FIRST DRAFT:

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for the Legislative Procedure and Arrangements Committee December 2023

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE AND SENATE RULES 321 AND 322 AND CREATION OF JOINT RULE 1005

1	SECTION 1	AMENDMENT.	House Rule	321 is	amended a	s follows:
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321. Vote by members.

- 1. Every member who is present, before the vote is announced from the chair, shall vote for or against the question before the House, unless the House excuses the member. A member cannot cast a vote on behalf of another member unless the vote is cast according to verbal instructions announced to the House by that other member while in the chamber. However, anyAny member who has a personal or private interest in any measure or bill shall disclose the fact to the House and may not voteabstain from voting thereon withoutwith the consent of the House. A "personal or private interest" is an interest that affects the member directly, individually, uniquely, and substantially.
- 2. A member cannot cast a vote on behalf of another member unless the vote is cast according to verbal instructions announced to the House by that other member while in the chamber.
- **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** House Rule 322 is amended as follows:
- 322. Procedure in excusing member from voting. When a member asks to be excused, or declines to vote from voting, the member shall be required to state the member's reasons.

 Upon motion, the question must be put to the House, "Shall the member, for the reasons stated, be permitted to vote excused from voting?" which must be decided without debate. These proceedings must occur before the taking of the vote.
 - **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Senate Rule 321 is amended as follows:

321. Vote by members.

1. Every member who is present, before the vote is announced from the chair, shall vote for or against the question before the Senate, unless the Senate excuses the member. If the member has not voted before the key is closed, the member shall vote before the vote is announced. A member cannot cast a vote on behalf of another member unless the vote is cast according to verbal instructions announced to the Senate by that other member while present. However, anyAny member who has a personal or private interest in any measure or bill shall disclose the fact to the Senate and may not voteabstain from voting thereon withoutwith the consent of the Senate. A "personal or

1 private interest" is an interest that affects the member directly, individually, uniquely, 2 and substantially. 3 A member cannot cast a vote on behalf of another member unless the vote is cast 2. 4 according to verbal instructions announced to the Senate by that other member while 5 present. 6 If the member has not voted before the key is closed, the member shall vote before 7 the vote is announced. 8 SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Senate Rule 322 is amended as follows: 9 **322. Procedure in excusing member from voting.** When a member asks to be excused. 10 or declines to vote from voting, the member shall be required to state the member's reasons. 11 Upon motion, the question must be put to the Senate, "Shall the member, for the reasons 12 stated, be permitted to voteexcused from voting?" which must be decided without debate. 13 These proceedings must occur before the taking of the vote. 14 **SECTION 5.** Joint Rule 1005 is created as follows: 15 1005. Vote by committee members - Personal or private interest. Every committee 16 member who is present shall vote for or against the question before the committee unless the 17 committee excuses the member. Any member who has a personal or private interest in any 18 measure or bill shall disclose the fact to the committee and may abstain from voting on the bill 19 or measure with the consent of the committee. When a member asks to be excused from 20 voting, the member shall be required to state the member's reasons. Upon motion, the question

must be put to the committee, "Shall the member, for the reasons stated, be excused from

voting?" which must be decided without debate. These proceedings must occur before the

taking of the vote. A "personal or private interest" is an interest affecting the member directly.

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individually, uniquely, and substantially.