

Resolution No. 207 NewReport: N/A Date Submitted: 5/18/2025Submitted By: Dr. Steven Saxe, delegate, NevadaReference Committee: D (Legislative, Governance and Related Matters)Total Net Financial Implication: [Total Net Financial Impl.]

Net Dues Impact: _____

Amount One-time: _____

Amount On-going: _____

ADA Strategic Forecast Outcome: Tripartite: Promote Tripartite stability, success, and future growth.

AMENDMENT TO THE MANUAL OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES SECTION TITLED REPRESENTATION OF CONSTITUENTS AND PERIODIC REAPPORTIONMENT OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES

Background: The American Dental Association (ADA), as the national voice for the dental profession, must continually evaluate whether its governance structure supports fiscal responsibility and meets member needs in a changing environment. ADA members expect their dues to be used effectively and ethically. According to the *Manual of the House of Delegates*, “The House of Delegates, as the legislative and governing body, is the supreme authority in the American Dental Association” (*Manual of the House of Delegates*, p. 4).

The ADA House of Delegates (HOD), the legislative body of the Association, currently includes 485 voting delegates—a number reflected in the current composition but originally anchored in a target size of 473 discussed in prior governance materials. Delegate allocations are recalculated every four years based on membership data from two years prior (*Manual of the House of Delegates*, pages 18-20). However, the overall size of the House has remained relatively static despite a more than 25% decline in ADA active membership since 2005, as illustrated in the 2024 *Report of the Treasurer*, which documents long-term membership trends and market share erosion (p. 6; <https://connect.ada.org/governance/hod/Archived%20Documents/2024%20House%20Material/Financial%20and%20Organizational%20Communications/2024%20Report%20of%20the%20Treasurer.pdf>).

Professional associations such as the **American Medical Association (AMA)** and the **American Association of University Professors (AAUP)** allocate delegates based on current active membership, with proportional formulas updated on a regular basis to reflect year-end totals. [According to the AMA's official delegate apportionment memo for 2025](#), delegate allocation is based on “**one delegate apportioned for every 1,000 AMA members, or fraction thereof**” using official AMA membership data as of December 31 of the prior year. [The AMA House of Delegates Reference Manual \(Page 7\)](#) further confirms that constituent societies receive delegates “on a proportional basis with one delegate per every 1,000 active AMA members”. Similarly, the **AAUP National Delegate Assembly** allocates representation using a ratio of one delegate per 250 members (or major fraction thereof), a structure outlined in their governance section: <https://www.aaup.org/information-and-resources-sections>

In keeping with these established peer standards, **this resolution proposes** that the ADA adopt a delegate allocation ratio of approximately **one voting delegate per 700 active members**. This approach seeks to modernize House composition, ensure equitable representation, and maintain accessibility while protecting guaranteed representation for smaller constituent societies. To ensure consistency with peer organizations and preserve the integrity of proportional representation, this resolution proposes that delegate allocation be based on **active members only**. This approach mirrors the American Medical

Association's model, which allocates delegates solely according to active membership totals. Including retired or honorary categories—many of whom no longer pay dues or participate in governance—would distort apportionment and dilute the voice of currently engaged members. Guaranteed minimum representation ensures smaller constituent societies remain protected.

Under the current structure, the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) holds five (5) delegate seats out of 485 total in the ADA House of Delegates—roughly 1% of the body. As this resolution proposes reducing the overall size of the House to better reflect active membership, fixed delegate blocks must also be recalibrated to maintain proportional fairness. Without adjustment, ASDA's share would more than double in a smaller House, granting disproportionate influence to a non-licensed, non-dues-paying group. To preserve student representation while aligning with equitable governance principles, this resolution proposes that ASDA retain no more than 1.5% of total voting delegates, with a hard cap of five (5) delegates

Resolution

207. Resolved, that the section of the *Manual of the House of Delegates* titled Representation of Constituents and Periodic Reapportionment of Delegates and Alternate Delegates, be amended as follows (additions underlined, deletions ~~strikethrough~~):

A. Delegate Allocation Methodology

Commencing in ~~2044-2026~~, based on the representational requirements and goals set forth in this Manual and in the *Governance Manual*, delegates shall be allocated according to the allocation methodology set forth below. Thereafter, to account for membership fluctuations, delegate allocations shall be reviewed and delegates shall be reallocated by the Secretary of the House of Delegates every ~~four (4)~~ three (3) years among the Association's constituents, the five (5) federal dental services and the American Student Dental Association in accordance with that same methodology. Delegate allocations shall be based on the Association's year-end membership records for the second calendar year preceding the year in which the delegate allocations become effective using a formula of one (1) voting delegate per 700 active members, rounded to the nearest whole number, while ensuring that each constituent, federal dental service and the American Student Dental Association retains at least one (1) voting delegate. The review of delegates shall take place as soon as possible after the membership numbers on which the delegate allocations are based are available and the Secretary of the House of Delegates shall publish the new delegate allocations expeditiously thereafter to the constituent dental societies, the five (5) federal dental services and the American Student Dental Association. The delegate allocations shall also be published in this Manual. The American Student Dental Association shall be allocated a number of voting delegates that is 1.5% of the total constituent and federal dental services delegates, with a maximum of five (5) delegates. This allocation formula does not alter the separate calculation of delegate counts for each of the five federal dental services, which shall each retain at least one (1) delegate.

1. ~~The Target Delegate Number. For purposes of allocating delegates, the target number of delegates to be used in calculating the allocation is four hundred seventy three (473). From that target number two delegates will be deducted for each constituent and federal dental service except that only a single delegate will be deducted from each of the Colegio de Cirujanos Dentistas de Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands Dental Association unless the number of members in either of those societies is equal to or greater than the number of members in the smallest state constituent, in which case a minimum of two (2) delegates will be deducted from the target delegate number for that entity. In addition, five (5) delegates will be deducted from the target delegate number for the American Student Dental Association. For purposes of the delegate allocation methodology set forth in the~~

Manual of the House of Delegates, the remaining number of delegates in the target number of delegates following the deductions of delegates listed above from the target number of delegates shall be referred to as the "net delegate allocation pool."

3- Determination of the True Proportional Delegate Counts for each Constituent and each Federal Dental Service. Divide each constituent's and each federal dental service's total membership by the total constituent and federal dental service membership of the Association. Multiply the resulting percentage of membership for each constituent and federal dental service by the target number of delegates set forth in section B.1. of this methodology less the number of delegates allocated to the American Student Dental Association in section B.2. of this allocation methodology. The resulting true proportional delegate numbers will be used later in the delegate allocation methodology.

4- Determination of Constituents and Federal Dental Services that Qualify to Receive More than the Minimum Delegate Allocation.

a- Divide the total constituent and federal dental service membership of the Association by the target number of delegates set forth in section B.1. of this allocation methodology less the number of delegates allocated to the American Student Dental Association in section B.2. of this methodology. Compare the resulting number against the membership numbers for the Colegio de Cirujanos Dentistas de Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands Dental Association if they received a single delegate pursuant to the review performed in section B.1. of this allocation methodology. If the membership numbers of any of those entities are less than the result of the calculation, allocate the number of delegates deducted from the target delegate allocation number for each such entity and exclude those entities from the remaining steps of the delegate allocation methodology.

b- Take the result of the calculation performed in section B.4.a. of this allocation methodology and multiply it by two (2). Compare the resulting number against the membership numbers for each constituent society and each federal dental service for which two (2) delegates were deducted from the target delegate allocation number in section B.1. of this methodology. If the membership of any of those constituent societies and federal dental services are less than that number, allocate the number of delegates deducted from the target delegate allocation number for each such entity and exclude those entities from the remaining steps of the delegate allocation methodology.

5- Calculation of Non-Minimum Membership Total. Subtract the total membership numbers of each constituent and federal dental service identified as being excluded from the remaining steps of the delegate allocation methodology from the total constituent and federal dental service membership of the Association. The resulting nonminimum membership total will be used in the remaining delegate allocation methodology steps.

6- Allocation of Remaining Delegates.

a- Divide each remaining constituent's and federal dental service's membership by the non-minimum membership total determined in section 5, above, to arrive at their percentages of the non-minimum membership total.

b. Calculate the remaining number of delegates to be allocated by subtracting from the target number of delegates listed in section B.1. of this allocation methodology the delegates allocated to the American Student Dental Association in section B.2. of this methodology and the delegates allocated by the minimum allocation steps in sections B.4.a. and B.4.b., above.

c. For each remaining constituent and federal dental service, multiply its percentage of the non-minimum membership total determined by the calculation in section B.6.a., above, and the remaining number of delegates to be allocated as determined by the calculation in section B.6.b. of this allocation methodology. Round the result to the nearest whole number.

d. For each remaining constituent and federal dental service, multiply the resulting percentage of membership obtained in section B.3. above, by the target number of delegates specified in section B.1., above, less the number of delegates allocated to the American Student Dental Association pursuant to section B.2. of this methodology and round the result to the nearest whole number.

e. For each remaining constituent and federal dental service, subtract the result obtained in section B.6.d. of this allocation methodology from the result obtained in section B.6.c. hereof. If the result is negative, use the result obtained in section B.6.d. as that constituent's allocated delegate total. If the result is zero or positive, use the result obtained in section B.6.c. of this methodology as that constituent's allocated delegate total.

7. **Finalize the Delegate Allocation.** Add together the final delegate allocations for the constituents, federal dental services and the American Student Dental Association determined through the calculations of sections B.2., B.4.a., B.4.b. and B.6.e. of this allocation methodology. The result is the total delegates allocated. The total delegates allocated should vary no more than six percent (6%) from the target number of delegates set forth in paragraph B.1. of this subsection.

8. **Calculating the Fairness Ratio.** Divide each constituent's and each federal dental service's percentage of total delegates (the constituent's allocated delegates divided by the total delegates allocated as determined by the calculation set forth in subparagraph B.7 of this methodology less the number of delegates allocated to the American Student Dental Association) by its percentage of total membership as calculated in B.3., above. Except for those constituents that only receive the minimum number of allocated delegates, the resulting "fairness ratio" should deviate by a small amount on either side of 1, with 1 representing a perfectly proportional delegate allocation. The fairness ratio for constituents and federal dental services that receive only the minimum allocation of delegates may deviate from 1 to a larger degree because those constituents and federal dental services may be overrepresented.

B. Suspension of The Representation of a Constituent

The representation of a constituent in the House of Delegates may be suspended by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the House of Delegates present and voting upon a determination by the House of Delegates that the constitution or bylaws of the constituent violate the *Constitution* or *Bylaws* of this Association. Any such suspension shall not be in effect until the House of Delegates has voted that the constitution or bylaws of the constituent violate the *Constitution* or *Bylaws* of this Association and the constituent has one (1) year following notification of the specific violation within which to correct the violation.

Amendment of this section of the *Manual of the House of Delegates* shall be by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the delegates present and voting.

and be it further

Resolved, that the ADA *Governance Manual*, Chapter II. CONSTITUENT AND COMPONENTS, Section B.2., be amended as follows:

2. Privilege of Representation.

- a. Delegates. Each ~~state constituent, the District of Columbia Dental Society and each~~ federal dental service and the American Student Dental Association shall be entitled to a minimum of ~~two (2) delegates~~ one (1) delegate in the House of Delegates. ~~Each territorial constituent shall be entitled to a minimum of two (2) delegates in the House of Delegates if its total membership is equal to or greater than the size of the smallest state constituent; otherwise the territorial constituent shall receive one (1) delegate.~~ The remaining number of delegates shall be allocated as set forth in the *Manual of the House of Delegates (House Manual)*.

and be it further

Resolved, that the ADA *Bylaws*. CHAPTER III, HOUSE OF DELEGATES, Section 10.D. Election or Selection, be amended as follows:

D. ELECTION OR SELECTION. A constituent's delegates shall be elected or, in the case of a constituent's alternate delegates elected or selected by one or more of the following methods:

- a. By the membership at large of that constituent;
- b. By the constituent's governing legislative body, House of Delegates, or Board of Directors, or in the case of alternate delegates, at the discretion of the constituent; or
- c. By a component with respect to the delegates representing that component.

Each federal dental service and the American Student Dental Association may establish its own method for electing or selecting delegates, except that the American Student Dental Association shall select its ~~five (5)~~ delegates from its even numbered regions in even numbered years, and the odd numbered regions in odd numbered years, with their alternate delegates selected from the opposite groups of regions.

E. TERM, CERTIFICATION AND CREDENTIALING. The terms, and process for certifying and credentialing delegates and alternate delegates shall be as set forth in the *Manual of the House of Delegates*.