

STATE BOARD TO REVIEW CLAIMS

MEETING OF AUGUST 16, 1996
Reno, Nevada

ITEM: V.A.

SUBJECT: Resolution to Adopt Robert's Rules of Order for
Deliberative Assemblies

DISCUSSION: To date, the State Board to Review Claims has not formally adopted any specific Rules of Order to govern its method of conducting business. Adoption of such rules would assist in maintaining consistent procedures throughout the Board's existence.

It is recommended that the Board adopt Robert's Rules of Order (revised) as opposed to other rules of order (such as Parliamentary Law).

Parliamentary Law does not suppress the right to debate questions before taking final action upon them by anything less than a two-thirds vote. The motion to lay on the table is used only for its legitimate parliamentary purpose of laying aside a question temporarily.

Robert's Rules of Order (Revised) stems from Congressional procedures. Because of its size, Congressional changes were made to Parliamentary Law to allow the majority to suppress the debate, if there has been previous debate; if there has been none, to limit the debate; and also to suppress a question for the session even without any debate. Typically, American deliberative assemblies follow the practice of Congress in their rules of order.

RECOMMENDATION: Adoption of Resolution No. 96-026 as proposed.

STATE BOARD TO REVIEW CLAIMS

RESOLUTION NO. 96-026

Resolution to Adopt Robert's Rules of Order
for Deliberative Assemblies

Whereas, the State Board to Review Claims (hereinafter referred to as the Board) Finds:


1. It is very material that order, decency, and regularity be preserved in a dignified public body.
2. The object of Rules of Order is to assist an assembly to accomplish in the best possible manner the work for which it was designed.
3. Rules of Order should give not only the methods of organizing and conducting meetings, the duties of officers, and names of ordinary motions, but also a systematic statement in reference to each motion, as to its object and effect; whether it can be amended or debated; if debatable, the extent to which it opens the main question to debate; the circumstances under which it can be made, and what other motions can be made while it is pending.
4. Parliamentary Law refers originally to the customs and rules for conducting business in the English Parliament; and thence to the usages of deliberative assemblies in general.
5. The practice of the U.S. Congress differs from that of Parliament in that it allows the majority to suppress the debate, if there has been previous debate; if there has been none, to limit the debate to forty minutes; and also to suppress a question for the session even without any debate.
6. Where the practice of Congress differs from that of Parliament, the common law of the country usually follows the practice of Congress.
7. Robert's Rules of Order (published in 1876, subsequently revised) was prepared with a hope of supplying the above information in a condensed and systematic form, each rule being complete in itself, or giving references to every section that in any way qualifies it, so that a stranger to the work can refer to any special subject with safety.

8. Robert's Rules of Order (Revised) are prepared to meet partially the need for rules of order in deliberative assemblies that are not legislative in their character. They have been made sufficiently complete to answer for the rules of an assembly until it sees fit to adopt special rules conflicting with and superseding any of the rules of detail, such as the Order of Business, etc. They are based upon the ruled and practice of Congress so far as these are adapted and comparatively small quorums.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the State Board to Review Claims adopts Robert's Rules of Order (Revised) to govern its method of conducting business.

I, John Haycock, Chairman, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Nevada State Board to Review Claims on August 16, 1996.



John Haycock, Chairman
State Board to Review Claims