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HR 4607 - H AMD 1 By Representative Connors

NOT ADOPTED 01/24/2025

1 On page 5, after line 19, insert the following:

"Legislators are entitled to due process rights during a complaint and investigation process authorized or conducted by the executive rules committee. If a complaint is filed against a member, and an investigation is authorized, the member must be immediately provided a notice of investigation. The notice of investigation must be in writing and include: The scope of the investigation; specific allegations and a citation to the corresponding section or sections of the house's personnel policy, code of conduct, or law allegedly violated; and a description of evidence resulting in the decision to investigate. Only the executive rules committee may authorize an investigation and only the executive rules committee may approve investigator selection.

After receiving the notice of investigation, the member must be given three business days to agree to, or dispute, the allegations. If the member agrees to have committed the alleged violations, the investigation will not proceed. However, if an investigation is authorized, the scope of the investigation must be limited to the actual complaint as filed and the member must be provided the following protections:

- (A) Complaint and investigation details must remain confidential unless there is a finding of wrongdoing by the member and the investigation is closed. If there is a finding of wrongdoing by the member, the investigation may not be closed until the member has been given 10 business days to appeal and: (1) The member chooses not to appeal; or (2) the executive rules committee has made a final determination on the appeal.
- 28 <u>(B) The member must be given the opportunity to present evidence</u> 29 <u>or other relevant information to the executive rules committee in the</u> 30 <u>member's defense before a finding is determined.</u>

If an appeal is requested and three executive rules committee
members vote to accept the appeal, an independent investigator, who
is not employed by the same entity as the first investigator, must be

- 1 <u>hired to review the report. This investigator must provide the</u>
- 2 <u>investigator's professional opinion as to fairness and thoroughness</u>
- 3 of the investigation and whether it was conducted in accordance with
- 4 <u>industry standards. The investigator may determine that further</u>
- 5 <u>investigation</u> is required but any further investigation may only
- 6 relate to the complaint as initially filed.
- 7 If any of the member's rights under this rule are violated, those
- 8 <u>violations must be included in the final report.</u>"

 ${\tt EFFECT:}$ Amends Rule 6 by providing due process procedures for a House member who is subject to investigation by the executive rules committee.

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