



Incidental Main Motions

Greater Sacramento Parliamentarians – July 28, 2016

(dba Sigma Chi Sigma)

An incidental main motion is a main motion that is incidental to or relates to the business of the assembly, or to its past or future action. (p. 100-102)

1. It can be made only when **nothing is pending**.
2. It proposes an action described by a particular **parliamentary term**, such as any secondary motions (subsidiary, privileged, and incidental) and the motions that bring a question again before the assembly, or other such terms (adopt, accept, agree, ratify, approve, confirm.)
3. It does not mark the **beginning of a particular involvement** of the assembly. Involvement relates to furthering steps in dealing with a substantive matter in which the assembly's involvement has begun earlier: For example:
 - a. Adopt recommendations which a committee has prepared upon instructions (not relating to a referred motion), or
 - b. Ratify an action taken at a meeting when no quorum was present.
4. It relates to **procedure**, without direct reference to a particular substantive item of business. For example:
 - a. A motion to take a recess, made when no business is pending, or
 - b. A motion to place a special limit on the length of speeches throughout a meeting.

Practical Examples:

1. **Removal** of misbehaving appointed or elected chair pro tem. (p. 651-2)
 - a. Motion: "...declare the chair vacant and proceed to elect a new chairman." (Q of Privilege as IMM)
Different motion necessary to removed elected chairman. Which motion is that?
2. Any motion related to **Voting Method**, or Close/re-Open Polls. (p. 283)
3. **Corresponding Motions that can be Proposed as IMM:**

- a. **Subsidiary Motions (p. 66):**
 - i. All, except Previous Question and Lay on the Table.
 - ii. To Postpone an event is actually ASPA if the IMM intent is to amend time, location, etc. (p. 180)
 - iii. To Commit subject previously dealt with is IMM. To Commit new subject is an MM (p. 168)

- b. **Privileged Motions (p. 68):**

Especially Recess (but see p.230), Adjourn, Fix the Time to which to Adjourn. Not 'Question of Privilege'. Adjourned still privileged even is treated as IMM.

- c. **Incidental Motions (p. 74):**
 - i. **Appeal** – Though Appeal must be made at the time of the ruling, the violation could have occurred some time ago and still be reachable with a new Point of Order and Appeal because the violation was of a 'continuing nature'. (p. 257, 251)

 - ii. **Consideration by Seriatim** – If the handling of a series of sections (that are not totally separate questions) is not yet pending, moving an IMM to treat that section by Seriatim is valid. (p. 276)

 - iii. **Division of the Assembly** – Division must be called between the time the Negative Vote is taken and the completion of the announcement of the voting results. (p. 281)

 - iv. **Division of a Question** - If the handling of a single subject motion containing several parts (each capable of standing alone) is not yet pending, moving an IMM to Divide the Question is valid. (p. 270)

 - v. **Object to the Consideration of a Question** – Cannot be applied to an IMM, but it could be proposed as an IMM? (p. 267)

 - vi. **Suspend the Rules** – By definition may function as an IMM to take up an agenda item not yet pending. (p.260)

 - vii. **Parliamentary Inquiry** – What? (p. 292)
 - viii. **Request for Information** – What? (p. 292)
 - ix. **Point of Order** – Not an IMM but see "Appeal" above. (p. 247)

Drill:

Adopted Agenda

1. Issue A
2. Item B
3. Subject C
4. Proposition D
5. Motion E
6. Topic F

IMM = Incidental Main Motion. Each drill below is independent of all other drills on this page.

1. Between Item B and Subject C, a member moved an IMM to handle Topic F.
Is this in order? Why or why not?
2. During the deliberation of Proposition D, a member moves an IMM to Ratify last meeting's motion that payed the bills. This motion had been adopted in the absence of a quorum.
Is this in order? Why or why not?
3. The elected President of XYZ Inc. is refusing to recognize certain members who attempt to propose amendments. A member moved an IMM to declare the chair vacant and proceed to elect a new chairman.
Is this in order? Why or why not?
4. Immediately before Proposition D is introduced, a member moved an Appeal as an IMM on a ruling on Item B that had been made several hours ago.
Is this in order? Why or why not?
5. At a time after Issue A was disposed of, and before Item B was introduced, a member moved an IMM to handle Motion E by Seriatim.
Is this in order? Why or why not?
6. At a time after Subject C was disposed of, and before Proposition D was introduced, a member moved an IMM to Divide the Question (Topic F) into 3 parts.
Is this in order? Why or why not?
7. At a time after Issue A was disposed of, and before Item B was introduced, a member moved an IMM to Refer new Topic F to the Bylaws Committee.
Is this in order? Why or why not?