

By: Representative Hudson

To: Rules; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 373

1 AN ACT TO AMEND HOUSE RULE 11A OF THE 2016-2020 RULES OF THE  
2 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TO AUTHORIZE NO MORE THAN TWO PERSONAL  
3 STAFF EMPLOYEES FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE HOUSE; TO REQUIRE  
4 MANAGEMENT TO AUTHORIZE A CERTAIN AMOUNT EACH YEAR TO EACH MEMBER  
5 FOR COMPENSATION OF SUCH STAFF; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE  
7 OF MISSISSIPPI, That Rule 11A of the 2016-2020 Rules of the House  
8 of Representatives is amended as follows:

9 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

10 11A. (1) There is created the House of Representatives  
11 Management Committee (hereinafter Management Committee) to be  
12 composed of the Speaker Pro Tempore, who shall serve as chairman,  
13 the Speaker, one (1) member from the state at large appointed by  
14 the Speaker, and eight (8) other representatives, two (2) from  
15 each congressional district of Mississippi as constituted on  
16 January 1, 2016, to be elected by caucus of the representatives  
17 from each such district. The place of residence of a  
18 representative shall determine the congressional district caucus  
19 in which the representative shall participate and from which the



20 representative may hold membership on the Management Committee.  
21 The members of the Management Committee shall select, from among  
22 its members, a vice chairman and secretary.

23           The members of the Management Committee shall be elected  
24 during the first calendar week of each regular session having one  
25 hundred twenty-five (125) calendar days. Members shall serve a  
26 term of four (4) years, and each member's term shall end on the  
27 date on which the member's term in the House of Representatives  
28 expires.

29           (2) No member of the Management Committee shall serve  
30 concurrently as a member of the House Rules Committee, except that  
31 the Speaker and the Speaker Pro Tempore shall serve on the Rules  
32 Committee as provided in Rule 11.

33           (3) Any vacancy of a congressional district position  
34 occurring during a regular annual legislative session shall be  
35 filled by election by the appropriate caucus within ten (10)  
36 calendar days after the vacancy occurs. Any vacancy occurring  
37 between regular annual legislative sessions shall be filled by  
38 election by the appropriate caucus during the first five (5)  
39 calendar days of the next succeeding regular or special session of  
40 the Legislature.

41           (4) The Management Committee shall meet at such times  
42 as are necessary for the proper exercise of its functions, and  
43 shall have the authority to adopt policies, rules and regulations,



44 not inconsistent with these rules, as it deems necessary for the  
45 efficient operation of the committee.

46 (5) Action by a majority vote of the Management  
47 Committee shall control and be conclusive on any matter properly  
48 concerning the House of Representatives.

49 (6) The committee shall function on a year-round basis  
50 and when the Legislature is not in session, members of the  
51 committee shall be compensated as provided in Section 25-3-69,  
52 Mississippi Code of 1972, for each day spent in actual discharge  
53 of their duties and shall be reimbursed for mileage and actual  
54 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. No  
55 committee member may incur per diem, travel or other expenses  
56 unless authorized by vote at a meeting of the committee, which  
57 action shall be recorded in the official minutes of the committee.

58 (7) The Management Committee, in addition to its other  
59 responsibilities, shall perform the following duties:

60 (a) Conduct the business affairs of the House of  
61 Representatives;

62 (b) Investigate the feasibility of new and  
63 additional staff agencies and make recommendations to the House of  
64 Representatives;

65 (c) Assign such space in the Capitol or in such  
66 other buildings or parts thereof as may be reserved for the House  
67 of Representatives and have complete control, authority and  
68 jurisdiction over such rooms, chambers, offices and other areas.



69 Any assignment of space shall be subject to change by the  
70 Management Committee. No other branch of the government, or a  
71 department or agency thereof, shall use any room, chamber, office  
72 or other area without specific written authorization from the  
73 Management Committee. The Management Committee is authorized to  
74 delegate its powers with regard to any such room, chamber, office  
75 or other area in connection with the maintenance, repairing,  
76 construction, reconstruction and refurbishing thereof in such a  
77 manner as it deems advisable;

78 (d) Staff interim committees;

79 (e) Staff standing committees; and

80 (f) Continually assess ways and means to improve  
81 the organization, procedures, facilities and working conditions of  
82 the House of Representatives.

83 (8) The Management Committee shall have the authority  
84 to designate a director, who may also serve as the Clerk or as the  
85 Director of the House Legislative Services Office, and who shall  
86 carry out the directives of the Management Committee and shall  
87 perform any and all duties of the Management Committee delegated  
88 to him or her. The Management Committee may employ other  
89 personnel as may be necessary to discharge its duties and  
90 responsibilities. All such personnel shall serve at the pleasure  
91 of the Management Committee.



92           The Management Committee shall also have the authority to fix  
93 the salaries of all personnel employed by the House of  
94 Representatives.

95           All employees of the House of Representatives required to  
96 travel in the performance of official duties shall be reimbursed  
97 for actual subsistence and travel expenses incurred by them while  
98 on official business as provided by law, provided such travel has  
99 prior approval of the Management Committee or the director under  
100 such authority as may be granted to him or her by the Management  
101 Committee.

102           (9) (a) In providing for the staffing of the  
103 committees, the Management Committee shall have the responsibility  
104 for determining the necessity of any staff positions requested by  
105 the chairman of any committee. The persons to be employed for the  
106 positions that are approved by the Management Committee shall be  
107 hired by the committee with approval of the Speaker.

108           (b) At beginning of each term, the Management  
109 Committee shall authorize a certain amount to be expended during  
110 each year of the term for the operation of the Speaker's Office.

111           (c) Each member of the House of Representatives is  
112 authorized to employ no more than two (2) staff employees, who  
113 shall serve as personal staff to the individual member and at the  
114 will and pleasure of the member. At the beginning of each state  
115 fiscal year, the Management Committee shall authorize a certain



116 amount to be expended by each member for the purpose of  
117 compensating the personal staff of each member.

118 (10) The Management Committee, upon request of the  
119 chairman of any standing committee of the House of  
120 Representatives, may authorize expenses, to include per diem,  
121 mileage, meals and lodging, to be paid for members attending the  
122 meeting of any standing committee or subcommittees thereof during  
123 the period in which the Legislature is not in session, which shall  
124 not exceed the compensation provided for members of the Management  
125 Committee provided for in subsection (6) of this rule. The  
126 Management Committee shall adopt rules and regulations concerning  
127 time, places and number of meetings that may be held for which  
128 members will be compensated, such rules and regulations to require  
129 prior approval of meetings in order for members to be compensated.

130 (11) The Management Committee shall have general  
131 administrative powers and the responsibility for the proper  
132 operation of the House Legislative Services Office.

133 (a) The director, subject to approval of the  
134 Management Committee, shall employ full-time professional,  
135 technical, clerical and stenographic assistance as may be  
136 necessary to carry out the provisions of this subsection.

137 (b) The House Legislative Services Office shall  
138 assist the House of Representatives, its committees, commissions  
139 and individual members of the House of Representatives as follows  
140 in:



141 (i) Bill research;  
142 (ii) Bill drafting;  
143 (iii) Bill analysis;  
144 (iv) Preparation and writing of standing and  
145 interim committee reports; and  
146 (v) Such other duties as prescribed by the  
147 Management Committee.

148 (c) The House Legislative Services Office must be  
149 authorized, in writing, by a House member to prepare a draft  
150 before it undertakes the preparation thereof.

151 (d) No employee of the House Legislative Services  
152 Office shall:

153 (i) Reveal to any person outside his or her  
154 office the contents or nature of any request for services made by  
155 any member of the House except with the written consent of the  
156 person making such request;

157 (ii) Urge, oppose or attempt to influence any  
158 legislation;

159 (iii) Give legal advice on any subject to any  
160 person, firm or corporation, except members of the House; nor

161 (iv) During his or her employment be  
162 associated or interested in the private practice of law in any  
163 matter without prior approval of the Management Committee.

164 A violation of any provision of this section by an employee  
165 shall be sufficient cause for his or her immediate dismissal.



166 However, this paragraph shall not be a limitation on the authority  
167 of the Management Committee to dismiss or change its employees.

168 (12) No employee of the House shall reveal to any  
169 person outside his or her department the contents or nature of any  
170 request for services made by any member of the House except with  
171 the written consent of the person making such request. A  
172 violation of this subsection by an employee shall be sufficient  
173 cause for his or her immediate dismissal.

174 (13) The Department of Finance and Administration shall  
175 cooperate with the Management Committee in making space available  
176 either in the Capitol or in any other buildings easily accessible  
177 to members of the Legislature.

178 (14) The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of  
179 this rule shall be paid from the funds appropriated to the House  
180 of Representatives Contingent Fund made by the Legislature for the  
181 purposes herein set out.

182 (15) At such time as there may be designated or created  
183 in the Senate of the State of Mississippi a committee with like  
184 duties and responsibilities of the House Management Committee, the  
185 House Management Committee is authorized to meet jointly with such  
186 corresponding Senate committee in order to more effectively carry  
187 out the provisions of this rule.

188 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the amendment to House Rule 11A  
189 contained in this resolution shall take effect immediately upon  
190 adoption of this resolution by the House of Representatives.

