

1 **OVERTURE 6** from the Pacific Northwest Presbytery—**REVISED** (to CCB, OC)
2 “Amend *RAO* 14-9, 15-8, and add 16-7.h to Require 150 Commissioners to Remove
3 from an Omnibus”
4

5 **Be it resolved** the 53rd GA amend *RAO* 14-9 and 15-8, and add a 16-7.h, each stipulating the
6 same thing, to require a 10% minority to remove an item from the list of committee
7 recommendations to be considered in omnibus. (underlining for additions;
8 ~~strikethrough~~ for deletions):
9

10 **14-9. Presentation of the Report of Permanent Committees and Agencies through**
11 **Their Respective Committees of Commissioners, to the General Assembly**
12

13 d. The chairman of the committee of commissioners or his designee shall move
14 each recommendation in turn, offering an explanation of the motion and the
15 committee’s rationale. The Moderator may put to the Assembly in gross all
16 recommendations passed by the committee, unless there is ~~objection from the~~
17 ~~floor to the inclusion of specific recommendation(s), in which case such~~
18 ~~recommendation(s) shall be voted upon separately.~~ a request from the floor to
19 remove a recommendation from the omnibus (the "in gross" package). In that
20 case, the Moderator shall put the removal question to the Assembly, without
21 any debate. An item shall be removed from omnibus if 150 commissioners
22 vote in favor of the removal.
23

24 **15-8. Presentation of the Report of the Overtures Committee to the General**
25 **Assembly.**
26

27 b. The chairman or his designee shall move each recommendation in turn,
28 offering an explanation of the motion and the committee’s rationale. The
29 Moderator may put to the Assembly in gross all recommendations passed by
30 the committee, unless there is ~~objection from the floor to the inclusion of~~
31 ~~specific recommendation(s), in which case such recommendation(s) shall be~~
32 ~~voted upon separately.~~ a request from the floor to remove a recommendation
33 from the omnibus (the "in gross" package). In that case, the Moderator shall
34 put the removal question to the Assembly, without any debate. An item shall
35 be removed from omnibus if 150 commissioners vote in favor of the removal.
36

37 **16-7 Guidelines for Reporting on Presbytery Records**
38

39 h. The chairman or his designee shall move each recommendation in turn,
40 offering an explanation of the motion and the committee’s rationale. The
41 Moderator may put to the Assembly in gross all recommendations passed by
42 the committee, unless there is a request from the floor to remove a
43 recommendation from the omnibus (the "in gross" package). In that case, the
44 Moderator shall put the removal question to the Assembly, without any

1 debate. An item shall be removed from omnibus if 150 commissioners vote
2 in favor of the removal.

3
4 So that the amended paragraphs read:

5
6 **14-9. Presentation of the Report of Permanent Committees and Agencies through**
7 **Their Respective Committees of Commissioners, to the General Assembly**

8
9 d. The chairman of the committee of commissioners or his designee shall move
10 each recommendation in turn, offering an explanation of the motion and the
11 committee's rationale. The Moderator may put to the Assembly in gross all
12 recommendations passed by the committee, unless there is a request from the
13 floor to remove a recommendation from the omnibus (the "in gross" package).
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15 without any debate. An item shall be removed from omnibus if 150
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30 **16.7 Guidelines for Reporting on Presbytery Records**

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32 h. The chairman or his designee shall move each recommendation in turn,
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38 debate. An item shall be removed from omnibus if 150 commissioners vote
39 in favor of the removal.

40
41 **Rationale:**

42
43 1. If over 90% of the Assembly does not want to debate a committee recommendation, it
44 should not be required to do so. The effect of our current procedure is to either (1) take up
45 at least 10 minutes of floor time on a matter that a single commissioner wants to discuss,

- 1 or (2) require someone to move the previous question after a lone individual requests the
2 question be split from omnibus. In an assembly of 2,000 people, the procedure should be
3 flipped. It should require an affirmative vote of at least 150 Commissioners to debate a
4 committee recommendation that the Moderator has deemed prudent to be presented in
5 omnibus.
6
- 7 2. The amendment seeks to expedite business without precluding debate on matters that 150
8 Commissioners wish to debate. It seeks to decrease the amount of time the Assembly
9 spends in quasi "committee work." The amendment would apply to 13 committees
10 reporting at GA (i.e., 11 committees of commissioners, the Overtures Committee, and the
11 Committee on Review of Presbytery Records).
12
- 13 3. According to our historical practice and the *RAO*, and as very obliquely described in
14 *Robert's Rules*, it would be the Assembly Moderator and not the committee chairman that
15 proposes a specific set of recommendations to be considered in gross/in omnibus. (RONR
16 (12th ed.) 12:14, 51:48.b.)
17
- 18 4. When a GA committee is unanimous or nearly so, it's imprudent to grant a single
19 commissioner the right to withdraw a recommendation from omnibus for debate. For
20 example, last year there were 72 *unanimous* RPR recommendations to approve its report
21 as a whole for those 72 Presbyteries. When a GA committee of 60+ men are unanimous on
22 a matter, it's not sensible for just one commissioner out of 2,000+ to be able to automatically
23 remove something from omnibus. Requiring 150 of those commissioners to vote in favor
24 of removal seems reasonable and efficient. Rather than specify a percentage, which would
25 raise questions about whether it's a percentage of total registered commissioners or a
26 percentage of those voting, it would be simpler to just specify a total number. The number
27 150 would 7.5% of the total if there were 2,000 men voting.
28
- 29 5. This would be particularly valuable for recommendations made by both the Permanent
30 Committees/Agency Boards *and* their respective committees of commissioners. At present,
31 a lone GA commissioner can ask for an item to be removed from an omnibus package, even
32 when the Permanent Committee or Agency Board, and its respective Committee of
33 Commissioners, were both unanimous in favor of the action recommended to the
34 Assembly.
35 And if a Committee of Commissioners recommends an amendment to a
36 recommendation from a Permanent Committee or Agency Board, the *RAO* already affords
37 60 minutes of debate. (*RAO* 14-9-h.3) And in the rare event there is a need to consider a
38 Committee of Commissioner's recommendation individually, the amendment proposed by
39 this Overture would only require 10% of the GA commissioners to agree and it would be
40 removed from omnibus.

41
42 *Approved at Pacific Northwest Presbytery's Stated Meeting on October 10, 2025.*
43 *Assigned to PNW Overtures Commission with authority to revise & refile if deemed necessary.*
44 *Attested to by: TE Jerid Krulish, Clerk, Pacific NW Presbytery*

Overture 6, Pacific Northwest Presbytery

1 *Revision approved by a PNW Overtures Commission with authority to do so on April 9,*
2 *2026.*