

**45-31** (to the Overtures and Resolutions Standing Committee)  
**From the Permanent Judicial Commission**

Rules for Assembly VII Section 7-5, 7-6, 7-7

Original Text	RLP Proposed Amendments: <i>additions, deletions</i>	PJC Additional Proposed Amendments: <i>additions, deletions</i>
<p>VII. Communications and Overtures</p> <p>....</p>	<p>VII. Communications and Overtures</p> <p>....</p> <p>7-5 <u>No overture will be considered by the General Assembly until it first has been presented to a presbytery. If approved by the presbytery, it will come before the Assembly as the overture of that court. An overture requested by a ruling elder commissioner to presbytery, a teaching elder, or a session, but rejected by the presbytery, may be presented to the Assembly, provided the overture includes as an attachment a copy of the relevant extract from the minutes of the meeting at which presbytery rejected the overture. Such an overture must be the same overture as that presented to and rejected by the presbytery.</u></p>	<p>VII. Communications; <u>Overtures; and Proposed Amendments</u></p> <p>....</p> <p>7-5 <del>No</del> <u>Except to the extent otherwise authorized by Rules for Assembly 7-6 and 7-7, no amendment to the Book of Order or these Rules for Assembly will be considered by the General Assembly unless it has first been presented to a presbytery in the form of an overture.</u> <del>-overture will be considered by the General Assembly until it first has been presented to a presbytery. If</del> <u>When approved by the a-presbytery, it an overture (i.e., whether or not containing a proposed amendment)</u> <del>will come be presented before to</del> <u>the Assembly as the overture of that court.</u> <del>An overture requested by a ruling elder commissioner to a presbytery, a teaching elder, or a session, but rejected by the that presbytery, may be presented to the Assembly, provided the rejected overture includes as an attachment a copy of the relevant extract from the minutes of the meeting at which that presbytery rejected the overture. Such an overture must be the same as the proposed overture as that presented to and rejected by the that presbytery. No such rejected overture may be received for consideration absent a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Assembly.</del></p>

		<p>7-6 <u>Permanent committees and ad-interim committees established by the General Assembly may propose amendments to the Book of Order or these Rules for Assembly; provided, however, that each such proposed amendment must be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the General Assembly (G.21-3D.2a). No such proposed amendment received after the applicable filing date shall be considered by the Assembly convening in that year.</u></p> <p>7-7. <u>Nothing in this Rule VII will be deemed to prohibit a standing committee of the Assembly from taking action to approve, modify, or not approve any proposed amendment to the Book of Order or these Rules for Assembly that was referred to it (Rule for Assembly 9-5) or to prevent the Assembly from acting upon the report of a standing committee.</u></p>
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#### Rationale:

- The caption change reflects the fact that certain committees may propose amendments to the *Book of Order* or these *Rules for Assembly*.
- 7-5: Unless an amendment comes from a presbytery or a committee (see the new Rule 7-6) it should not be considered by the Assembly. The word “overture” in this context refers to communications from presbyteries (see Rule 7-3). A proposed amendment from a presbytery is always an overture, but not all overtures contain proposed amendments. Rejected overtures validly presented should require two-thirds (2/3) vote for reception.
- 7-6: EPC polity already allows certain General Assembly committees, including the PJC, to propose amendments. This new Rule 7-6 requires those amendments to be presented in a timely manner.
- 7-7: This proposed new Rule 7-7 affirms the right of the standing committees to act on amendments, including the right to modify proposed amendments. It also affirms the right of the Assembly to act on amendments contained in standing committee reports.