



***PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGES
COMMITTEE***

**MINOR CHANGE
TO THE
STANDING ORDERS**

Report No. 4

2006

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Presented by:
Mrs Dianne Guise, MLA,
Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
on 15 September 2006

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(Speaker of the Legislative Assembly)

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COMMITTEE'S FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Legislative Assembly Standing Order No. 282 provides the following functions, powers and terms of reference to the Procedure and Privileges Committee -

Procedure and Privileges Committee

282. (1) A Procedure and Privileges Committee will be appointed at the beginning of each session to —

- (a) examine and report on the procedures of the Assembly; and
- (b) examine and report on issues of privilege; and
- (c) wherever necessary, confer with a similar committee of the Council.

(2) The Procedure and Privileges Committee will have the powers of a select committee.

(3) Membership of the committee will consist of the Speaker and four other members as the Assembly appoints.

(4) Standing Order 278 will apply except that where possible any report of the committee will be presented by the Deputy Speaker.

(5) When consideration of a report from the committee is set down as an order of the day it will be considered using the consideration in detail procedure.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation

Your Committee recommends –

That Standing Order 38 be deleted and the following Standing Order substituted -

“

Members acknowledge the Chair

38. (1) Members will acknowledge the Chair when entering and leaving the Chamber and will not pass between the Chair and any member who is speaking unless it is unavoidable, the Chair is acknowledged and the Chair has indicated its approval for the member to proceed.

(2) Members will not pass between the Chair and the Table. ”.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSE

In accordance with Standing Order 277, the Committee directs that the Leader of the House to report to the Legislative Assembly as to the action, if any, proposed to be taken by the Government with respect to the recommendation of the Committee.

MINOR CHANGE TO THE STANDING ORDERS

As part of the on-going review of Standing Orders, changes are often suggested by either Committee members, members of the House or noted by the Clerks as being necessary to adjust the Standing Orders to reflect the ongoing changes to the Legislative Assembly's practice and procedures. Your Committee has considered the proposed change and accordingly submits the following to the Legislative Assembly for its consideration and adoption -

SO 38 - MEMBERS ACKNOWLEDGE THE CHAIR.

The Chairman of the Committee, as Speaker, brought to the attention of the Committee a small procedural difficulty that will arise as a result of the new chamber seating being implemented during the next Summer Recess (plans were released to members of the House during last June). Currently Standing Order No. 38 does not permit members to pass between the Speaker and the member who is addressing the House. In order to create sufficient room for the new seating, it was agreed that the galley way behind each rear bench to the left and right of the Chair be removed. This will effectively mean several members may, from time to time, be unable to move to or from their seats if they have to pass between a member addressing the House and the Chair.

Your Committee, having considered the matter, proposes that members should be permitted to pass between the member speaking and the Chair but only when it is unavoidable. However, your Committee is also concerned that a certain level of decorum must be maintained and therefore proposes that this should not be an automatic right because members addressing the House should not be unduly interrupted by other members. Therefore it is also proposed that a proviso be included which requires members seeking to pass between the member addressing the House and the Chair to first acknowledge the Chair and then only proceed once they have received the Chair's approval.

Accordingly your Committee proposes that Standing Order 38 be deleted and a new Standing Order be substituted -

“

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HON. FRED RIEBELING, MLA
CHAIRMAN TO THE COMMITTEE
15 September 2006