



## EA R5: Clarification of Section 1.9 in the Bylaws

**Abstract:** This resolution clarifies how abstention votes are counted in the EA Bylaws.

**Sponsored by:** Kevin Fitch, *Health & Safety Representative*; Pilar Thompson, *International Representative At-Large*

**Reviewed by:** Executive Committee, 09/06/2017

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**Whereas, Article IV, Section 1 of the Charter of the Employee Assembly grants the Assembly “authority and control over its own policies, operations, and maintenance”; and**

**Whereas, Article I, Section 1.9 of the Bylaws states:**

60 Section 1.9: Voting

61 A. The Chair may count any proxy vote that is received before the question to which it pertains is called. Votes submitted by proxy do not count towards quorum.

63 B. Voting may be conducted by electronic means at the discretion of the Chair.

**Whereas, this language does not specify how or if abstentions are counted in the vote total, or the effect of abstentions on a pending motion.**

**Be it therefore resolved,** the Assembly adopts the following changes in order to clarify the voting process for better efficiency of the Assembly:

**60 Section 1.9: Voting**

~~61 A. Collected/Recorded votes must be equal or greater than quorum for the resolution to carry.~~

~~62 B. The Assembly only recognizes ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ votes towards quorum.~~

~~63 C. Abstaining votes will not be counted towards quorum.~~

61 A. The Chair may count any proxy vote that is received before the question to which it pertains is called. Votes submitted by proxy do not count towards quorum.

63 B. Voting may be conducted by electronic means at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

64 C. EA members may abstain from voting at regularly scheduled or special meetings of the Assembly. However, if the total number of abstentions is greater than the total number of votes in favor of a resolution or motion, the resolution or motion fails.

67 D. Abstentions do not count toward quorum.

**Adopted by Vote of the Assembly 19-0-0, November 15, 2017.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Kevin Fitch, *Vice Chair for Operations and Health & Safety Representative*

Pilar Thompson, *Parliamentarian and International Representative*