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Councilmember Christina Henderson

AN AMENDMENT

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Date: January 2, 2025  
Amendment offered by: Councilmember Christina Henderson  
To: PR26-001, the “Rules of Organization and Procedure for the Council of the District of Columbia, Council Period 26, Resolution of 2025”

Version:  Introduced  
 Committee Report  
 Committee Print  
 First Reading  
 Engrossed  
 Enrolled  
 Amendment in the Nature of Substitute

1. Rule 336 is amended to read as follows:

“336. PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY.

“A parliamentary inquiry is made when a Member raises a question to the General Counsel seeking information about the procedure or business before the Council. The General Counsel shall answer the question about the procedure or business before the Council, or, when the General Counsel does not possess the information sought, may direct the question to a Member or the Chairman who may be in possession of the information. A parliamentary inquiry is not debatable or appealable.”.

2. Rule 404 is amended by adding a new subsection (e) to read as follows:

“(e) The Chairman’s official referral of a measure may be challenged by a majority of Councilmembers and a final referral may be made by majority vote of members present.”.

3. Rule 802(b) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) Co-introduction of a measure shall be evidenced by the signature of the co-introducer on the face of the measure. Co-sponsorship shall be permitted up to the close of business the day before the measure’s first markup.”.

4. Rule 804 is amended to read as follows:

“804. SUPPLEMENTAL COMMITTEE REPORT. On final passage of a bill, a majority of the members of the Council or the Chairperson of a committee may request that a committee submit an addendum to a committee report that explains the Council reasoning for any amendments where amendments, including amendments in the nature of a substitute, have been passed by the full Council. A committee shall vote on an addendum to a committee report before it may be filed in the Office of the Secretary.”

Rationale:

1. This amendment would establish the General Counsel as the Council parliamentarian. Parliamentarians are traditionally experts who provide guidance on rules and procedures to legislative bodies. This amendment will put the Council on similar footing with legislative bodies writ large.
2. This amendment will add a new provision that allows members to challenge referrals of measures to committees if the majority of members do not agree with the Chairman’s referral decision. A majority of members would be permitted to challenge the referral and vote to reassign the measure to a committee whose jurisdiction is deemed more appropriate by that majority.
3. This amendment will permit co-sponsorship of a measure until the close of business on the day before the first markup of that measure. This change will enable Councilmembers to support colleagues’ proposals in the event that members miss the deadline for sign-on, if they miss the deadline for co-sponsorship outlined under the Council Period 25 rules, or decide later that they would like to support a measure.
4. This amendment will change the current process for a supplemental committee report. Currently, the Chairperson of a committee may file a supplemental committee report and the supplemental committee report must be adopted by only the committee. This amendment will allow a majority of Councilmembers or the Chairperson of the committee to request that the

committee submit an addendum to a committee report that explains the Council reasoning for any amendments where amendments, including amendments in the nature of a substitute, have been passed by the full Council. Additionally, the committee must vote on an addendum to a committee report before it may be filed in the Office of the Secretary.