

The Academy Board of Directors (BOD) recently proposed some changes to the Academy's Bylaws to **Article XV, Amendments, Section 1 and 2**. Per the current Academy Bylaws, all Academy members have the opportunity to provide their input on the proposed changes. As your Delegate, I encourage you to respond to [the survey](#) by the July 31, 2021 deadline. I also encourage you to read the following information before completing the survey.

What changes are being proposed?

[Article XV, Amendments, Section 1 and 2](#): The proposed amendment would shift responsibility for voting on changes to the Academy Bylaws from the House of Delegates (HOD) to the Board of Directors (BOD). It also clarifies the notice of any proposed changes goes to the entire Academy membership.

What is the rationale for these changes?

The primary reason for proposing the change is to modernize the Academy bylaws to align with current "best practices" in association governance. These sections of the bylaws have not been changed since 2000. According to Illinois law, the BOD has the ultimate fiduciary responsibility for the association. While we recognize some associations establish the HOD as their voting body for the bylaws, through market research the BOD identified there has been a movement among non-profit associations to vest that authority in the BOD. It is now considered "best practices" in non-for-profit governance for the BOD to vote on bylaws amendments in their role of oversight of the association and in alignment with their legal responsibilities.

How will member input be used?

Members are given a 45-day comment period from the time the proposal is sent to the HOD (June 14, 2021) to provide their input on the proposed amendment. Comments from members and any other relevant information are used by the HOD Leadership Team to draft a motion to present to the HOD for deliberation and voting. Delegates will be given a deidentified version of all comments received for review and consideration.

Who votes on the proposed Bylaws amendments?

Per the current Academy Bylaws, the HOD will vote on the proposed Bylaws amendments. The [HOD](#) uses the "Knowledge-Based Strategic Decision-Making" process and "Representative of" model in which they take a holistic approach to decision-making. Delegates gain a knowledge base while bringing their own ideas and their members' ideas to the table. They take into consideration all they have heard from all sources, maintain an open mind, ensure they understand the entire issue, and then make decisions based on the best interests of the profession. Bylaws amendments must be approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the [voting membership](#) of the HOD.

For more information:

[Proposed Academy Bylaws Amendments](#)

[Current Academy Bylaws](#)

Contact your Delegate!

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