

Proposal – Time Limit on the Reconsideration of a Defeated Motion
Board of Directors Meeting
Date: August 14, 2024

Why it is on the agenda: NAWIC’s National Bylaws serve as the organization’s internal rules, creating structure and ensuring stability and continuity as NAWIC regularly experiences rapid growth but poor retention. They help to resolve uncertainty and conflict and may require change as the organization grows and changes, but these changes should not be taken lightly and as such, when a bylaws change is circulated to the membership and defeated or is defeated prior to circulation to the membership, a period of time is needed before reintroducing that motion.

Learn more: Making changes to bylaws is time consuming. Often a task force is put in place and the requested change meticulously investigated. The NAWIC Board then exercises due diligence in weighing the benefits of the proposed bylaws change, voting to defeat the change, or circulating it to membership and carefully considering member feedback, making a final decision based on the wants and needs of the membership. When a motion is defeated, this process and trust in the fair and thorough review of the National Board and the will of the membership must be honored and the motion not hastily reintroduced.

What problem(s) is this the solution: In an era of hyperpolarization, the motion will prevent a dissatisfied minority from bringing up a motion repeatedly until it is passed. It will keep the organization moving forward rather than backtracking endlessly to reconsider defeated motions, which is not an effective use of the Board’s or the membership’s time. Finally, it will preserve the credibility of the National Board as a cohesive governing body.

How: Any defeated bylaws amendment proposal cannot be resubmitted to the National Board for two fiscal years unless there is a substantial change to the proposal. This motion includes bylaws change motions that were circulated and then defeated as well as bylaws change proposals that were introduced to the National Board and defeated prior to circulation. Bylaws changes that are either adopted or defeated can be reviewed again if federal or state laws mandate a change to the proposed or adopted bylaws.

Who will do it: If adopted, the National Bylaws Chair will add the proposed change to the NAWIC National Bylaws.

What will it cost: No cost.

What will it accomplish: This proposal will preserve the unity of the National Board.

How will it be evaluated: No evaluation needed.

Proposal to vote on: A proposed change to the NAWIC Bylaws which has been approved by the National Board to circulate to membership, circulated, and then defeated by the National Board, or which was defeated by the National Board prior to circulation to the membership cannot be reconsidered again by the National Board for a period of two years

Current:

ARTICLE XVIII — AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors, and this Article XVIII may also be amended at the Annual Conference by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Association members present and voting thereon, provided that no amendment may be enacted unless notice of said proposed amendment has been circulated to all Association members at least ninety (90) days in advance of the vote thereon or as superseded by law. All amendments authorized shall become effective immediately unless the amendment contains a specific date. (02/09)

With additional verbiage:

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