill is to
19 present it to the Governor, not return it to the General Assembly.
20 The amendment corrects this issue.