

1 **OVERTURE 63** from the South Texas Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 “Amend RAO 19-4 to Establish Preference in Recognition for an Objector to an In
3 Gross Motion”
4

5 **Whereas**, the *Rules of Assembly Operations (RAO)* establish procedures for commissioners
6 to speak to recommendations, including overtures, that are brought before the General
7 Assembly, even those that are pulled out of omnibus votes (*RAO* 14-9.d, 15-8.b); and
8

9 **Whereas**, under current *RAO* provisions, the Moderator may propose that the Assembly vote
10 on all recommendations passed by a committee in gross (*RAO* 14-9.d, 15-8.b), but any
11 commissioner may object “to the inclusion of specific recommendation(s),” resulting
12 in those recommendation(s) being “voted upon separately” (*RAO* 14-9.d, 15-8.b); and
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14 **Whereas**, once a recommendation or overture is considered separately, it is to be debated
15 under the standard rules governing debate as detailed in *RAO* 19, which include equal
16 opportunity to speak, time limits, and fairness in debate, but do not explicitly guarantee
17 that the commissioner who objected to its inclusion in the in gross vote is recognized
18 first for debate; and
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20 **Whereas**, the adopted parliamentary authority, *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*
21 (*RONR*), generally provides that the maker of a motion or the reporting member of a
22 committee is entitled to be recognized first in debate (*RONR* [12th ed.] 42:9.1); and
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24 **Whereas**, under the current *RAO* and *RONR*, a commissioner who pulls an overture out of
25 the in gross has an opportunity to speak under standard debate rules but not the
26 “privilege of preference” (see *RONR* [12th ed.] 42); and
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28 **Whereas**, to guarantee that the commissioner who objects to an in gross vote and pulls out a
29 recommendation (including an overture) is recognized first for debate on that item, a
30 specific amendment to *RAO* 19-4 is necessary to establish this “preference in
31 recognition;” and
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33 **Whereas**, such an amendment would promote fairness by ensuring the voice of the objecting
34 commissioner is heard promptly, aligning with the principles of free and open debate
35 in *RAO* 19-4;
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37 **Therefore, be it resolved** that the 53rd General Assembly amend *RAO* 19-4 by adding a new
38 subsection f.:

- 39
40 f. Notwithstanding any other rule of recognition, when a commissioner objects to the
41 inclusion of an in gross recommendation, including an overture (as provided in
42 *RAO* 14-9.d or *RAO* 15-8.b), the objecting commissioner shall have preference in
43 recognition (see *RONR* [12th ed.] 42:7) when debating the separated
44 recommendation.
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Overture 63, South Texas Presbytery

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- 2 *Adopted by the South Texas Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 31, 2026*
- 3 *A commission of the South Texas Presbytery was authorized to refine and perfect the language*
- 4 *of the overture.*
- 5 *Attested by RE Barry McBee, Stated Clerk*