

January 9, 1980

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, if there is no objection, the Chair recognizes Senator Fowler for purpose of a brief explanation of the pages 10 through 22, and after that, the Chair is prepared to call upon two or three legislators to respond to General File and then we can take up the rules tomorrow and also start moving...I will alert you now to look over the General File worksheet, pick out the bills that you are responsible for and try to be prepared tomorrow to respond to those. This is over and above what is already on the Special Order. So, Senator Fowler, do you want to proceed with a brief explanation?

SENATOR FOWLER: Right. Section 10, Committee Procedural Rules, what this indicates is that each committee should have its own procedural rules. This is where Appendix Rule A comes into play. That is an option the committees may look at. They may adopt that. They may choose to adopt their own rules. It simply says committees should adopt their own procedural rules. Section 11 is to indicate that if bills are combined and correlated into one, if several bills with similar subject matter are combined into one bill in a committee, that the remaining bills in that committee will then be reported out indefinitely postponed so that they would not be used for any other function or anything else added in there. If it has been consolidated, it is felt that the issue has been presented to the Legislature. There is no need for the bill to stay alive. Section 12, page 14, we left that one as is after some discussion as far as notice of public hearing. Section 13, page 15, this just slightly changes the intent where previously we had said that state officials and department heads or designees and state employees may appear before any legislative committee. This is to go a little further and indicate this Legislature has encouraged them to do so, that we are interested in having those comments presented at public hearings so that we can get their perspective with regards to legislation that affects their agency or department. It really is just a statement of policy and doesn't require the attendance of anyone. Section 14 writes into the rules what already is basically understood as far as executive sessions and it creates a category called "closed meetings". It defines executive session basically as they are and it indicates they shall be open to the news media. Now we do strike language that indicates reports on votes shall be as follows. We strike that not to limit the ability of news media to report votes. I want to make that clear, we are not saying news media no longer can report votes. Rather we felt the language is no longer necessary, and that since executive sessions are open to members of the news media, they would be free to