

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION QQ

February 19, 2008, Introduced by Reps. Caul, Amos, Booher, Shaffer, Hansen, Ball, Moore, Gaffney, Green, Opsommer and Emmons and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Investigations.

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the state constitution of 1963, by adding section 55 to article IV, to provide for a balance of power agreement in the house of representatives.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the state of Michigan, That the following amendment to the state constitution of 1963, to provide for a balance of power agreement in the house of representatives, is proposed, agreed to, and submitted to the people of the state:

## ARTICLE IV

**SEC. 55. THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING AGREEMENT:**

1 (A) THE HOUSE SHALL NOMINATE AND ELECT CO-SPEAKERS, CO-  
2 SPEAKERS PRO TEMPORE, CO-ASSOCIATE SPEAKERS PRO TEMPORE, AND CO-  
3 CLERKS.

4 (B) EACH PARTY'S OFFICERS SHALL PRESIDE OVER THE HOUSE OF  
5 REPRESENTATIVES ON ALTERNATING MONTHS.

6 (C) EACH PARTY SHALL DESIGNATE A FLOOR LEADER WHO SHALL SERVE  
7 AS CO-FLOOR LEADER. THE CO-FLOOR LEADER SHALL MANAGE THE SCHEDULE  
8 OF DEBATE WHEN THE OTHER PARTY'S CO-OFFICERS ARE PRESIDING.

9 (D) A PARTY'S CO-CLERK SHALL ACT AS PARLIAMENTARIAN WHEN THE  
10 OPPOSING PARTY'S OFFICERS ARE PRESIDING. OFFICIAL PAPERS AND  
11 DOCUMENTS SHALL BE SIGNED BY THE CO-CLERK WHO IS ACTING  
12 PARLIAMENTARIAN AT THE TIME THEY ARE PRESENTED.

13 (E) THE SUPPLEMENTAL SALARY FOR THE OFFICE OF SPEAKER, SPEAKER  
14 PRO TEMPORE, AND MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER SHALL BE PAID ONLY IN THE  
15 MONTHS DURING WHICH HIS OR HER PARTY'S OFFICERS ARE PRESIDING.  
16 DURING THE MONTHS IN WHICH A CO-SPEAKER IS NOT THE PRESIDING CO-  
17 SPEAKER, HE OR SHE SHALL BE PAID THE SUPPLEMENTAL SALARY OF THE  
18 MINORITY LEADER. DURING THE MONTHS IN WHICH A CO-FLOOR LEADER IS  
19 NOT RECEIVING THE SUPPLEMENTAL SALARY OF THE MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER,  
20 HE OR SHE SHALL RECEIVE THE SUPPLEMENTAL SALARY OF THE MINORITY  
21 FLOOR LEADER. THE CO-CLERKS SHALL BE PAID EQUALLY AT A SALARY TO BE  
22 DETERMINED BY THE CO-SPEAKERS.

23 (F) THE STANDING COMMITTEES AND THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS ASSIGNED  
24 TO STANDING COMMITTEES SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE CO-SPEAKERS. ALL  
25 STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL HAVE AN  
26 EVEN NUMBER OF MEMBERS AND AN EQUAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF EACH  
27 PARTY. THE MEMBERS OF EACH STANDING COMMITTEE SHALL BE DESIGNATED

1 BY THE CO-SPEAKER OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PARTY. A CO-SPEAKER MAY NOT  
2 CHANGE THE MEMBERS OF A COMMITTEE FROM HIS OR HER PARTY WITHOUT THE  
3 AGREEMENT OF THE OTHER CO-SPEAKER EXCEPT WHEN A VACANCY DUE TO  
4 DEATH, REMOVAL FROM OFFICE, OR RESIGNATION FROM OFFICE EXISTS. EACH  
5 STANDING COMMITTEE SHALL HAVE A CO-CHAIR AND A CO-VICE CHAIR. THE  
6 CO-CHAIRS AND CO-VICE CHAIRS SHALL PRESIDE IN THE MONTHS WHEN THEIR  
7 OFFICERS ARE PRESIDING IN THE HOUSE.

8 (G) SUBCOMMITTEES OF STANDING COMMITTEES MAY BE APPOINTED AND  
9 SHALL CONSIST OF EQUAL MEMBERS OF EACH PARTY. THE CO-CHAIR OF A  
10 SUBCOMMITTEE SHALL PRESIDE IN THE SAME MONTHS AS THE CO-CHAIR WHO  
11 APPOINTED THE SUBCOMMITTEE CO-CHAIR.

12 (H) THE CO-SPEAKERS SHALL JOINTLY DEVELOP AND PUBLISH UNIFORM  
13 RULES WHICH SHALL BE FOLLOWED BY ALL STANDING COMMITTEES,  
14 SUBCOMMITTEES, AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES. THE RULES SHALL BE IN  
15 ADDITION TO THE FOLLOWING RULES:

16 (i) A QUORUM OF A COMMITTEE SHALL CONSIST OF 50% OF THE MEMBERS  
17 APPOINTED AND SERVING.

18 (ii) MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEES MAY ONLY CAST A VOTE IF  
19 THEY ARE PRESENT AT A MEETING DURING THE VOTE.

20 (iii) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION, AN  
21 AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF MEMBERS OF A COMMITTEE WHO ARE  
22 APPOINTED AND SERVING IS REQUIRED TO REPORT A BILL TO THE FULL  
23 HOUSE FOR CONSIDERATION.

24 (iv) EACH CO-CHAIR OF A COMMITTEE SHALL DETERMINE THE AGENDA OF  
25 THE COMMITTEE DURING THE MONTH THAT HE OR SHE IS PRESIDING.

26 (v) LINEN COPIES OF BILLS SHALL REMAIN IN THE POSSESSION OF  
27 STANDING COMMITTEES AND SHALL NOT BE REFERRED TO SUBCOMMITTEES.

1           (I) THE CO-SPEAKERS OF THE HOUSE SHALL EACH APPOINT TWO  
2 CONFEREES TO ALL CONFERENCE COMMITTEES. A QUORUM FOR A CONFERENCE  
3 COMMITTEE SHALL CONSIST OF AT LEAST ONE HALF OF THE MEMBERS OF EACH  
4 HOUSE. THE CO-SPEAKER OF THE SAME PARTY AS THE BILL SPONSOR SHALL  
5 DESIGNATE THE CHAIR OF A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON A HOUSE BILL.  
6 MEETINGS OF A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SHALL BE SCHEDULED BY THE CHAIR  
7 OF THAT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, A MAJORITY OF THE CONFEREES  
8 MAY SCHEDULE A MEETING BY NOTIFYING THE CHAIR, THE OFFICE OF THE  
9 CLERK OF THE HOUSE, AND THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE IN WRITING.  
10 EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION, IN ORDER TO REPORT A  
11 CONFERENCE REPORT OUT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE, A MAJORITY OF THE  
12 MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE SHALL SIGN THE CONFERENCE REPORT.  
13 IF TWO HOUSE MEMBERS AND TWO SENATE MEMBERS HAVE VOTED TO APPROVE A  
14 CONFERENCE REPORT, A CONFERENCE REPORT MAY BE REPORTED FROM THE  
15 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE TO THE HOUSE OF ORIGIN UPON A RECORD ROLL CALL  
16 VOTE OF AT LEAST 56 MEMBERS ELECTED AND SERVING IN THE HOUSE OF  
17 REPRESENTATIVES.

18           (J) IF A BILL RECEIVES A FAVORABLE VOTE BY ONE HALF OF THE  
19 MEMBERS OF A STANDING COMMITTEE OR A MAJORITY OF THE SENATE  
20 CONFEREES PLUS TWO HOUSE CONFEREES IN A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE,  
21 EITHER CO-SPEAKER MAY CAST AN EXTRAORDINARY VOTE TO REPORT THE BILL  
22 OR CONFERENCE REPORT. EACH CO-SPEAKER MAY CAST AN EXTRAORDINARY  
23 VOTE UP TO A MAXIMUM OF 12 TIMES PER CALENDAR YEAR. A CO-SPEAKER  
24 MAY CAST AN EXTRAORDINARY VOTE AT ANY TIME, INCLUDING WHEN HE OR  
25 SHE IS NOT PRESIDING. A CO-SPEAKER MUST GIVE ONE DAY'S NOTICE OF  
26 HIS OR HER INTENT TO CAST AN EXTRAORDINARY VOTE TO REPORT A BILL  
27 FROM COMMITTEE BEFORE THAT VOTE IS CAST. IN THE CASE OF A BILL IN A

1 HOUSE COMMITTEE, THE NOTICE SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE OFFICE OF THE  
2 CLERK OF THE HOUSE AND TO THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE COMMITTEE. IN THE  
3 CASE OF A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE, NOTICE SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE OFFICE  
4 OF THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE, THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE, AND THE  
5 CHAIR OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE. NOTICE OF AN INTENT TO CAST AN  
6 EXTRAORDINARY VOTE SHALL BE SPREAD UPON THE HOUSE JOURNAL. A CO-  
7 SPEAKER MAY NOT USE HIS OR HER EXTRAORDINARY VOTE MORE THAN FIVE  
8 TIMES PER CALENDAR YEAR TO REPORT CONFERENCE REPORTS OUT OF  
9 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE TO THE HOUSE OF ORIGIN.

10 (K) EACH PARTY'S CO-SPEAKER SHALL REFER HIS OR HER PARTY'S  
11 SPONSORED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS TO COMMITTEE. THIS SAME  
12 PROCESS SHALL BE APPLIED TO SENATE-ORIGINATED BILLS AND JOINT  
13 RESOLUTIONS. A VOTE TO REREFER A BILL TO COMMITTEE SHALL REQUIRE  
14 THE APPROVAL OF AT LEAST 56 MEMBERS ELECTED TO AND SERVING IN THE  
15 HOUSE AND SHALL BE BY RECORD ROLL CALL VOTE.

16 (I) THE CO-SPEAKERS SHALL JOINTLY AGREE UPON STAFFING LEVELS  
17 FOR THE OFFICES OF THE CO-SPEAKERS, THE CO-SPEAKERS PRO TEMPORE,  
18 AND THE CO-FLOOR LEADERS. EXCEPT FOR THE CO-SPEAKERS, THE CO-  
19 SPEAKERS PRO TEMPORE, AND THE CO-FLOOR LEADERS, EACH HOUSE MEMBER  
20 SHALL HAVE AN EQUAL NUMBER OF PERSONAL STAFF. EACH PARTY SHALL BE  
21 PROVIDED AN EQUAL DOLLAR AMOUNT TO ESTABLISH AND OPERATE ITS  
22 RESPECTIVE CAUCUS STAFFS.

23 (M) THE CO-SPEAKERS SHALL MAKE JOINT APPOINTMENTS TO ALL  
24 STATUTORY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS FOR WHICH THE SPEAKER HAS  
25 APPOINTING AUTHORITY. THE CO-SPEAKERS SHALL MAKE JOINT  
26 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS TO ALL STATUTORY BOARDS AND  
27 COMMISSIONS FOR WHICH THE SPEAKER HAS RECOMMENDING AUTHORITY.

1           (N) THE TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF SESSION FOR THE HOUSE SHALL BE  
2 JOINTLY SET ON AN ANNUAL BASIS BY THE CO-SPEAKERS AND CO-FLOOR  
3 LEADERS. THE ANNUAL CALENDAR SHALL BE SET NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 1  
4 OF EACH YEAR. THE MONTHLY CALENDAR OF SESSION DAYS SHALL BE  
5 DETERMINED BY THE CO-FLOOR LEADER OF THE SAME PARTY AS THE CO-  
6 SPEAKER WHO IS PRESIDING DURING THAT MONTH. THE MONTHLY CALENDAR  
7 SHALL BE DETERMINED AT LEAST SEVEN DAYS IN ADVANCE OF A CO-SPEAKER  
8 BECOMING THE PRESIDING OFFICER. THE MONTHLY CALENDAR SHALL BE  
9 ISSUED IN WRITING TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

10          (O) THE CO-SPEAKERS SHALL JOINTLY DEVELOP AND ISSUE GUIDELINES  
11 ON ACCESS TO THE HOUSE FLOOR. THE CO-SPEAKER SHALL APPROVE ACCESS  
12 TO THE HOUSE FLOOR FOR STAFF AND GUESTS OF MEMBERS.

13          (P) ALL MATTERS NOT COVERED IN THIS SECTION RELATIVE TO THE  
14 OPERATIONS OF THE HOUSE, INCLUDING, BUT NO LIMITED TO, STAFF,  
15 FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS, AND EXPENDITURES, SHALL BE JOINTLY DECIDED  
16 BY THE CO-SPEAKERS.

17          Resolved further, That the foregoing amendment shall be  
18 submitted to the people of the state at the next general election  
19 in the manner provided by law.