

Introduced by Senator Steinberg

March 22, 2011

Senate Resolution No. 14—Relative to the Standing Rules of the Senate for the 2011–12 Regular Session.

1 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the
2 Standing Rules of the Senate for the 2011–12 Regular Session are
3 amended as follows:

4 First—That Rule 12.5 is amended to read:

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General Research Committee

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8 12.5. The General Research Committee is hereby created
9 pursuant to Section 11 of Article IV of the California Constitution,
10 which relates to legislative committees. The committee consists
11 of the 40 Senators, and the President pro Tempore is its chair. The
12 committee is allocated all subjects within the scope of legislative
13 regulation and control, but may not undertake any investigation
14 that another committee has been specifically requested or directed
15 to undertake. The General Research Committee may act through
16 subcommittees appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules. Each
17 member of the General Research Committee is authorized and
18 directed to receive and investigate requests for legislative action
19 made by individuals or groups and to report thereon to the full
20 committee.

21 The committee and its members shall have and exercise all of
22 the rights, duties, and powers conferred upon investigating
23 committees and their members by the Senate Rules and the Joint

1 Rules of the Senate and Assembly. However, neither the committee
2 nor its members may issue a subpoena without the prior approval
3 of the Committee on Rules. The committee has the following
4 additional powers and duties:

5 (a) To contract with other agencies, public or private, for the
6 rendition and affording of services, facilities, studies, and reports
7 to the committee as the committee deems necessary to assist it to
8 carry out the purposes for which it is created.

9 (b) To cooperate with and secure the cooperation of county,
10 city, city and county, and other local law enforcement agencies in
11 investigating any matter within the scope established by this rule,
12 and to direct the sheriff of any county to serve subpoenas, orders,
13 and other process issued by the committee.

14 (c) To meet and act at any place within the State of California
15 and, when authorized in writing by the Committee on Rules to do
16 so, to meet and act outside the state to carry out its duties.

17 (d) To report its findings and recommendations to the
18 Legislature and the people from time to time.

19 (e) To act during sessions of the Legislature, including any
20 recess.

21 (f) To do any and all other things necessary or convenient to
22 enable it fully and adequately to exercise its powers, perform its
23 duties, and accomplish the objects and purposes of this rule.

24 The Committee on Rules may allocate, from time to time, to the
25 General Research Committee from the Senate Operating Fund
26 those sums that are necessary to permit the General Research
27 Committee and the members thereof to carry out the duties imposed
28 on them. In addition, the Committee on Rules may allocate to any
29 subcommittee from the Senate Operating Fund those sums that
30 the Committee on Rules deems necessary to complete the
31 investigation or study conferred upon that subcommittee.

32 Second—That Rule 12.6 is added to read:

33 12.6. A select committee is a subcommittee of the General
34 Research Committee. Staff providing services to a select committee
35 are Senate employees assigned by the Committee on Rules to the
36 General Research Committee.

37 (a) A Senator who proposes to establish a select committee shall
38 submit to the Committee on Rules a written request that includes
39 all of the following:

1 (1) A description of the topic to be addressed by the select
2 committee and a general work plan and timetable, including
3 hearings, anticipated work product, and staffing needs and other
4 anticipated resource demands.

5 (2) A statement by the Senator proposing the select committee
6 that he or she has discussed his or her plans with the chair of the
7 standing committee having jurisdiction over the subject matter of
8 the proposed select committee. The statement shall describe any
9 objections that chair has to the establishment of the proposed select
10 committee.

11 (b) A select committee may be established only by a resolution
12 adopted by the Committee on Rules that specifies the jurisdiction
13 of the select committee. In making this decision, the Committee
14 on Rules shall consider any objections to that action raised by the
15 chair of a standing committee having jurisdiction over the subject
16 matter of the proposed select committee.

17 (c) The Committee on Rules shall appoint the members of a
18 select committee. A select committee may act only with regard to
19 the particular study or investigation assigned to it by the Committee
20 on Rules.

21 (d) A select committees is terminated automatically upon the
22 adjournment of the regular session in which it is established, or at
23 an earlier time specified in the resolution. In deciding whether to
24 ~~establish~~ *reestablish* a select committee ~~not operated~~ *established*
25 in a previous regular session, the Committee on Rules shall
26 consider the extent to which the select committee successfully
27 achieved its assigned objections.

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