

2025 Council Resolution 25: Protecting Section Integrity and Member Engagement in ACEP

Council Action: ADOPTED

Board Action: ADOPTED

Status: Completed

SUBMITTED BY: American Association of Women Emergency Physicians Section
Early Career Physicians Section

Purpose:

Amend the “Policy on Sections of Membership” to require that a charter for any section of membership may only be suspended or revoked by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors

Fiscal Impact:

Budgeted staff resources.

WHEREAS, Sections within ACEP are essential for fostering community, professional development, and focused advocacy among emergency physicians with shared interests and identities; and

WHEREAS, Section dissolution should be undertaken only with substantial justification and transparency, in order to preserve the diversity and engagement of ACEP’s membership; and

WHEREAS, In the current politically volatile environment, ACEP must safeguard against external political pressures that could unduly influence internal decisions, including the potential dissolution of sections; and

WHEREAS, The perception or reality of politically motivated section closures may significantly diminish trust in ACEP governance and decrease member participation; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors amend the “Policy on Sections of Membership” to require that a charter for any section of membership may only be suspended or revoked by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.

Background:

This resolution seeks to raise the threshold for the Board of Directors to suspend or revoke a section charter from a majority vote to a two-thirds vote.

There are currently [40 sections](#) of membership with approximately 24,000 unique members and total section membership of more than 33,000 members (some members belong to more than one section). Sections provide an opportunity for members to network with other members who share common areas of interest in the diverse areas of emergency medicine or life stages. Section members have the opportunity to cultivate ideas and develop programs to improve the care of emergency patients worldwide.

ACEP’s [“Policy on Sections of Membership”](#) provides guidance on many issues pertaining to sections, including establishing a section, maintenance of a section, and section charter probation, suspension, and revocation. The policy stipulates that a 2/3 vote of the Board is required to establish a section; however, only a majority vote of the Board is required to suspend or revoke a charter based on the following criteria:

1. The actions of the section are deemed to be in conflict with the Bylaws or the Policy on Sections of Membership.
2. The section fails to comply with all the requirements of the Bylaws, the Policy on Sections of Membership, the individual Section's Operational Guidelines, the online communities Terms of Use, or with any other requirement of the College.
3. The actions of the section are determined not to be in accordance with the goals, objectives, or in the best interest of the College.

Strategic Plan Reference:

Member Engagement and Trust: Every member feels involved and personally connected, in different ways and at different levels, and trusts ACEP and its leadership.

Prior Council Action:

Resolution 9(09) Bylaws Housekeeping Changes adopted. This resolution made several editorial revisions to the Bylaws for consistency with the Texas Business Organizations Code and included a revision to the language pertaining to section councillors.

Resolution 10(07) Complimentary Members in Section Councillor Allocation adopted. This Bylaws amendment clarified that complimentary section memberships are to be included when determining section eligibility for a councillor and limited this allocation to candidate members only.

Amended Resolution 30(05) Standing Rules Housekeeping Changes adopted. This Council Standing Rules resolution made comprehensive housekeeping changes throughout the document including non-substantive updated language to the Councillor Allocation for Sections of Membership.

Amended Resolution 6(99) Council Standing Rules adopted. This resolution revised the Council Standing Rules based on the streamlined Bylaws and stipulated that future changes to the Council Standing Rules can only be made through submission of resolutions to the Council. *Note: Changes to the Council Standing Rules prior to 2000 were proposed by the Council Steering Committee and approved by the Council at the next annual meeting.*

Amended Resolution 4(99) Streamlining Bylaws adopted. This Bylaws amendment simplified the Bylaws by placing procedural provisions in either the Council Standing Rules or a College manual.

October 1997, approved the Council Standing Rules with voting capability for section councillors for sections with at least 100 dues-paying members as of December 31 each year.

Amended Resolution 3(96) Councillor Allocations for Sections of Membership adopted. This Bylaws amendment specified that sections must have 100 dues-paying members as of December 31 of the preceding year.

September 1992, approved the Council Standing Rules with voting capability for section councillors for sections with at least 100 dues-paying members as of June 1 each year.

Resolution 1(90) Voting Privilege for Section Councillors adopted. This Bylaws amendment granted voting

privileges to section councillors.

September 1990, approved the Council Standing Rules with the addition of one non-voting councillor for sections with at least 100 dues-paying members as of June 1 each year.

Resolution 11(89) Councillor Allotment for Sections of Membership adopted. This resolution allocated one councillor per section without the right to vote.

Substitute Resolution 13(88) Sections of Membership adopted. This resolution established sections of membership.

Prior Board Action:

June 2024, approved the revised "Policy on Sections of Membership;" revised and approved June 2022, June 2017, April 2008, June 2002, July 2001, June 1996, October 1993, June 1992, January 1992, and May 1990; originally approved January 1989.

Note: Prior to 1993 the Board of Directors did not take action on Bylaws amendments adopted by the Council.

Council Action:

The Council adopted Resolution 25(25) on September 6, 2025.

Testimony:

Asynchronous testimony was supportive of the resolution citing the importance of maintaining equal thresholds for section creation and dissolution. No live testimony was offered.

Board Action:

The Board adopted Resolution 25(25) on September 10, 2025.

References:

Implementation Action:

The "Policy on Sections of Membership" was revised and approved by the Board of Directors on September 4, 2025. The policy has been updated on the website and in the Sections Manual.

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