

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE AND HOUSE RULES 319

1 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Senate Rule 319 is amended as follows:

2 **319. Division of question.**

- 3 1. If a question before the Senate contains more than one proposal, any member may
4 have the question divided, except a question on the adoption of a conference
5 committee report or on the second reading and final passage of a measure resulting
6 from the adoption of a conference committee report may not be divided.
- 7 2. A request to divide a question may be made only after the question has been stated
8 but before the [first][second] member has spoken on the question.
- 9 3. A question containing more than one proposal may be divided only if each resulting
10 division is so distinct and separate it can stand as a complete proposition without
11 being rewritten.
- 12 ~~3.4.~~ Each division of a divided question requires the same vote for adoption that the
13 division would require if it stood alone.
- 14 4.5. After voting on all divisions, the approved divisions comprise the question before the
15 Senate.

16 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** House Rule 319 is amended as follows:

17 **319. Division of question.**

- 18 1. If a question before the House contains more than one proposal, any member may
19 have the question divided, except a question on the adoption of a conference
20 committee report or on the second reading and final passage of a measure resulting
21 from the adoption of a conference committee report may not be divided.
- 22 2. A request to divide a question may be made only after the question has been stated
23 but before the [first][second] member has spoken on the question.
- 24 3. A question containing more than one proposal may be divided only if each resulting
25 division is so distinct and separate it can stand as a complete proposition without
26 being rewritten.
- 27 ~~3.4.~~ Each division of a divided question requires the same vote for adoption that the
28 division would require if it stood alone.

1 4.5. After voting on all divisions, the approved divisions comprise the question before the
2 House.

NOTE: This proposed rules amendment is in response to the following question raised by Representative William E. Kretschmar: "Division of a question. Should the request be made before the matter is being debated on the floor, or as we have done, allow a division during floor debate?"

Mason's, Section 101(7) provides: "Debate begins with the statement of the question and ends when the question is put to vote and the vote is announced." Thus, debate technically begins when the question is stated. The intent of the first alternative is to require a request to divide a question before the "real" debate has begun, i.e., before anyone speaks on the question. The intent of the second alternative is to require the request to be made after the first person (the carrier) has spoken but before anyone else has spoken.