



E-PETITIONS RULES

RULES CONCERNING PETITIONS

The Legislative Council's Standing and Sessional Orders provide the following general rules for petitions:

Contents of a Petition

42. A Petition will –

1. Be lodged only by a Member.
2. Be legible.
3. Be addressed to the President of the Council.
4. State the action or remedy sought from the Council.
5. Be in English or be accompanied by a translation certified to be correct.
6. Contain at least one signature.
7. Contain the action or remedy sought on the top of every sheet.
8. Contain the names and addresses of the petitioners and their own signatures or marks, except in case of incapacity or sickness where someone else may sign on their behalf.
9. Be respectful and temperate in its language.
10. If from a corporation, be made under its common seal.

Petitions will not contain

43. A Petition will not –

1. Have letters, affidavits or other documents attached to it.
2. Be lodged by a Member who has signed the petition as a petitioner.
3. Make an application for direct grant of public money to be paid to an individual.
4. Have signatures pasted or otherwise transferred to the Petition.

Procedure for lodgement and presentation

The procedure for the lodging and presentation of a Petition –

1. The Member must write the number of signatures contained in the petition on the front sheet and sign the front sheet.

2. The Clerk will, prior to presentation, certify on the petition that it is in conformity with the Standing Orders.
3. The Member presenting the petition will announce the subject matter of the petition in brief and the number of signatures attached to it unless the President determines otherwise.
4. The Petition will be received unless the Council or the President determines otherwise.
5. No discussion of the subject matter is allowed.
6. The Clerk shall read the Petition in full after which a question shall be put "That the Petition be received".
7. The text of each Petition which the House has received shall be communicated to the Premier by the Clerk of the House.
8. A Government response to each Petition shall be laid before the House within 15 sitting days of its communication to the Premier by the Leader of the Government.

E-PETITIONS

1. An E-Petition is a petition:
 - (a) in the correct form, stating a grievance and containing a request for action by the Council;
 - (b) sponsored by a Member and lodged with the Clerk for publication on the Parliament's Internet Website for a nominated period ("posted period");
 - (c) persons may elect to indicate their support of ("join the petition") by electronically providing their name, address (including postcode) and signifying their intention to join the petition.
2. The posted period for an E-Petition is to be a minimum of one week and a maximum of six months from the date of publication on the Parliament's Internet Website.
3. The Member sponsoring the E-Petition must provide the Clerk with the details of the petition in the correct form; the posted period and a signed acknowledgment that they are prepared to sponsor the E-Petition.
4. Once published on the Parliament's Internet Website an E-Petition cannot be altered.
5. Only one E-Petition dealing with substantially the same grievance and requesting substantially the same action by the Council shall be published on the Parliament's Internet Website at the same time.
6. Once the posted period for an E-Petition has elapsed, a paper copy of the Petition shall be printed by the Clerk in full (including the details of the persons who joined the petition) and presented to the Council in the name of the Member that sponsored the E-Petition.
7. An E-Petition published on the Parliament's Internet Website, but not presented to the Council prior to the prorogation of the Parliament or the dissolution of the House of Assembly, shall be presented to the subsequent Parliament and become a petition of the subsequent Parliament.
8. An E-Petition may be sponsored during any adjournment of the Legislative Council and during any period of prorogation.

9. Persons must join an E-Petition by filling out their correct details and personally agreeing to join the E-Petition, and by no one else, except in the case of incapacity from sickness.
10. A person cannot sign or join an E-Petition more than once.
11. Only the name and address of the Principal Petitioner shall be made public on the Legislative Council's website.
12. The Clerk may decline to publish an E-Petition on the website not in conformity with these Orders and shall advise the sponsoring Member accordingly.
13. The Clerk shall ensure that all Government responses to E-Petitions are posted on the website.
14. The Clerk or any Member may seek a ruling from the President of the Legislative Council relating to the conformity or otherwise of any E-Petition with these Orders.
15. The Clerk is authorised to create and maintain an appropriate internet website on which to publish E-Petitions, responses to E-Petitions and other explanatory information and do all things necessary in order to give effect to these Orders.
16. The Clerk must dispose of all electronic personal data relating to the posting and joining of an E-Petition within six months after an E-Petition is printed and presented to the Legislative Council.
17. The Standing Orders for petitions have application to E-Petitions insofar as they can be applied.

The Clerk of the Legislative Council or his officers if necessary are able to advise, before signatures are collected, as to whether a draft petition will be acceptable for presentation to the Legislative Council.

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