

1 **PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION**

2 **RULES OF PROCEDURE**

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4 **I. COMMISSION: ESTABLISHMENT AND AUTHORITY**

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6 **A.** Constitutional Framework: The Public Education Commission (the “Commission”  
7 or “PEC”) is an elected body established pursuant to Article XII, Section 6 of the  
8 New Mexico Constitution. It is an independent agency of the State of New Mexico.  
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- 10 **B.** Creation Authority, Committees: The Commission may establish committees,  
11 standing or ad-hoc, as it shall from time to time deem necessary to carry on its  
12 work. Standing committees may only be created by the Commission as a whole  
13 upon a majority vote during a regularly scheduled meeting of the body. Ad-hoc  
14 committees may be formed at discretion of the Chairperson or by a majority vote of  
15 the Commission. Committee members shall be appointed by the Chairperson. The  
16 Chairperson shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. If a committee  
17 consists of 6 or more members, then, that committee meeting shall comply with the  
18 Open Meetings Act.  
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- 20 **C.** Effective Dates: These Rules shall become effective upon their adoption by the  
21 Commission. Rules of Procedure shall be presented to and adopted by the  
22 Commission at the annual meeting of each year. Rules of Procedure adopted by  
23 the Commission shall remain in effect unless suspended by a two-thirds vote of  
24 the Commission during a scheduled meeting or the adoption of new Rules at the  
25 annual meeting of the year or as otherwise amended at the discretion of the  
26 Commission during a properly noticed open meeting.  
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28 **II. MEMBERS: DUTIES AND CONDUCT**

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30 **A.** Duties of Commission Members (“Commissioners”):  
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- 32 1. It is the policy of the Commission to encourage the active participation of all  
33 Commissioners in all aspects of the Commission’s activities, including  
34 active service in the leadership. Commissioners are expected to attend all  
35 regular, special, and emergency Commission meetings.  
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  - 37 2. Commissioners are expected to educate themselves regarding issues and  
38 requirements concerning education in New Mexico. Commissioners are  
39 further expected to avail themselves of educational opportunities to keep  
40 abreast of such issues, including training conducted by the Public  
41 Education Department (the “Department” or “PED”) and trainings for local  
42 school board members.

1 3. It is expected that Commissioners will express themselves  
2 both as individuals and as representatives of the  
3 Commission. When a Commissioner expresses an opinion  
4 or articulates a position on an issue related to Commission  
5 business, the Commissioner shall clearly state whether he,  
6 she or they is/are speaking as an individual or as a  
7 representative of the Commission. Unless otherwise  
8 delegated by the Commission, the Chairperson shall act as  
9 the default representative of the Commission. However, in  
10 legislative affairs or meetings with the PED Secretary, the  
11 Chairperson must be clear in all communications when the  
12 Chairperson is speaking for the Commission, as  
13 representative of at least a majority of the Commissioners.  
14 Otherwise, the Chairperson shall indicate that any opinions  
15 stated are personal opinions.

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17 **B. Code of Conduct:**

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19 1. The Commission, and each Commissioner, is expected to  
20 conduct business in a professional manner with respect  
21 between and among individual Commissioners. The  
22 expectation of respectful behavior extends to interactions  
23 with members of the public and staff.

24  
25 Each Commissioner should answer questions from his, her or their  
26 constituents or assist in resolving problems arising within his, her  
27 or their district in conformity with Commission guidance.  
28 Commissioners who receive inquiries from constituents other than  
29 their own shall refer the matter to the Commissioner from which the  
30 constituent resides. Responses to inquiries addressed to or  
31 affecting the Commission, as a whole, may be coordinated by the  
32 Chairperson, as needed.

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34 **C. Conflict of Interest:**

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36 No Commissioner shall engage in any activity which gives rise to a  
37 conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest with the  
38 performance of his, her or their duties as a Commissioner. In  
39 addition to other statutory requirements, Commissioners are subject  
40 to the provisions of the Governmental Conduct Act (Section 10-16-1  
41 et seq. NMSA 1978); and the Financial Disclosure Act (Section 10-  
42 16A-1 et seq. NMSA 1978). It is unlawful for a public officer or  
43 employee to take an official act for the primary purpose of  
44 enhancing his, her or their own financial interest or financial position,  
45 nor shall a Commissioner vote on a question in which the member  
46 has a financial interest not common to other members of the  
47 Commission.

48  
49 **D. Ethical Conduct**

1 Each Commissioner shall respect the ethical duties of holding a  
2 publicly elected office. The New Mexico State Ethics Commission  
3 oversees and enforces ethical conduct of elected officials, including  
4 PEC Commissioners.  
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6 **III. OFFICERS: SELECTION AND DUTIES**

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8 **A. Officers:**

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10 **1. Chairperson.**

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12 **a.** The Chairperson shall call to order and preside at  
13 Commission meetings pursuant to the Commission's  
14 adopted parliamentary rules and all applicable  
15 regulations. To address the Commission, a  
16 Commissioner or member of the public must be  
17 recognized by the Chairperson. The Chairperson  
18 shall rule on motions, moderate the floor during  
19 debate, and conduct meetings in a manner to  
20 maintain decorum and discussion.

21  
22 **b.** When the Chairperson wishes to speak, except in  
23 cases of providing order, the Chairperson joins the  
24 queue and then takes his, her or their turn as  
25 appropriate.  
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28 **2. Vice-Chairperson.** The Vice-Chairperson, in the absence of  
29 the Chairperson or at the request of the Chairperson in  
30 his/her or their place, shall serve in the interim as  
31 Chairperson and assume such powers and duties thereof.  
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33 **3. Secretary of the Commission ("Secretary").**

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35 **a.** The Secretary will call the role, including roll call  
36 votes, at each Commission meeting and perform  
37 other duties as otherwise established or agreed upon  
38 with the Chairperson.  
39

40 **b.** The Secretary, in the absence of the Chairperson  
41 and Vice-Chairperson or at the request of the  
42 Chairperson, shall serve in the interim as  
43 Chairperson and assume such powers and duties  
44 thereof.  
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46 **B. Selection of Officers:**

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48 **1.** Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting of the  
49 calendar year. Officers shall be elected for a term of one (1)  
50 year and will serve until the annual election the subsequent

1 calendar year, except in the case of resignation or removal  
2 from office. The acting Chairperson shall preside over the  
3 election unless the duty is delegated to another officer. In the  
4 event the acting Chairperson accepts a nomination, he, she  
5 or they shall delegate the duty to preside over the election of  
6 the position in which the acting Chairperson is being  
7 considered for.  
8

- 9           **2.** The Chairperson shall be elected first, followed by the Vice-  
10 chairperson and Secretary. Nothing shall prohibit a member  
11 from running for more than one officer position so long as no  
12 member accepts or serves in more than one position at a  
13 given time.  
14  
15           **3.** Each position requires a nomination. Nominations may either  
16 be offered by another member of the commission or by self-  
17 nomination. The nominated Commissioner shall either  
18 accept or decline the nomination. No second is required for a  
19 nomination. After nominations are closed, Commissioners  
20 shall record their votes in a manner consistent with the Open  
21 Meetings Act. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote. In  
22 the event that no candidate receives a majority, a runoff vote  
23 shall be conducted between the two (2) candidates receiving  
24 the greatest number of votes. In the event that a tie persists  
25 after three (3) ballot attempts to elect any officer, the winner  
26 shall be decided by an equal game of chance, such as a roll  
27 of dice, coin toss, or card draw. The results from this game  
28 of chance shall be verified by a roll call attestation by the  
29 Commission.  
30  
31           **4.** Officers elected at an annual meeting shall take office upon  
32 the conclusion of the meeting. Officers elected at any other  
33 meeting shall take office immediately upon election.  
34  
35           **5.** Any vacancies shall be filled pursuant to the rules above at  
36 the next regular commission meeting so long as such notice  
37 is provided pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.  
38

39 **IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

- 40  
41           **A.** Membership and Organization. The Executive Committee shall be  
42 composed of the officers of the Commission.  
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44           **B.** Responsibilities. The Executive Committee will perform the  
45 following, as directed by the Commission:  
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47           **1.** Perform governmental relation functions on behalf of the  
48 Commission without prior discussion and direction of the  
49 Commission.  
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2. Assist the Commission in making policy recommendations to the Secretary of Public Education regarding legislative initiatives in support of public education. Recommendations to the Secretary must be discussed at a public meeting as an agenda item and approved by a majority of the Commission.
3. Meet with the Commission's assigned legal counsel to request and receive legal advice on behalf of the Commission. Any formal legal actions must be discussed at a public meeting as an agenda item and approved by a majority of the Commission.
4. Establish the proposed agenda for each Commission meeting, including work sessions, or study sessions.
- ~~5.~~ Approve or deny contractor requests for reimbursement.
6. Any other function delegated to it by a majority vote of the Commission.

**V. MEETINGS:**

- A. Annual Meeting: The annual meeting shall be the first regular meeting of each calendar year. The Commission shall adopt Rules of Procedure and conduct officer elections at the annual meeting. If the Commission is unable to adopt new Rules of Procedure, the most recent Rules of Procedure shall be in effect until new rules are adopted at the Commission's earliest opportunity. If unable to conduct an election, the prior year's officers shall serve until an election can be conducted at the Commission's earliest opportunity.
- B. Regular Meetings: The regular meetings of the Commission shall be held each month, on the third Thursday and following Friday, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission or dictated by other events or religious holidays or observances. The Commission should establish the dates of the regular meetings, work sessions and study sessions for the year no later than the annual meeting. The Commission may change the calendar during the year as needed. Said changes must be posted. The Commission shall comply with minimum meeting requirements pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 9-24-9 (2004).
- C. Special Meetings: Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson or upon the written request or vote of a majority of the Commission.
- D. Executive Session: The Commission may hold executive (closed) sessions as provided by the Open Meetings Act. The Commission will not enter Executive Session for discussion prior to vote on renewal/nonrenewal or initial application approval/denial or

1 revocation of charter schools unless the privacy rights of an  
2 individual may be compromised.

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4 **E. Telephonic or Video Participation:**

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7 1. Telephonic or video attendance must be requested and  
8 approved by the Chairperson in advance of a meeting.  
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10 2. Telephonic or video attendance must comply with the Open  
11 Meetings Act and shall only be permitted when circumstances  
12 have occurred that would make attendance in-person difficult  
13 or impossible, or during a public health emergency order.  
14  
15 3. Video attendance means a Commissioner is participating by  
16 simultaneous remote electronic means and is visually  
17 present as confirmed by the Chair. Video attendance counts  
18 as attendance for the purposes of establishing a quorum,  
19 doing business, voting on a motion or the receipt of per diem.  
20  
21 4. Even if permitted by the Chairperson, telephonic or video  
22 attendance shall not be permitted, if each member  
23 participating by conference telephone cannot be identified  
24 when speaking, all other attending Commissioners are not  
25 able to hear each other at the same time, and members of  
26 the public attending the meeting are not able to hear the  
27 Commissioner(s) attending by telephone or video. If  
28 technological malfunctions prevent all members from hearing  
29 each other or from the public hearing the telephonically or  
30 video attending member(s), then that attending member(s)  
31 must be withdrawn from further participation until the  
32 malfunction is corrected. The record of the Commission will  
33 reflect these circumstances if they occur.

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35 **F. Quorum:**

- 36  
37 1. Per statute, a majority of the total membership of the  
38 Commission shall constitute a quorum.  
39  
40 2. Commissioners may attend meetings as voting members by  
41 telephone or video conference, and their attendance shall  
42 count towards the quorum.  
43  
44 a. The Chairperson or designee shall provide PED with  
45 as much advance notice as possible of any  
46 Commissioners who will be attending an upcoming  
47 meeting by telephonic or video attendance so that  
48 appropriate arrangements may be made.  
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**G. Public Notice:**

1. Open Meetings Act. The Commission shall comply with all requirements pursuant to the New Mexico Open Meetings Act.
2. Minutes. Minutes shall be kept of all Commission meetings in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. The Commission must formally approve all minutes before they become an official record of the body.
3. The Commission shall ensure that a certified transcript of a Regular monthly meeting or Special meeting is prepared.

**H. Agenda:**

1. The Executive Committee will be responsible for establishing the proposed-agenda for each meeting of the Commission.
2. Individual Commissioners may make a written request to the Executive Committee to include items on the next month's agenda that were not previously discussed at a Commission meeting. If at least two (2) Commissioners make a written request to the Executive Committee to include the same item on the next month's agenda, the item shall be included on

1 the agenda. Agenda requests must be received at least ten  
2 (10) business days prior to the date of the meeting.

- 3  
4 **3.** An individual or representative of an organization seeking to  
5 have the Commission consider an item as a noticed agenda  
6 item may make a written request to the Executive Committee  
7 at least ten (10) business days prior to the start of the  
8 meeting. The decision to include the request on the next  
9 meeting's agenda shall be determined at the discretion of  
10 the Executive Committee.  
11  
12 **4.** If the Executive Committee does not include on the next  
13 meeting's agenda, an item requested by an individual or  
14 representative of an organization, that item may be  
15 considered for inclusion on the subsequent meeting's  
16 agenda by a vote of a majority of the Commission.  
17  
18 **5.** At the beginning of each meeting, the proposed agenda will  
19 be voted on, and may be amended, by a majority of the  
20 Commission.

21  
22 **I. Public Comment:**

- 23  
24 **1.** The Commission shall include an opportunity for public  
25 comment during each regular meeting at the beginning of  
26 each meeting or during the discussion on each noticed  
27 agenda item. Public comment shall be limited to three (3)  
28 minutes per person or decreased to no less than two (2)  
29 minutes at the discretion of the Chairperson dependent on  
30 the number of signed in participants. At the discretion of the  
31 Chairperson time may be extended.  
32  
33 **2.** The Chairperson may allow for public comments under the  
34 following parameters:  
35  
36 **a.** maintain consistent time limitations for presentation;  
37  
38 **b.** at the discretion of the Chair, discourage, and, if  
39 necessary, rule multiple or repetitious presentations  
40 out of order; and  
41  
42 **c.** rule out of order presentations that are a matter of  
43 pending litigation, disruptive to the conduct of the  
44 meeting, outside the Commission's scope of  
45 business or authority, or contain information that is  
46 confidential under applicable law.  
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48 **d.** The Chairperson shall read the rules of engagement  
49 in Public Forum prior to beginning.  
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**J. Action by the Commission; Voting:**

1. Recusal and Abstention. A Commissioner shall, before the consideration of any agenda item, disclose whether he or she has any financial interest in that agenda item, and whether there are any facts which would give rise to undue influence, or an appearance of undue influence, as considered under the Governmental Conduct Act, Gift Act, or Procurement Code with respect to that agenda item.
  - a. A Commissioner shall recuse himself, herself or themselves from the discussion, consideration and voting on any issue in which he, she or they has/have a financial interest, a conflict of interest, the appearance of a conflict of interest, undue influence, or the appearance of undue influence.
  - b. In the event that a Commissioner, who has disclosed a financial interest, or a conflict of interest or undue influence, or the appearance of one, does not recuse himself, herself or themselves, the Commission may, by a vote of amajority of members present, require the Commissioner making the disclosure to rescue himself, herself or themselves.
  - c. A Commissioner should consider whether to recuse himself, herself or themselves from a vote if the Commissioner has entered into a discussion and rendered an opinion outside of a PEC meeting with a school about the topic that involves a pending authorization, contract decision, or another vote that may become before the Commission in the current school year.
  - d. A Commissioner shall recuse from any matter in which the Commissioner is unable to make a fair and impartial decision. A Commissioner should consider whether to recuse from any matter in which the Commissioner has made a public statement or communication outside of a PEC meeting that would indicate the Commissioner has predetermined his, her or their vote, or in which there is a reasonable doubt about whether the Commissioner can make a fair and impartial decision.
  - e. A recused Commissioner shall not participate in the discussion or consideration with respect to that agenda item, shall not attend any portion of a closed session involving the agenda item, and shall not vote on such agenda item. A Commissioner must state his,

1 her or their intent to recuse and his, her or their reason  
2 for the recusal prior to the agenda item discussion. A  
3 Commissioner may abstain from a vote but may  
4 participate in the discussion.  
5

6 f. If a Commissioner refuses to recuse himself, herself  
7 or themselves a simple majority of the members  
8 attending the meeting at which the vote is conducted  
9 may require that Commissioner to recuse himself,  
10 herself or themselves.  
11

12 2. Action. The Commission shall proceed by motion. Any  
13 Commissioner, including the Chairperson, may make a  
14 motion. Motions require a second by another Commissioner  
15 before debate or a vote, except as otherwise adopted by the  
16 Commission.  
17

18 3. Debate.

- 19 a. After a motion is seconded, the Chairperson shall  
20 restate the motion and then open the floor for debate.  
21
- 22 b. The Chairperson shall recognize all Commissioners  
23 who wish to engage in the debate in the order in  
24 which they indicate a desire to address the body.  
25
- 26 c. The Chairperson is granted the discretion to continue  
27 debate and to disallow points off topic. After all  
28 Commissioners who wanted to speak have spoken at  
29 least once, any Commissioner may “call the  
30 question”, triggering a vote to end the debate.  
31  
32

33 4. Voting.

- 34 a. The Chairperson shall call for the negative vote, no  
35 matter how unanimous the affirmative vote may  
36 appear.  
37
- 38 b. It is the duty of each Commissioner who has an  
39 opinion to express it by vote. Each Commissioner is  
40 entitled to one (1) vote and may not delegate voting  
41 rights to any other person.  
42
- 43 c. A Commissioner who does not have adequate  
44 information on which to judge the merits of a matter  
45 or who is simply unable to make a decision in the  
46 matter may abstain from voting.  
47  
48

49 i. Although a member cannot be compelled to vote,  
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1 abstentions generally should be the exception.

2  
3 ii. Any abstention shall be noted to the body. An  
4 abstention must be noted before any  
5 Commissioners begin voting. An explanation for  
6 the abstention shall be given at the time the  
7 Commissioner indicates the abstention.

8  
9 iii. Abstentions shall not be counted in the tally of the  
10 vote unless the vote requires approval based on  
11 the number of the entire body.

12  
13 d. Roll Call Votes. When required, roll shall be called by  
14 the Secretary or, in the absence of the Secretary, a  
15 Commissioner as designated by the Chairperson, and  
16 the vote of each Commissioner shall be announced  
17 and noted in the record.

18  
19 e. Division. Any member may verify a voice vote or vote  
20 by a show of hands by calling "division" during or  
21 immediately thereafter a vote.

22  
23 **K. Inclement Weather Policy:**

24  
25 1. It shall be the policy of this Commission, with respect to  
26 inclement weather delays and closures, to follow the schedule  
27 of the local school district within which the meeting is being  
28 held. For example, should a meeting be held in Santa Fe and  
29 the Santa Fe Public School District be on a two-hour delay  
30 due to inclement weather, the meeting of this Commission  
31 shall also be on a two hour delay or shall start at 11 a.m.,  
32 whichever is later.

33  
34 2. However, in the event of a closure in the local school district  
35 due to inclement weather the meeting of the Commission is  
36 deemed canceled and shall be rescheduled to meet within  
37 ten (10) business days and noticed in compliance with the  
38 Open Meetings Act.

39  
40 **VI. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY:**

41  
42 These Rules of Procedure are the rules by which the Commission conducts  
43 its business. These rules may be revised twice annually, pursuant to the  
44 rules below. For circumstances not covered by these rules, the Chair may  
45 at his, her or their discretion employ any commonly known rules of  
46 parliamentary order, such as Robert's Rules of Order to manage the  
47 business of the Commission.

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49 **VII. PER DIEM AND MILEAGE:**

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Approved 8/27/21 by the PEC

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- A. Commissioners shall be reimbursed as provided in the Per Diem and Mileage Act for related expenses incurred in the discharge of official duties, including attending noticed regular or special meetings and working group meetings of the Commission.
  
- B. For purposes of the Per Diem and Mileage Act reimbursement, attendance as a Liaison on behalf of the Commission will be reimbursed as long as:
  - 1. The business is conducted for the purpose of fulfilling the obligations of Commission.
  - 2. A Liaison will only be reimbursed for travel if he, she or they is/are the primary Liaison or he, she or they was/were asked to attend a meeting on behalf of the primary Liaison.
  - 3. A Liaison should only attend a meeting if information will be transmitted or if business will be conducted that is reasonably related to the business of the Commission.
  - 4. A Liaison shall not be reimbursed for attending a subcommittee meeting unless the prior authorization of the Commission through the Executive Committee is received in writing to support such reimbursement.
  
- C. Any other reimbursable activity of a Commissioner requires prior authorization by the Executive Committee. Reimbursement will only be approved if attendance constitutes business of the Commission as a whole.
  
- D. Public funds shall be paid out under the Per Diem and Mileage Act only in compliance with the Act's requirements. Commissioners must provide a certification and receipts if required by the NM Department of Finance and Administration (DFA).
  
- E. Out-of-State Travel:
  - 1. Extent of out-of-state travel will be subject to budgetary availability and approval of a simple majority of the Commission, in advance.

**VIII. EFFECTIVE DATE, AMENDMENTS, AND REVISIONS:**

- A. There will be an annual review of the Rules of Procedure in February. The Executive Committee or any Commissioner may initiate amendments or revisions to the Rules of Procedure by recommending placement of the item on the agenda. The text of such proposed amendments or revisions shall be provided in writing to the Commissioners at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which the amendment or revision will be considered. Any

- 1 amendments or revisions will be on the agenda for two consecutive
- 2 meetings. A vote may be taken at the second meeting after the
- 3 second reading.
- 4
- 5 **B.** Amendments to the Rules of Procedure may be proposed by any
- 6 Commissioner for inclusion in the annual discussion on the Rules of
- 7 Order in January or for special consideration at the Commission's
- 8 June meeting. Upon receipt of such proposal, at least 30 days prior
- 9 to the January or June meeting, the Chairperson shall include notice
- 10 of the proposed changes on the January or June agenda, whichever
- 11 is next.
- 12
- 13 **C.** These rules may be amended by a simple majority of the members
- 14 attending the meeting at which the vote is conducted.
- 15
- 16 **D.** These Rules shall become effective upon adoption by the
- 17 Commission.
- 18
- 19 **E.** Amendments shall become effective upon adoption by the
- 20 Commission.