

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AMENDING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE 2.02.085, COUNCIL STANDING
COMMITTEES – COMMITTEE ACTION**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Whatcom County Code 2.02.040(E), all Whatcom County Council meetings, including its committee meetings, are to be conducted in accordance with the American Institute of Parliamentarians' Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, latest edition (hereinafter referred to as the "code of parliamentary procedure"), unless in conflict with the rules of the Council; and

WHEREAS, the code of parliamentary procedure states that "all committees are responsible to and under the direction and control of the authority that created them"; and

WHEREAS, the code of parliamentary procedure further states that "any subject or duty that has been assigned to a committee may be withdrawn at any time and assigned to another committee or considered by the body" and that "any proposal or assignment of work to a standing committee may be withdrawn by the governing body unless it is assigned exclusively to the committee by the bylaws"; and

WHEREAS, there is nothing currently in the county code that would prevent the Council from withdrawing any proposed item from any of its committees consistent with the code of parliamentary procedure; and

WHEREAS, after years of Council practice consistent with the code of parliamentary procedure, it has recently been suggested that a committee can hold a proposed item in committee and effectively prevent the full council from taking action on the proposed item; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Council to place the language from the code of parliamentary procedure directly into the county code so that it is readily apparent that the Council can withdraw any proposed item from a committee at any time and consider the proposed item as a full council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT THEREFORE ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that Section 2.02.085 is hereby amended as outlined in Exhibit A to this ordinance.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2022.

ATTEST

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Todd Donovan, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

() Approved () Denied

Date Signed: _____

EXHIBIT A

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2.02.085 – Committee Action.

A recommendation of any committee shall be agreed to by a majority of the committee in a regularly called meeting before a proposed item is reported out. All actions of a committee pertaining to an ordinance that has been properly introduced, as specified elsewhere in this chapter, will be reported out to the full council for final consideration. A committee report may contain only that information which is approved by a majority vote of the committee; however, minority reports may be presented to the full council after the committee report is presented. A majority recommendation of the committee may be "do pass," "do pass as amended," "do pass the attached substitute ordinance," "do not pass," "no recommendation," "postpone indefinitely" or "withdraw." Minority reports may also be submitted. Any proposed item assigned to or referred to a standing committee, including an ordinance, may be withdrawn from the standing committee at any time and considered by the full council.