

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 002  
(A-24)

Introduced by: Medical Student Section and Resident & Fellow Section

Subject: Removal of the Interim Meeting Resolution Committee

Referred to: Reference Committee on Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws

---

1 Whereas, AMA Bylaws 2.12.1.1 and 2.13.13 indicate that the Interim Meeting Resolution  
2 Committee limits consideration of resolutions to those that pertain to “advocacy and legislation”  
3 or “ethics” or that “requir[e] action prior to the following Annual Meeting”; and  
4

5 Whereas, six months after the Board of Trustees recommended formation of the Resolution  
6 Committee, the Report of the Executive Vice President at Interim 2002 (I-02) noted that “while I  
7 appreciate the need to streamline, I strongly believe that everything the AMA does is advocacy,”  
8 and elaborated that “this includes activities you might not initially view as advocacy, like the  
9 public stands we take on issues of public health and science”<sup>1</sup>; and  
10

11 Whereas, over the course of 8 years between I-12 and I-19 (up till the implementation of Special  
12 Meetings during COVID), the average number of resolutions historically not considered based  
13 on Resolution Committee recommendations was less than 7<sup>2</sup>; and  
14

15 Whereas, from I-12 to I-19, the small number of items historically not considered based on  
16 Resolution Committee recommendations ranged from 2 to 10 (2 at I-19, 8 at I-18, 4 at I-17, 3 at  
17 I-16, 9 at I-15, 8 at I-14, 10 at I-13, and 9 at I-12)<sup>2</sup>; and  
18

19 Whereas, the low number of resolutions historically screened out by the Interim Meeting  
20 Resolution Committee indicates that the House has successfully managed its volume of  
21 business without significant benefit from the Resolution Committee; and  
22

23 Whereas, despite perceptions of increased resolution volume, we have concluded business  
24 early at all 4 HODs since returning from COVID, including a full day earlier at A-23; and  
25

26 Whereas, the use of the Interim Meeting Resolution Committee functionally means that  
27 resolutions relating to meeting operations, Bylaws, task forces, and other organizational  
28 initiatives and resolutions requesting studies should be withheld until the Annual Meeting, as  
29 they would be unlikely to meet Resolution Committee criteria, unnecessarily delaying regular  
30 functions of our HOD and AMA until those resolutions can be introduced in June; and  
31

32 Whereas, the Resolution Committee does not meet at all to deliberate, as each member  
33 individually and privately simply checks off whether they approve a resolution; and  
34

35 Whereas, no criteria exist for whether resolutions should be considered if they relate to reports  
36 or to other resolutions approved for consideration, leading to unclear rationale for decisions; and  
37

38 Whereas, even resolutions clearly related to advocacy, ethics, or urgency (including titles  
39 mentioning “Policy Reform,” “Regulation,” names of specific legislation, or issues pending

1 imminent Congressional votes or executive agency decisions with time-limited comment  
2 periods) are regularly screened out, leading to unclear rationale for decisions; and  
3

4 Whereas, while a majority vote can consider a screened-out resolution, smaller and newer  
5 delegations are at baseline disadvantaged in overturning a negative decision, which conflicts  
6 with democratic principles of fairness and protection of minority rights and views, a central tenet  
7 of our House's parliamentary procedure to ensure all voices are heard; and  
8

9 Whereas, many delegations' advocacy priorities were negatively affected by the narrow  
10 resolution criteria at I-23 and several, not just the MSS and RFS, attempted extractions; and  
11

12 Whereas, the removal of the Resolution Committee could better balance the load between the  
13 Interim and Annual Meetings, rather than the Annual Meeting seeing an increased load due to  
14 resolution resubmissions, which also leads to increased report load at subsequent Annual  
15 Meetings for resolutions that were referred a year prior; and  
16

17 Whereas, while the Interim Meeting is a day shorter, we still concluded business early the last  
18 two years, many screened-out resolutions would likely be handled agreeably by Reference  
19 Committees without extraction, and our House already uses other ways to effectively self-  
20 regulate volume of debate (e.g., calling the question, shortening testimony time); and  
21

22 Whereas, better methods to manage a modest increase in Interim Meeting business, without  
23 needing to extend the meeting, could include using the same number of Reference Committees  
24 as the Annual Meeting, since the Interim Meeting currently only uses 6 and the Annual  
25 Meeting's 8 Reference Committees more evenly distribute additional business across additional  
26 sessions on both Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning; therefore be it  
27

28 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association remove the Resolution Committee from  
29 Interim Meetings by amending AMA Bylaw B-2.13.3, "Resolution Committee," by deletion as  
30 follows:  
31

32 **~~Resolution Committee. B-2.13.3~~**

33 ~~The Resolution Committee is responsible for reviewing resolutions~~  
34 ~~submitted for consideration at an Interim Meeting and determining~~  
35 ~~compliance of the resolutions with the purpose of the Interim~~  
36 ~~Meeting.~~

37 ~~2.13.3.1 Appointment. The Speaker shall appoint the members of~~  
38 ~~the committee. Membership on this committee is restricted to~~  
39 ~~delegates.~~

40 ~~2.13.3.2 Size. The committee shall consist of a maximum of 31~~  
41 ~~members.~~

42 ~~2.13.3.3 Term. The committee shall serve only during the meeting~~  
43 ~~at which it is appointed, unless otherwise directed by the House of~~  
44 ~~Delegates.~~

45 ~~2.13.3.4 Quorum. A majority of the members of the committee shall~~  
46 ~~constitute a quorum.~~

47 ~~2.13.3.5 Meetings. The committee shall not be required to hold~~  
48 ~~meetings. Action may be taken by written or electronic~~  
49 ~~communications.~~

50 ~~2.13.3.6 Procedure. A resolution shall be accepted for~~  
51 ~~consideration at an Interim Meeting upon majority vote of committee~~  
52 ~~members voting. The Speaker shall only vote in the case of a tie. If~~

1 a resolution is not accepted, it may be submitted for consideration  
2 at the next Annual Meeting in accordance with the procedure in  
3 Bylaw 2.11.3.1.

4 ~~2.13.3.7 Report. The committee shall report to the Speaker. A~~  
5 ~~report of the committee shall be presented to the House of~~  
6 ~~Delegates at the call of the Speaker. (Modify Bylaws); and be it~~  
7 ~~further~~

8  
9 RESOLVED, that our AMA remove constraints on the scope of business at Interim Meetings,  
10 which is regulated by the Resolution Committee, by amending AMA Bylaw B-2.12.1.1,  
11 "Business of Interim Meeting," by deletion as follows:

12  
13 **2.12.1.1 Business of Interim Meeting**

14 ~~The business of an Interim Meeting shall be focused on advocacy~~  
15 ~~and legislation. Resolutions pertaining to ethics, and opinions and~~  
16 ~~reports of the Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs, may also be~~  
17 ~~considered at an Interim Meeting. Other business requiring action~~  
18 ~~prior to the following Annual Meeting may also be considered at an~~  
19 ~~Interim Meeting. In addition, any other business may be considered~~  
20 ~~at an Interim Meeting by majority vote of delegates present and~~  
21 ~~voting. (Modify Bylaws)~~

Fiscal Note: Minimal - less than \$1,000

Received: 4/19/2024

**REFERENCES**

1. Report of the Executive Vice President, American Medical Association Interim 2002 House of Delegates. <https://ama.nmtvault.com/jsp/browse.jsp>. Accessed March 18, 2021.
2. American Medical Association Archives. <https://ama.nmtvault.com/jsp/browse.jsp>. Accessed March 18, 2021.

**RELEVANT AMA Policy**

**B-11.1 Parliamentary Procedure**

In the absence of any provisions to the contrary in the Constitution and these Bylaws, all general meetings of the AMA and all meetings of the House of Delegates, of the Board of Trustees, of Sections and of councils and committees shall be governed by the parliamentary rules and usages contained in the then current edition of The American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure.

**G-600.054 Procedures of the House of Delegates**

1. Our AMA reaffirms The American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure as our parliamentary authority, including the use of the motion to table and the motion to adopt in-lieu-of, and treat amendments by substitution as first-order amendments.
2. The rules and procedures of the House of Delegates will be amended as follows:
  - A. The motion to table a report or resolution that has not yet been referred to a reference committee is not permitted and will be ruled out of order.
  - B. A new motion is added to the House of Delegates Reference Manual, Object to Consideration. If a Delegate objects to consideration of an item of business by our HOD, the correct motion is to Object to Consideration. The motion cannot interrupt a speaker, requires a second, cannot be amended, takes precedence over all subsidiary motions and cannot be renewed. The motion requires a 3/4 vote for passage. Debate is restricted to why the item should not be considered.

3. The procedures of our House of Delegates distinguish between a motion to refer, which is equivalent to a motion to refer for report, and a motion to refer for decision and that the motion to refer for decision be one step higher in precedence.
4. The procedures of our House of Delegates specify that both sides must have been heard before a motion to close debate is in order and that absent an express reference to "all pending matters" the motion applies only to the matter under debate.
5. The procedures of our House of Delegates clarify that adjournment of any House of Delegates meeting finalizes all matters considered at that meeting, meaning that items from one meeting are not subject to a motion to recall from committee, a motion to reconsider or any other motion at a succeeding meeting.
6. The Council on Constitution and Bylaws, in consultation with the speakers, will review the House of Delegates Reference Manual and revise it accordingly. [Report of the Speakers: Rep. 02, A-16; Modified: CCB Rep. 01, A-17]

### **G-600.060 Introducing Business to the AMA House**

AMA policy on introducing business to our AMA House includes the following:

1. Delegates submitting resolutions have a responsibility to review the Resolution checklist and verify that the resolution is in compliance. The Resolution checklist shall be distributed to all delegates and organizations in the HOD prior to each meeting, as well as be posted on the HOD website.
2. An Information Statement can be used to bring an issue to the awareness of the HOD or the public, draw attention to existing policy for purposes of emphasis, or simply make a statement. Such items will be included in the section of the HOD Handbook for informational items and include appropriate attribution but will not go through the reference committee process, be voted on in the HOD or be incorporated into the Proceedings. If an information statement is extracted, however, it will be managed by the Speaker in an appropriate manner, which may include a simple editorial correction up to and including withdrawal of the information statement.
3. Required information on the budget will be provided to the HOD at a time and format more relevant to the AMA budget process.
4. At the time the resolution is submitted, delegates introducing an item of business for consideration of the House of Delegates must declare any commercial or financial conflict of interest they have as individuals and any such conflict of interest must be noted on the resolution at the time of its distribution.
5. The submission of resolutions calling for similar action to what is already existing AMA policy is discouraged. Organizations represented in the House of Delegates are responsible to search for alternative ways to obtain AMA action on established AMA policy, especially by communicating with the Executive Vice President. The EVP will submit a report to the House detailing the items of business received from organizations represented in the House which he or she considers significant or when requested to do so by the organization, and the actions taken in response to such contacts.
6. Our AMA will continue to safeguard the democratic process in our AMA House of Delegates and ensure that individual delegates are not barred from submitting a resolution directly to the House of Delegates.
7. Our AMA encourages organizations and Sections of the House of Delegates to exercise restraint in submitting items on the day preceding the opening of the House.
8. Resolutions will be placed on the Reaffirmation Consent Calendar when they are identical or substantially identical to existing AMA policy. For resolutions placed on the Reaffirmation Consent Calendar, the pertinent existing policy will be clearly identified by reference to the Policy Database identification number. When practical, the Reaffirmation Consent Calendar should also include a listing of the actions that have been taken on the current AMA policies that are equivalent to the resolutions listed. For resolutions on the Reaffirmation Consent Calendar which are not extracted, the existing, pertinent AMA policy will be deemed to be reaffirmed in lieu of the submitted resolution which resets the sunset clock for ten years.
9. Updates on referred resolutions are included in the chart entitled "Implementation of Resolutions," which is made available to the House. [Sub. Res. 120, A-84; BOT Rep. D and CLRPD Rep. C, I-91; CLRPD Rep. 3 - I-94; CLRPD Rep. 5, I-95; Res. 614, and Special Advisory Committee to the Speaker of the House of Delegates, I-99; Res. 604, I-00; Consolidated: CLRPD Rep. 3, I-01; Modified: CLRPD Rep. 2, A-03; Reaffirmed: BOT Rep. 19, A-04; CC&B Rep. 3, I-08; Modified: CCB/CLRPD Rep. 1, A-12]