



# 2026 Annual Communication Legislation Presentation Board of General Purposes

# Legislation



Proposed Amendment Number 1 - 2025  
Changing the due date of proposed amendments to be filed  
with the Grand Secretary

**This Amendment changes §3.12.2 Amendments to the  
Regulations, Bylaws, and Penal Code of this Grand Lodge.**

Report of the Jurisprudence Committee finds this proposed amendment  
in a proper form. BGPs are in favor. Will be Presented at Grand Lodge  
Annual Communication by WB President Derek Sale.

# Legislation



## Proposed Amendment Number 1 - 2025

Changing the due date of proposed amendments to be filed with the Grand Secretary

This is a constitutional amendment. It was passed and sent to the lodges to vote on. It passed by over 80%, according to the returned lodge votes. It will now be voted on again at this year's Annual Communication. It will require a majority of approval votes, at the Annual Communication, to be adopted.

# Legislation



Proposed Amendment Number 1 - 2026

Proposed Amendment No. 1 (regarding changes in who gets mileage to attend the annual session)

The Jurisprudence Committee finds this legislation to be OUT OF ORDER, unless amended to take into consideration section 7.3.6 “lodges under dispensation”. BGP is in support.

Will be Presented at Grand Lodge Annual Communication by WB Hanson Lee.

# Legislation



## Proposed Amendment Number 2 - 2026

Amend Section 3.2.2 which currently reads:

Past Masters of Lodges in this Jurisdiction who are in good standing, and members of Standing Committees who are not the Legal Representatives of lodges, are members of this Grand Lodge, but without the right to vote.

Amend Section 3.2.2 to read as follows:

Members of Standing Committees who are not the Legal Representative of a chartered Lodge, are members of this Grand Lodge, but without the right to vote. Past Masters of Lodges in this Jurisdiction who are in good standing are members of this Grand Lodge, and those having registered for attendance 30 days prior to Annual Communication shall have the right to vote.

# Legislation



## Proposed Amendment Number 2 - 2026

Amend Section 3.6.2 which currently reads:

In all elections, and on all questions before the Grand Lodge on which the call of Lodges has been ordered, the representative of each chartered Lodge shall be entitled to three votes; each Past Grand Master and each Grand Officer to one vote.

Amend Section 3.6.2 to read as follows:

In all elections, and on all questions before the Grand Lodge on which the call of Lodges has been ordered, The Legal Representative of each chartered Lodge shall be entitled to three votes; each Past Master fulfilling the requirements of 3.2.2, each Past Grand Master and each Grand Officer to one vote.

# Legislation



## Proposed Amendment Number 2 - 2026

Reason:

To include the wisdom of all Past Masters within our Jurisdiction in deciding what is the right path for our beloved craft. The more voices the better our chances of getting it right.

This is a constitutional change, allowing Past Masters of Michigan Lodges to vote at the Annual Meeting.

The Jurisprudence Committee finds the legislation to be in proper form, however, has suggested amending the legislation to clarify that a brother who is a Lodge Representative, a Grand Lodge Officer or a Past Grand Master does not get an additional vote as a Past Master.

BGP is NOT in Support.

Will be Presented at Grand Lodge Annual Communication by WB Gill LeMonde Jr.

# Legislation



## Proposed Amendment Number 3 – 2026

### WITHDRAWN BY AUTHOR

~~4.30.1 : The following organizations are authorized as Affiliated Masonic Organizations and, as such, may be permitted to meet in a Masonic Lodge room: (2000,2002,2008)~~

- ~~(a) Order of Amaranth~~
- ~~(b) Order of DeMolay~~
- ~~(c) Order of the Eastern Star~~
- ~~(d)~~
- ~~(e) Order of the Rainbow for Girls~~
- ~~(f) White Shrine of Jerusalem Amend Key 4.30.1: to read as follows:~~

# Legislation



## Proposed Amendment Number 3 - 2026

~~Amend Key 4.30.1: to read as follows:~~

~~4.30.1 : The following organizations are authorized as Affiliated Masonic Organizations and, as such, may be permitted to meet in a Masonic Lodge room: (2000), (2002), (2008)~~

- ~~(a) Order of Amaranth~~
- ~~(b) Order of DeMolay~~
- ~~(c) Order of the Eastern Star~~
- ~~(d) Job's Daughters International~~
- ~~(e) Order of the Rainbow for Girls~~
- ~~(f) White Shrine of Jerusalem~~

# Legislation



## Proposed Amendment Number 3 - 2026

~~Job's Daughters was created in Omaha, Nebraska in 1921. It came to Michigan as Bethel #1 in Charlotte, Michigan in 1922. It became a Grand Guardian Council in 1940. For decades it has been recognized as an Affiliated Masonic Organization. In early 2022 an incident involving the Certified Adult Volunteer program of the Supreme Guardian Council occurred, which caused a conflict between the Supreme Guardian Council Leadership and the Grand Guardian Council of Michigan.~~

~~The Grand Master was drawn into the dispute which resulted in withdrawal of recognition of Job's Daughters as an Affiliated Masonic Organization. The original principles and goals of Job's Daughters have not changed. The young ladies should not be punished for the actions of the adults. Job's Daughters should be recognized as an Affiliated Masonic Organization.~~

~~Report of the Jurisprudence Committee finds this proposed amendment in a proper form. BGPs vote.....~~

# Legislation



## Proposed Amendment Number 4 - 2026

Amend §3.12.1 which currently reads: This Constitution may be changed or amended in the following manner:

- (a) The proposed amendment shall be submitted in writing to the Grand Lodge at an Annual Communication and, unless it is seconded by a majority of the Grand Lodge, it shall receive no further consideration. If it is so seconded the proposed amendment shall be entered on the Minutes of Grand Lodge and as soon as possible a copy of it shall be sent, properly certified by the Grand Secretary, to each lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, for approval or rejection by it. The action of each lodge shall, in return, be certified to the Grand Secretary by its Worshipful Master and Secretary, under the Seal of the Lodge.
- (b) If, at the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, a majority of the lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction have certified their approval of the proposed amendment, the question of its final adoption by the Grand Lodge shall be taken and if a majority are in favor of the proposed amendment the Grand Master shall declare it part of this Constitution. The Grand Lodge shall then vote to determine and set the date of which it shall become operative.

# Legislation



## Proposed Amendment Number 4 - 2026

§ 3.12.1: This Constitution may be changed or amended in the following manner:

(a) The proposed amendment shall be submitted in writing to the Grand Lodge at an Annual Communication and, unless it is seconded by a majority of the Grand Lodge, it shall receive no further consideration. If it is so seconded the proposed amendment shall be entered on the Minutes of Grand Lodge and, within 30 days as soon as possible a copy of it shall be sent, properly certified by the Grand Secretary, to each lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, for approval or rejection by it. The action of each lodge shall, in return, be certified to the Grand Secretary under the Seal of the Lodge, its Worshipful Master and Secretary by March 31<sup>st</sup> prior to the next Annual Communication. ~~be certified to the Grand Secretary by its Worshipful Master and Secretary, under the Seal of the Lodge.~~

(b) If, at the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, a simple majority of the respondent lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction have certified their approval of the proposed amendment, the question of its final adoption by the Grand Lodge shall be taken and if a simple majority are in favor of the proposed amendment the Grand Master shall declare it part of this Constitution and becomes operative immediately unless the Grand Lodge, due to reasonable cause, may vote to set a date on which it shall become operative. ~~The Grand Lodge shall then vote to determine and set the date of which it shall become operative.~~

# Legislation



## Proposed Amendment Number 4 - 2026

### Reason:

This amendment provides clarity and streamlines the constitutional amendment process by explicitly defining when the Grand Secretary shall send a copy to constituent lodges, promoting urgency for the Lodges to act timely, defines what is necessary for the Grand Lodge at its subsequent Annual Communication to consider the Constitutional Amendment, and clarifies when it becomes effective. The amendment process currently needs an affirmative vote of the lodges in the jurisdiction for the amendment to be considered at the subsequent Grand Lodge. Lodges that do not submit any vote (either for or against) could negatively impact the amendment being considered at the subsequent Grand Lodge. This proposed amendment fixes this issue by requiring only a majority affirmative vote of the Lodges who respond. The checks-and-balances of Constitutional Amendments being introduced at an Annual Communication, sent to the constituent Lodges for their consideration, and then finally voted upon at the subsequent Annual Communication remain.

# Legislation



## Proposed Amendment Number 4 - 2026

The Jurisprudence Committee finds the legislation to be in proper form. Note – This is a Constitutional change, requiring a majority vote at the 2026 session, a majority of lodges voting via mail and another majority vote at the 2027 session.

BGPs ARE NOT in Support.

Will be Presented at Grand Lodge Annual Communication by WB Blair Schlader

# Legislation



## Proposed Amendment Number 5 – 2026

Amend 98.2.1 0: Which currently reads: No Master Mason under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Michigan shall participate in a “Shrine Trial” as promulgated by Article 23, Section 323.8 of the Shrine Bylaws. (1 988)

Amend as follows:

Strike 98.2.1 0 in its entirety.

# Legislation

Proposed Amendment Number 5 – 2026

Reason:

This section of Law was inserted through a Grand Master's edict. The reasons for the edict are unclear, but the section has the unintended consequence of denying a member of Shriners International the ability to have any Michigan Mason participate, even by simply testifying in a Shrine trial. Further, it has the unintended consequence of regulating the actions of another recognized appendant body through our laws, not theirs. This section has caused significant confusion and difficulties for those that have been involved in such matters, and it is the consensus of those of us submitting this legislation that no good comes from retaining such language in our code and it should be subsequently eliminated from Michigan Masonic Law.

The Jurisprudence Committee finds the legislation to be in proper form.  
The Board of General Purposes is in SUPPORT of this amendment.  
Will be Presented at Grand Lodge Annual Communication by WB Jim Ghardini



# Legislation



## Proposed Amendment No. 6 (changes procedures for voting on a petition)

The Jurisprudence Committee finds the legislation to be OUT OF ORDER.

The legislation was not submitted prior to the deadline for amendments.

Also, the proposed amendment to 4.20.4.5 has the effect of giving a brother two votes if they object privately to the Worshipful Master.

# Legislation

## Proposed Amendment No. 7



4.20.5.2 Ballot on Advancement Currently reads:

4.20.5.2: A Brother who has received the mandatory Educational Lectures and Masonic History of the Michigan Membership Program and who knows the signs, grips and words of the degree he is being examined upon, shall be declared proficient and eligible for advancement. (1905, 1952, 1964, 1992)

Amend to read:

4.20.5.2: A Brother who has received the mandatory Educational Lectures and Masonic History of the Michigan Membership Program and who knows the signs, grips and words of the degree he is being examined upon, shall be declared proficient and eligible for advancement, ***unless a Lodge decides to include the memorization of the obligation as part of the requirement to be declared proficient, in which case that will also be required to be declared proficient.*** (1905, 1952, 1964, 1992)

# Legislation

## Proposed Amendment No. 7



4.27 Master Mason Proficiency Currently reads:

4.27.3 All candidates will be examined as prescribed in the Michigan Membership Program, as printed by the Grand Lodge, and there will be NO memorization of the obligations in the Entered Apprentice and/or Fellowcraft Degrees for a candidate to qualify for his proficiency and continued worthiness. In case of a Brother taking his Master Mason proficiency, the same rule applies, but if the Master Mason is taking his examination for the Master Mason Proficiency Card, he will then have to give the Master Mason Obligation from memory.

Amend to read:

4.27.3: All candidates will be examined as prescribed in the Michigan Membership Program, as printed by the Grand Lodge, **and a Lodge may require the memorization** of the obligations in the Entered Apprentice and/or Fellowcraft Degrees for a candidate to qualify for his proficiency and continued worthiness. In case of a Brother taking his Master Mason proficiency, the same rule applies, but if the Master Mason is taking his examination for the Master Mason Proficiency Card, he will then have to give the Master Mason Obligation from memory.

# Legislation

## Proposed Amendment No. 7



Reason: In 1992, the proficiency was changed from the “old catechism” to the new examination that we have in place today. The reason then was that it would improve membership by making it easier to become proficient and be advanced in Masonry. In the subsequent three decades membership has not improved and I would posit that we lost something by lessening standards. In 1905, the Grand Master at the time answered the question of whether an EA who has not memorized the obligation is proficient with, “No. Formerly some lodges did not require the brother to memorize the obligation, but this custom has been discarded in this grand jurisdiction, and a brother is not proficient who has not committed the obligation in the degree in which he is being examined.” I would like to emphasize that the intent is not to make it mandatory, but rather, the *option* to those Lodges who wish to use it. Thus, a WM could declare a Brother proficient who has difficulty with memorization, in the same manner as he can now. Furthermore, I believe committing the obligations to memory assists a Mason in better understanding those obligations that he has made and his commitments to his Fraternity and his brethren.

# Legislation

## Proposed Amendment No. 7

This proposed amendment has not been reviewed by the Jurisprudence Committee.

The Board of General Purposes is NOT in Support.

Will be Presented at Grand Lodge Annual Communication by WB Jonathan Ferguson

