Assembly Resolution No. 218

BY: M. of A. Barclay

AMENDING section 6 of Rule V of the Assembly Rules, in relation to the length of debate on bills

RESOLVED, That section 6 of Rule V of the Assembly Rules is amended to read as follows:

§ 6. Debate. a. No member rising to debate, to give notice, make a motion or report, or to present a petition or other paper, shall proceed until such member shall have addressed the Speaker from his or her place and has been recognized by the Speaker. While a member is speaking, no member shall entertain any private discourse or pass between the member speaking and the Chair.

b. Unless otherwise provided by these Rules, no member shall speak, except in his or her place, nor more than once on any bill or amendment, without leave of the House and no member shall speak for more than fifteen minutes except by consent of two-thirds of the members present. The floor leader of each conference or his or her designee may be granted a second, additional fifteen minutes to speak during the debate on any bill or amendment. **All members shall be granted a second, additional fifteen minutes to speak during the debate on any budget bill or bill accompanied by a message of necessity.** Consideration of any bill and amendment**, not including any budget bill or bill accompanied by a message of necessity,** shall not exceed five hours; with four hours allocated for debate and up to one hour allocated for explanations of vote; provided, however that a member desiring to explain his or her vote upon the final passage of a bill or upon the passage of a resolution requiring the expenditure of money may make a brief statement, not to exceed two minutes, in explanation of such vote; and further provided that in addition to the foregoing, the sponsor of a bill may make a statement not to exceed five minutes for the purpose of opening debate on such bill. Except as otherwise provided by these Rules for concurrent resolutions, no member shall speak more than once and for no more than five minutes on any resolution without leave of the House. Debate on any resolution, except **for resolutions amending or suspending the Rules of the Assembly or** as otherwise provided, shall be limited to thirty minutes. Members may be granted permission to submit a written statement to extend upon their remarks on the floor for the record; such remarks must comply in all respects with the rules and customs and practices of the House relating to debate to be included in the record.

c. If any member, in speaking, transgresses the Rules of the House, the Speaker may call such member to order, in which case the member so called to order shall immediately sit down, and shall not rise unless to explain or proceed in order.

d. While the Speaker is putting a question, or a roll call is in progress or a count is being had, no member shall speak or leave his or her place. When the House shall be equally divided on any question,

including the Speaker's vote, the question shall be deemed to be lost. All questions relating to the priority of one question or subject matter over another, under the same order of business, shall be decided without

debate. If any question contains several distinct propositions, it shall be divided by the Chair at the request of any member, but a motion to strike out and insert shall be indivisible. All questions of order, as they shall occur, with the decisions thereon, shall be entered in the Journal, and, at the close of the session, a statement of all such questions and decisions shall be printed at the close of and as an appendix to the Journal.