Robert vs. Reed

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Parliamentarian Jim Slaughter took a poll asking which parliamentary authority clients were using. Slaughter's findings were:

- 90% - "Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised"
- 8%   - "The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure"
- 3%   - some other parliamentary authority

Jim Slaughter, "Parliamentary Practices of CPP's in 2000," Parliamentary Journal, XLII (Jan. 2001), 1-11. Article.

Henry Martyn Robert

Board of Engineers from 1895 to 1901.

Made Brigadier General on April 30, 1901

 Chief of Engineers

Origin of Robert's Rules

First published in 1876.

It was the result of Robert's running of an unsuccessful church meeting and a desire to learn parliamentary procedure.

He later discovered there was no uniform procedure available to non-legislative bodies

So he wrote the book.

Thomas Brackett Reed

38th Speaker of the United States House of Representatives

1889-1891

 and

1895-1899

Origin of Reed's Rules

First published in 1894.

Reed was Speaker of the House in the late 1800's. The House operates under rules that it adopts each session and Jefferson's manual until they are adopted.

Reed is famous for changing the Quorum rule to avoid filibusters. He wrote his parliamentary rules to "assist deliberative bodies," but he had the House of Representatives in mind.

On Wikipedia it only mentions the Washington Legislature as currently using Reed's.

Most Legislative bodies now use Mason's Manual.
http://www.ncsl.org/research/about-state-legislatures/2010-masons-manual.aspx

Considerations

The Washington Legislature uses Reed's.

People who have worked in or with the Legislature are familiar with Reed's.

Most other bodies use Robert's.

More people are familiar with Robert's.

Robert's Rule are less complex and designed for smaller, less complex bodies.

There are significantly more resources relating to Robert's Rules.