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3 Title: Two-Thirds Vote Required of All Main Motions
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5 Introduced by: Bryan Huffman, MD, for the Ottawa County Delegation
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7 Original Author: Bryan Huffman, MD
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9 Referred to: Reference Committee C
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11 House Action: **DISAPPROVED**
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14 Whereas, the resolutions passed by the MSMS House of Delegates (HOD) are intended to represent
15 the united opinion and will of the physician members of MSMS, and
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17 Whereas, the vast majority of resolutions at the MSMS House of Delegates pass by an overwhelming
18 majority of votes. At the 2017 HOD, out of 97 resolutions, 84 passed unanimously. Of the 14 extractions, 1
19 passed unanimously, 10 passed by greater than a two-thirds vote, and only 3 passed by less than a two-
20 thirds vote, and
21

22 Whereas, the passage of resolutions on highly controversial topics (e.g., abortion, single payer, etc.)
23 by a narrow margin may alienate a large minority of MSMS members, and creates unnecessary disunity
24 among our members, and
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26 Whereas, resolutions that narrowly pass one year, may be narrowly defeated the following year,
27 resulting in mixed message from MSMS and a weakening of our position, and
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29 Whereas, the failure of a resolution to pass in the HOD does not result in official opposition to the
30 resolution, but rather means that MSMS as a whole remains silent on that resolution, and
31

32 Whereas, individual members are still free to express their personal views, but the issue does not
33 have enough support among MSMS delegates to render an opinion or official policy for the united
34 organization, and
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36 Whereas, a larger amount of member support provides more strength for the ultimate resolve of
37 MSMS, and
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39 Whereas, the same high standards for new resolutions should be used in reaffirming existing policy,
40 and
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42 Whereas, consistency of House Rules from year to year is important, and
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44 Whereas, each HOD has the authority to pass its own special rules; however, a future HOD is not
45 obligated to continue those rules unless specified in the Constitution and Bylaws of MSMS; therefore be it
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47 RESOLVED: That the MSMS House of Delegates rules be changed via an amendment to the MSMS
48 Constitution and Bylaws to require a two-thirds vote for the reaffirmation of existing policy, and if a two-
49 thirds vote is not achieved, the existing policy shall be eliminated; and be it further
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51 RESOLVED: That the MSMS Constitution and Bylaws be amended as follows:
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53 13.80 Special Rules of Order

54 13.81 All Main Motions at the House of Delegates shall require a 2/3 vote to be accepted. This rule
55 shall not apply to elections held by the House. This rule may be revoked by any MSMS House at any
56 time by a 2/3 vote of the House, but shall be reinstated for the next House unless this rule is
57 permanently repealed by amendment of the Constitution and Bylaws.

58
59 13.82 Reaffirmation of existing MSMS policy by the House of Delegates shall require a 2/3 vote to be
60 accepted as is specified in 13.81. If Reaffirmation by a 2/3 vote is not achieved, the policy of concern
61 shall be removed from MSMS policy; and be it further
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63 RESOLVED: That the second reading of the above amendment be the first order of business for the
64 Second Session of the 2020 MSMS House of Delegates, and if passed, take effect immediately so that all
65 business of the 2020 House of Delegates would be subject to this amendment.
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68 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: \$5,000.00 or more for the revision, review, and processing of
69 Bylaws amendments.

Relevant MSMS Policy: None

Relevant AMA Policy:

Introducing Business to the AMA House G-600.060

AMA policy on introducing business to our AMA House includes the following:

1. Delegates submitting resolutions have a responsibility to review the Resolution checklist and verify that the resolution is in compliance. The Resolution checklist shall be distributed to all delegates and organizations in the HOD prior to each meeting, as well as be posted on the HOD website.
2. An Information Statement can be used to bring an issue to the awareness of the HOD or the public, draw attention to existing policy for purposes of emphasis, or simply make a statement. Such items will be included in the section of the HOD Handbook for informational items and include appropriate attribution but will not go through the reference committee process, be voted on in the HOD or be incorporated into the Proceedings. If an information statement is extracted, however, it will be managed by the Speaker in an appropriate manner, which may include a simple editorial correction up to and including withdrawal of the information statement.
3. Required information on the budget will be provided to the HOD at a time and format more relevant to the AMA budget process.
4. At the time the resolution is submitted, delegates introducing an item of business for consideration of the House of Delegates must declare any commercial or financial conflict of interest they have as individuals and any such conflict of interest must be noted on the resolution at the time of its distribution.
5. The submission of resolutions calling for similar action to what is already existing AMA policy is discouraged. Organizations represented in the House of Delegates are responsible to search for alternative ways to obtain AMA action on established AMA policy, especially by communicating with the Executive Vice President. The EVP will submit a report to the House detailing the items of business received from organizations represented in the House which he or she considers significant or when requested to do so by the organization, and the actions taken in response to such contacts.
6. Our AMA will continue to safeguard the democratic process in our AMA House of Delegates and ensure that individual delegates are not barred from submitting a resolution directly to the House of Delegates.
7. Our AMA encourages organizations and Sections of the House of Delegates to exercise restraint in submitting items on the day preceding the opening of the House.
8. Resolutions will be placed on the Reaffirmation Consent Calendar when they are identical or substantially identical to existing AMA policy. For resolutions placed on the Reaffirmation Consent Calendar, the pertinent existing policy will be clearly identified by reference to the Policy Database identification number. When practical, the Reaffirmation Consent Calendar should also include a listing of the actions that have been taken on the current AMA policies that are equivalent to the resolutions listed. For resolutions on the Reaffirmation Consent Calendar which are not extracted, the existing, pertinent AMA policy will be deemed to be reaffirmed in lieu of the submitted resolution which resets the sunset clock for ten years.
9. Updates on referred resolutions are included in the chart entitled "Implementation of Resolutions," which is made available to the House.