

Senate Resolution on Committee Consolidation, et al.

Senate Resolution No. 2843

BY: Senator Smith/Valesky

SENATE RESOLUTION providing for the continuation of the Temporary Committee on Rules and Administration Reform and directing it to develop and submit to the Senate a proposal for consolidation of Standing Committees and guidelines for committee reports no later than December 1, 2009

WHEREAS, The Senate restates its commitment to the continued improvement of the rules of the Senate and to creating a more participatory, effective and transparent legislative process; and

WHEREAS, The effort to reform the legislative process is intended to result in more deliberative committees, which would serve as the locus of legislative activity; and

WHEREAS, The Senate finds there is a need to reform the outdated structure and procedures of its standing committees, as recommended by the report of the Temporary Committee on Rules and Administration Reform on April 21, 2009; and

WHEREAS, The Senate is committed to reducing the total number of standing committees, creating subcommittees in areas of relatively narrow jurisdiction, limiting the number of standing committees on which members serve, and requiring members to be physically present to vote in committee; and

WHEREAS, The public should have access to budgets of committee staffs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Temporary Senate Committee on Rules and Administration Reform, as established in Senate Resolution 8 of 2009 is hereby continued; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Temporary Committee is hereby directed to make specific recommendations for revising the Senate Rules and the Legislative Law with respect to the consolidation of Senate Standing committees, including reducing committee assignments to enable Senators to participate fully in the legislative process, no later than December 1, 2009; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Temporary Committee is also directed to make specific recommendations to create an amendment process in committee, no later than December 1, 2009; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Temporary Committee is also directed to make specific recommendations for guidelines for committee reports under Section 5 (a) of Rule VII of the Senate Rules, no later than December 1, 2009.