<IfModule mod_rewrite.c> RewriteEngine on

RewriteBase /

only if the requested file does not exists
RewriteCond %(REQUEST_FILENAME) ! -f

Store the current location in an environment variable CWD
RewriteCond \$0#%(REQUEST_URI) ([^#]*)#(.*)\1\$
RewriteRule ^.*\$ - [E=CWD: %2]

Just by prefixing the environment variable, we can safely rewrite anything now RewriteRule ^([^/]*) %(ENV: CWD)index.php?database=\$1 [QSA,L] </IfModule>