

RULES

*of the*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

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# RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

### RULE I THE SPEAKER

#### ***Preservation of order***

1. The Speaker shall preserve order and decorum and, in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct in the galleries or in the lobby, may cause the same to be cleared.

#### ***Signature of documents***

2. The Speaker shall sign all acts and joint resolutions passed by the two Houses and all writs, warrants, and subpoenas of, or issued by order of, the House. The Speaker may sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions whether or not the House is in session.

#### ***Questions of order***

3. The Speaker shall decide all questions of order, subject to appeal by a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner. On such an appeal a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner may not speak more than once without permission of the House.

#### ***Form of a question***

4. The Speaker shall put a question in this form: "Those in favor (of the question), say 'Aye.' "; and after the affirmative voice is expressed, "Those opposed, say 'No.' ". After a vote by voice under this clause, the Speaker may use such voting procedures as may be invoked under rule VIII.

#### ***Discretion to vote***

5. The Speaker is not required to vote in ordinary legislative proceedings, except when such vote would be decisive or when the House is engaged in voting by ballot.

#### ***Speaker pro tempore***

6. (a) The Speaker may appoint a Member to perform the duties of the Chair.

(b) With the approval of the House, the Speaker may appoint a Member to act as Speaker pro tempore only to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions for a specified period of time.

#### ***Committee appointment***

7. The Speaker shall appoint all select, joint, and conference committees ordered by the House. At any time after an original appointment, the Speaker may remove Members, Delegates, or the Resident Commissioner from, or appoint additional Members, Delegates, or the Resident Commissioner to, a select or conference committee. In appointing Members, Delegates, or the Resident Commissioner

to conference committees, the Speaker shall name those who are primarily responsible for the legislation, and shall, to the fullest extent feasible, include the principal proponents of the major provisions of the bill or resolution passed or adopted by the House.

#### ***Recess and convening authorities***

8. (a) To suspend the business of the House for a short time when no question is pending before the House, the Speaker may declare a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

(b)(1) To suspend the business of the House when notified of an imminent threat to its safety, the Speaker may declare an emergency recess subject to the call of the chair.

(2) To suspend the business of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union when notified of an imminent threat to its safety, the chair of the Committee of the Whole may declare an emergency recess subject to the call of the Chair.

### RULE II QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGE

1. Questions of privilege shall be, first, those affecting the rights of the House collectively, its safety, dignity, and the integrity of its proceedings; and second, those affecting the rights, reputation, and conduct of Members, Delegates, or the Resident Commissioner, individually, in their representative capacity only.

2. (a)(1) A resolution reported as a question of the privileges of the House, or offered from the floor by the Majority Leader or the Minority Leader as a question of the privileges of the House, or offered as privileged under clause 1, section 7, article I of the Constitution, shall have precedence of all other questions except motions to adjourn. A resolution offered from the floor by a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner other than the Majority Leader or the Minority Leader as a question of the privileges of the House shall have precedence of all other questions except motions to adjourn only at a time or place, designated by the Speaker, in the legislative schedule within two legislative days after the day on which the proponent

announces to the House an intention to offer the resolution and the form of the resolution. Oral announcement of the form of the resolution may be dispensed with by unanimous consent.

(2) The time allotted for debate on a resolution offered from the floor as a question of the privileges of the House shall be equally divided between (A) the proponent of the resolution, and (B) the Majority Leader, the Minority Leader, or a designee, as determined by the Speaker. (b) A question of personal privilege shall have precedence of all other questions except motions to adjourn.

### RULE III ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEES

#### ***Committees and their legislative jurisdictions***

1. There shall be in the House the following standing committees, each of which shall have the jurisdiction and related functions assigned by this clause. All bills, resolutions, and other matters relating to subjects within the jurisdiction of the standing committees listed in this clause shall be referred to those committees, in accordance with clause 2 of rule IV, as follows:

#### ***(a) Committee on Technology and Economics***

(1) Biomedical research and development.

(2) Health and health facilities (except health care supported by payroll deductions).

(3) Interstate energy compacts.

(4) Interstate and foreign commerce generally.

(5) Exploration, production, storage, supply, marketing, pricing, and regulation of energy resources, including all fossil fuels, solar energy, and other unconventional or renewable energy resources.

(6) General management of the Department of Energy and management and all functions of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

(7) National energy policy generally.

(8) Public health and quarantine.

(9) Banks and banking.

(10) Economic stabilization, defense production, renegotiation, and control of the price of commodities, rents, and

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services.

(11) Insurance generally.

(12) International finance.

(13) Money and credit, including currency and the issuance of notes and redemption thereof; gold and silver, including the coinage thereof; valuation and revaluation of the dollar.

(14) Public and private housing.

(15) Securities and exchange.

(16) Urban development.

(17) All energy research, development, and demonstration, and projects therefor, and all federally owned or operated nonmilitary energy laboratories.

(18) National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(19) National Space Council.

(20) National Science Foundation.

(21) National Weather Service.

(22) Outer space, including exploration and control thereof.

## **(b) Committee on Appropriations**

(1) Appropriation of the revenue for the support of the Government.

(2) Bills and joint resolutions reported by other committees that provide new entitlement authority as defined in section 3(9) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and referred to the committee.

(3) Bills and joint resolutions that provide new budget authority, limitation on the use of funds, or other authority relating to new direct loan obligations and new loan guarantee commitments referencing section 504(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

## **(c) Committee on Foreign and Military Affairs**

(1) Common defense generally.

(2) The Department of Defense generally, including the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force generally.

(3) Interoceanic canals generally.

(4) Military applications of nuclear energy.

(5) Tactical intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the Department of Defense.

(6) Pay, promotion retirement, and other benefits and privileges of members of the armed forces.

(7) Scientific research and development in support of the armed services.

(8) Selective service.

(9) Size and composition of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Space Force.

(10) Soldiers' and sailors' homes.

(11) Strategic and critical materials necessary for the common defense.

(12) Cemeteries administered by the Department of Defense.

(13) Relations of the United States with foreign nations generally.

(14) Acquisition of land and buildings for embassies and legations in foreign countries.

(15) Establishment of boundary lines between the United States and foreign nations.

(16) Export controls, including nonproliferation of nuclear technology and nuclear hardware.

(17) Intervention abroad and declarations of war.

(18) Diplomatic service.

(19) Protection of American citizens abroad and expatriation.

(20) Trading with the enemy

(21) United Nations organizations.

(22) Functions of the Department of Homeland Security relating to the following:

(A) Border and port security (except immigration policy and non-border enforcement).

(B) Customs (except customs revenue)

(C) Integration, analysis, and dissemination of homeland security information.

(D) Domestic preparedness for and collective response to terrorism.

(E) Research and development.

(F) Transportation security.

(23) Coast Guard, including lifesaving service, lighthouses, lightships, ocean derelicts, and the Coast Guard Academy.

(24) Veterans measures generally.

## **(d) Committee on Governmental Affairs**

(1) Military parks and battlefields, national cemeteries administered by the Secretary of the Interior, parks within the District of Columbia, and the erection of monuments to the memory of individuals.

(2) Mineral land laws and claims and entries thereunder.

(3) Mineral resources of public lands.

(4) Relations of the United States with Native Americans and Native American Tribes.

(5) Government management generally.

(6) National archives.

(7) Population and demography generally, including the Census.

(8) Postal service generally, including transportation of the mails.

(9) Public information and records.

(10) Relationship of the Federal Government to the States and municipalities generally.

(11) Reorganization in the executive branch of the Government.

(12) Public buildings and occupied or improved grounds of the United States generally.

(13) Customs revenue, collection districts, and ports of entry and delivery.

(14) Revenue measures generally.

(15) Deposit of public monies.

(16) National social security (except health care and facilities programs that are supported from general revenues as opposed to payroll deductions and except work incentive programs.)

## **(e) Committee on Education, Immigration, and the Workforce**

(1) Child labor.

(2) Food programs for children in schools.

(3) Labor standards and statistics.

(4) Education or Labor generally.

(5) Workers' compensation.

(6) Vocational rehabilitation.

(7) Wages and hours of labor.

(8) Work incentive programs.

(9) Immigration policy and non-border enforcement.

## **(f) Committee on the Judiciary, Ethics, and House Administration**

(1) The Code of Official Conduct.

(2) Disposition of useless executive papers.

(3) Election of the President, Vice President, Members, or Senators; corrupt practices; contested elections; credentials and qualifications; and federal elections generally.

(4) Raising, reporting, and use of campaign contributions for candidates for office of Representative.

(5) The judiciary and judicial proceedings, civil and criminal.

(6) Administrative practice and procedure.

(7) Apportionment of Representatives.

(8) Bankruptcy, mutiny, espionage, and counterfeiting.

(9) Civil liberties.

(10) Constitutional amendments.

(11) Criminal law enforcement and criminalization.

(12) Federal courts and judges, and local courts in the Territories and possessions.

(13) Claims against the United States.

(14) National Penitentiaries.

(15) Presidential succession.

(16) Revision and codification of the Statutes of the United States.

(17) State and territorial boundary lines.

(18) Subversive activities affecting the internal security of the United States.

## **(g) Committee on Rules**

(1) Rules and joint rules (other than those relating to the Code of Official Conduct) and the order of business of the House.

(2) Recesses and final adjournments of Congress.

## ***Election and membership of standing committees***

2. The standing committees specified in clause 1 shall be elected by the House after the commencement of each Congress, from nominations submitted by the respective party caucus or conference.

3. Membership on a standing committee during the course of a Congress shall be

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contingent on continuing membership in the party caucus or conference that nominated the Member concerned for election to such committee. Should a Member cease to be a member of a particular party caucus or conference, that Member shall automatically cease to be a member of each standing committee to which elected on the basis of nomination by that caucus or conference. The chair of the relevant party caucus or conference shall notify the Speaker whenever a Member ceases to be a member of that caucus or conference. The Speaker shall notify the chair of each affected committee that the election of such Member to the committee is automatically vacated under this clause.

4. A member may not serve simultaneously as a member of more than two standing committees or more than four subcommittees of the standing committees.

(a) Ex officio service by a chair or ranking minority member of a committee on each of its subcommittees does not count against the limitation on subcommittee service.

5. One of the members of each standing committee shall be elected by the House on the nomination of the majority party caucus or conference, as chair thereof.

6. A committee, other than the Committee on Appropriations, may not have more than five subcommittees.

## RULE V

### PROCEDURES OF COMMITTEES AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### **In general**

1. (a) The Rules of the House are the rules so far as applicable.

(b) Each subcommittee is a part of its committee and is subject to the authority and direction of that committee.

(c) In a committee or subcommittee, a motion to recess from day to day or to recess subject to the call of the Chair shall be privileged.

#### **Temporary absence of chair**

2. A member of the majority party on each standing committee thereof shall be designated by the chair of the full committee as the vice chair of the committee or subcommittee, as the case may be, and shall preside during the absence of the chair from any meeting. If the chair and vice chair of a committee are not present at any meeting of the committee, the ranking majority member who is present shall preside at that meeting.

#### **Committee records**

3. Each committee shall keep a complete

record of all committee action which shall include a record of the votes on any question on which a record vote is demanded.

#### **Prohibition against proxy voting**

4. A vote by a member of a committee or subcommittee with respect to any measure or matter may not be cast by proxy.

#### **Open meetings**

5. Each meeting of a standing committee or subcommittee thereof shall be open to the public, except when the committee or subcommittee, in open session and with a majority present, determines by record vote that all or part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be in executive session because disclosure of matters to be considered would endanger national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, would tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person, or otherwise would violate a law or rule of the House. Persons, other than members of the committee and such noncommittee Members, congressional staff, or departmental representatives as the committee may authorize, may not be present at a session that is held in executive session.

#### **Quorum requirements**

6. A measure or recommendation may not be reported by a committee unless a majority of the committee is actually present.

7. Each committee may fix the number of its members to constitute a quorum for taking testimony and receiving evidence, which may not be less than two.

#### **Limitation on committee sittings**

8. A committee may not sit during a joint session of the House and Senate or during a recess when a joint meeting of the House and Senate is in progress.

#### **Power to sit and act; subpoena power**

9. For the purpose of carrying out any of its functions and duties under this rule and rule II, a committee or subcommittee is authorized to sit and act at such times and places within the United States, whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned, and to hold such hearings as it considers necessary; and to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, and documents as it considers necessary.

10. The chair of the committee, or a member designated by the chair, may administer oaths to witnesses.

## RULE V RECEIPT AND REFERRAL OF MEASURES AND MATTERS

#### **Messages**

1. Messages received from the Senate, or from the President, shall be entered on the Journal and published in the Congressional Record of the proceedings of that day.

#### **Referral**

2. (a) The Speaker shall refer matters in such manner as to ensure to the maximum extent feasible that each committee that has jurisdiction under clause 1 of rule II over the subject matter of a provision thereof may consider such provision and report to the House thereon.

(b) In carrying out paragraph (a) with respect to the referral of a matter, the Speaker—

(1) shall designate a committee of primary jurisdiction (except where the Speaker determines that extraordinary circumstances justify review by more than one committee as though primary);

(2) may refer the matter to one or more additional committees for consideration in sequence, either initially or after the matter has been reported by the committee of primary jurisdiction;

(3) may refer portions of the matter reflecting different subjects and jurisdictions to one or more additional committees;

(4) may refer the matter to a special, ad hoc committee appointed by the Speaker with the approval of the House, and including members of the committees of jurisdiction, for the specific purpose of considering that matter and reporting to the House thereon;

(5) may subject a referral to appropriate time limitations; and

(6) may make such other provision as may be considered appropriate.

(d) A bill for the payment or adjudication of a private claim against the Government may not be referred to a committee other than the Committee on Foreign Affairs or the Committee on the Judiciary, except by unanimous consent.

#### **Sponsorship**

3. (a) Bills, memorials, petitions, and resolutions, endorsed with the names of Members introducing them, may be delivered to the Speaker to be referred.

(b)(1) The primary sponsor of a public bill or public resolution may name cosponsors. The name of a cosponsor added after the initial printing of a bill or resolution shall appear in the next printing of the bill or resolution on the written request of the primary sponsor. Such a request may be submitted to the Speaker at any time until

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the last committee authorized to consider and report the bill or resolution reports it to the House or is discharged from its consideration.

(2) The name of a cosponsor of a bill or resolution may be deleted by unanimous consent. The Speaker may entertain such a request only by the Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner whose name is to be deleted or by the primary sponsor of the bill or resolution, and only until the last committee authorized to consider and report the bill or resolution reports it to the House or is discharged from its consideration. The Speaker may not entertain a request to delete the name of the primary sponsor of a bill or resolution. A deletion shall be indicated by date in the next printing of the bill or resolution.

(3) The addition or deletion of the name of a cosponsor of a bill or resolution shall be entered on the Journal.

## RULE VI CALENDARS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

### ***Calendars***

1. (a) All business reported by committees shall be referred to the House Calendar.

(b) There is established a Calendar of Motions to Discharge Committees as provided in Clause 3 of Rule VII.

### ***Privileged reports, generally***

2. (a) The following committees shall have leave to report at any time on the following matters, respectively:

(1) The Committee on Appropriations, on general appropriation bills and on joint resolutions continuing appropriations for a fiscal year after September 15 in the preceding fiscal year.

(2) The Committee on the Budget, on the matters required to be reported by such committee under titles III and IV of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(3) The Committee on Rules, on rules, joint rules, and the order of business.

(b) A report filed from the floor as privileged under paragraph (a) may be called up as a privileged question by direction of the reporting committee.

### ***Privileged reports by the Committee on Rules***

3. (a) Pending the consideration of a report by the Committee on Rules on a rule, joint rule, or the order of business, the Speaker may entertain one motion that the House adjourn but may not entertain any other dilatory motion until the report shall have been disposed of.

(b) The Committee on Rules may not report a rule or order that would prevent the motion to recommit a bill or joint resolution from being made as provided

by clause 11(a) of rule VII, if offered by the Minority Leader or a designee, except with respect to a Senate bill or joint resolution for which the text of a House-passed measure has been substituted.

## RULE VII ORDER AND PRIORITY OF BUSINESS

1. The daily order of business (unless varied by the application of other rules and except for the disposition of matters of higher precedence) shall be as follows:

First. Prayer by the Chaplain.

Second. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Third. Disposal of business on the Speaker's table as provided in clause 2.

Fourth. Unfinished business as provided in clause 3.

Fifth. Motions that the House resolve into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union subject to clause 4.

Sixth. Orders of the day.

2. Business on the Speaker's table shall be disposed of as follows:

(a) Messages from the President shall be referred to the appropriate committees without debate.

(b) Communications addressed to the House, including reports and communications from heads of departments and bills, resolutions, and messages from the Senate, may be referred to the appropriate committees in the same manner as public bills and public resolutions presented by Members.

(c) Motions to dispose of Senate amendments on the Speaker's table may be entertained

(d) Senate bills and resolutions substantially the same as House measures already favorably reported and not required to be considered in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union may be disposed of by motion. Such a motion shall be privileged if offered by direction of all reporting committees having initial jurisdiction of the House measure.

3. Consideration of unfinished business in which the House may have been engaged at an adjournment shall be resumed as soon as the business on the Speaker's table is finished, and at the same time each day thereafter until disposed of.

4. After consideration of bills or resolutions under clause 3, it shall be in order, pending consideration thereof, to entertain a motion that the House resolve into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union or that the House resolve into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union to

consider a particular bill. Such a motion shall be subject to only one amendment designating another bill. If such a motion is decided in the negative, another such motion may not be considered until the matter that was pending when such motion was offered is disposed of.

5. All questions relating to the priority of business shall be decided by a majority without debate.

## RULE VIII MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

### ***Motions***

1. Every motion entertained by the Speaker shall be reduced to writing on the demand of a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner and, unless it is withdrawn the same day, shall be entered on the Journal with the name of the Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner offering it. A dilatory motion may not be entertained by the Speaker.

### ***Suspensions***

2. (a) A rule may not be suspended except by a vote of two-thirds of the Members voting, a quorum being present.

(b) Pending a motion that the House suspend the rules, the Speaker may entertain one motion that the House adjourn but may not entertain any other motion until the vote is taken on the suspension.

(c) A motion that the House suspend the rules is debatable for 10 minutes, one-half in favor of the motion and one-half in opposition thereto.

### ***Discharge Petitions***

3. (a) A Member may present to the Clerk a motion in writing to discharge a committee from consideration of a public bill or public resolution that has been referred to it.

When a majority of the total membership of the House shall have signed the motion, it shall be entered on the Journal, published with the signatories thereto in the Record, and referred to the Calendar of Motions to Discharge Committees.

(b) A motion to discharge that has been referred to the Calendar of Motions to Discharge Committees can be called up by a Member whose signature appears thereon. When a motion to discharge is called up, the bill or resolution to which it relates shall be read by title only. The motion is debatable for 5 minutes, one-half in favor of the motion and one-half in opposition thereto.

(c) If a motion prevails to discharge a committee from the consideration of a bill or resolution, a motion that the House proceed to the immediate consideration of such bill or resolution shall be privileged if offered by a Member whose signature



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appeared on the motion to discharge. This motion to proceed is not debatable. If the motion to proceed is adopted, the bill or resolution shall be considered immediately under the general rules of the House.

## **Withdrawal**

4. When a motion is entertained, the Speaker shall state it or cause it to be read aloud by the Clerk before it is debated. The motion then shall be in the possession of the House but may be withdrawn at any time before a decision or amendment thereon.

## **Question of consideration**

5. When a motion or proposition is entertained, the question, "Will the House now consider it?" may not be put unless demanded by a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner.

## **Precedence of motions**

6. (a) When a question is under debate, only the following motions may be entertained (which shall have precedence in the following order):

- (1) To adjourn.
- (2) To lay on the table.
- (3) For the previous question.
- (4) To postpone to a day certain.
- (5) To refer.
- (6) To amend.

(7) To postpone indefinitely.

(b) A motion to adjourn, to lay on the table, or for the previous question shall be decided without debate. A motion to postpone to a day certain, to refer, or to postpone indefinitely, being decided, may not be allowed again on the same day at the same stage of the question.

(c)(1) It shall be in order at any time for the Speaker, in the discretion of the Speaker, to entertain a motion—

(A) that the Speaker be authorized to declare a recess; or

(B) that when the House adjourns it stand adjourned to a day and time certain.

(2) Either motion shall be of equal privilege with the motion to adjourn and shall be decided without debate.

## **Divisibility**

7. (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), a question shall be divided on the demand of a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner before the question is put if it includes propositions so distinct in substance that, one being taken away, a substantive proposition remains.

(b)(1) A motion or resolution to elect members to a standing committee of the House, or to a joint standing committee, is not divisible.

(2) A resolution or order reported by the Committee on Rules providing a special order of business is not divisible.

(c) A motion to strike and insert is not divisible, but rejection of a motion to

strike does not preclude another motion to amend.

## **Amendments**

8. When an amendable proposition is under consideration, a motion to amend and a motion to amend that amendment shall be in order, and it also shall be in order to offer a further amendment by way of substitute for the original motion to amend, to which one amendment may be offered but which may not be voted on until the original amendment is perfected. An amendment may be withdrawn in the House at any time before a decision or amendment thereon. An amendment to the title of a bill or resolution shall not be in order until after its passage or adoption and shall be decided without debate.

## **Germaneness**

9. No motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted under color of amendment.

## **Previous question**

10. (a) There shall be a motion for the previous question, which, being ordered, shall have the effect of cutting off all debate and bringing the House to a direct vote on the immediate question or questions on which it has been ordered. Whenever the previous question has been ordered on an otherwise debatable question on which there has been no debate, it shall be in order to debate that question for 10 minutes, equally divided and controlled by a proponent of the question and an opponent. The previous question may be moved and ordered on a single question, on a series of questions allowable under the rules, or on an amendment or amendments, or may embrace all authorized motions or amendments and include the bill or resolution to its passage, adoption, or rejection.

(b) Incidental questions of order arising during the pendency of a motion for the previous question shall be decided, whether on appeal or otherwise, without debate.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), when the previous question is operating to adoption or passage of a measure pursuant to a special order of business, the Chair may postpone further consideration of such measure in the House to such time as may be designated by the Speaker.

## **Recommit**

11. (a) After the previous question has been ordered on passage or adoption of a measure, or pending a motion to that end, it shall be in order to move that the House recommit (or commit, as the case may be) the measure, without instructions, to a standing or select committee. For such a motion to recommit, the Speaker shall give

preference in recognition to a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner who is opposed to the measure.

(b) The previous question shall be considered as ordered on any motion to recommit (or commit, as the case may be).

## **Reconsideration**

12. When a motion has been carried or lost, it shall be in order on the same or succeeding day for a Member on the prevailing side of the question to enter a motion for the reconsideration thereof. The entry of such a motion shall take precedence over all other questions except the consideration of a conference report or a motion to adjourn, and may not be withdrawn after such succeeding day without the consent of the House. Once entered, a motion may be called up for consideration by any Member. During the last six days of a session of Congress, such a motion shall be disposed of when entered.

13. A bill, petition, memorial, or resolution referred to a committee, or reported therefrom for printing and recommitment, may not be brought back to the House on a motion to reconsider.

## RULE IX DECORUM AND DEBATE

### **Decorum**

1. (a) A Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner who desires to speak or deliver a matter to the House shall rise and respectfully address the Speaker and, on being recognized, may address the House from any place on the floor. When invited by the Chair, a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner may speak from the Clerk's desk.

(b) Remarks in debate (which may include references to the Senate or its Members) shall be confined to the question under debate, avoiding personality.

### **Managing Debate**

2. (a) The Member who calls up a measure may open and close debate thereon. When general debate extends beyond one day, that Member shall be entitled to one minute to close without regard to the time used in opening.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (a), a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner may not speak more than once to the same question without leave of the House.

(c) A manager of a measure who opposes an amendment thereto is entitled to close controlled debate thereon.

### **Recognition**

3. When two or more Members rise at once, the Speaker shall name the Member who is first to speak.

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## **Call to order**

4. (a) If a Member, in speaking or otherwise, transgresses the Rules of the House, the Speaker shall, or a Member may, call to order the offending Member, who shall immediately sit down unless permitted on motion of another Member to explain. If a Member is called to order, the Member making the call to order shall indicate the words excepted to, which shall be taken down in writing at the Clerk's desk and read aloud to the House.

(b) The Speaker shall decide the validity of a call to order. The House, if appealed to, shall decide the question without debate. If the decision is in favor of the Member, called to order, the Member shall be at liberty to proceed, but not otherwise. If the case requires it, an offending Member shall be liable to censure or such other punishment as the House may consider proper. A Member may not be held to answer a call to order, and may not be subject to the censure of the House therefor, if further debate or other business has intervened.

## **Comportment**

5. When the Speaker is putting a question or addressing the House, a Member may not walk out of or across the Hall. When a Member is speaking, a Member may not pass between the person speaking and the Chair. During the session of the House, a Member may not wear a hat. On the floor, a Member may not smoke or use a mobile electronic device in a way that impairs decorum. The Sergeant-at-Arms is charged with the strict enforcement of this clause.

## **Secret Sessions**

6. When confidential communications are received from the President, or when the Speaker or a Member informs the House that such individual has communications that such individual believes ought to be kept secret for the present, the House shall be cleared of all persons except the Members and officers of the House for the reading of such communications, and debates and proceedings thereon, unless otherwise ordered by the House.

## **RULE X**

### **THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE ON THE STATE OF THE UNION**

## **Resolving into the Committee of the Whole**

1. (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), the House resolves into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union by motion. When such a motion is entertained, the Speaker shall put the question without debate: "Shall the House resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for

consideration of this matter?", naming it.

(b) After the House has adopted a resolution reported by the Committee on Rules providing a special order of business for the consideration of a measure in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, the Speaker may at any time, when no question is pending before the House, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole for the consideration of that measure without intervening motion, unless the special

## **Reading for Amendment**

2. Before general debate commences on a measure in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, it shall be read in full. When general debate is concluded or closed by order of the House, the measure under consideration shall be read for amendment. A Member who offers an amendment shall be allowed two minutes to explain it, after which the Member who shall first obtain the floor shall be allowed two minutes to speak in opposition to it. There shall be no further debate thereon, but the same privilege of debate shall be allowed in favor of and against any amendment that may be offered to an amendment. An amendment, or an amendment to an amendment, may be withdrawn by its proponent only by the unanimous consent.

## **Quorum and Voting**

3. A quorum of a Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union is one-fourth of the Members. The first time that a Committee of the Whole finds itself without a quorum during a day, the Chair shall invoke the procedure for a quorum call. If a quorum appears, the Committee of the Whole shall continue its business. If a quorum does not appear, the Committee of the Whole shall rise, and the Chair shall report the names of absentees to the House.

4. (a)(1) The Chair may refuse to entertain a point of order that a quorum is not present during general debate.

(2) After a quorum has once been established on a day, the Chair may entertain a point of order that a quorum is not present only when the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union is operating under the five-minute rule and the Chair has put the pending proposition to a vote.

(b) When ordering a quorum call in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, the Chair may announce an intention to declare that a quorum is constituted at any time during the quorum call when the Chair determines that a quorum has appeared. If the Chair interrupts the quorum call by declaring that a quorum is constituted, proceedings

under the quorum call shall be considered as vacated, and the Committee of the Whole shall continue its sitting and resume its business

## **Striking the enacting clause**

5. A motion that the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union rise and report a bill or resolution to the House with the recommendation that the enacting or resolving clause be stricken shall have precedence of a motion to amend, and, if carried in the House, shall constitute a rejection of the bill or resolution. Whenever a bill or resolution is reported from the Committee of the Whole with such adverse recommendation and the recommendation is rejected by the House, the bill or resolution shall stand recommitted to the Committee of the Whole without further action by the House. Before the question of concurrence is submitted, it shall be in order to move that the House refer the bill or resolution to a committee, with or without instructions. If a bill or resolution is so referred, then when it is again reported to the House it shall be referred to the Committee of the Whole without debate.

## **Concurrent resolution on the budget**

6. (a) At the conclusion of general debate in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union on a concurrent resolution on the budget under section 305(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the concurrent resolution shall be considered as read for amendment.

(b) (1) Except as specified in subparagraph (2), it shall not be in order in the House or in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union to consider an amendment to a concurrent resolution on the budget, or an amendment thereto, that proposes to change the amount of the appropriate level of the public debt set forth in the concurrent resolution, as reported.

(2) Amendments to achieve mathematical consistency under section 305(a)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, if offered by direction of the Committee on the Budget, may propose to adjust the amount of the appropriate level of the public debt set forth in the concurrent resolution, as reported, to reflect changes made in other figures contained in the concurrent resolution.

## **Applicability of the Rules of the House**

7. The Rules of the House are the rules of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union so far as applicable.

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## RULE XI VOTING AND QUORUM CALLS

1. (a) The House shall divide after the Speaker has put a question to a vote by voice as provided in clause 6 of rule I if the Speaker is in doubt or division is demanded. Those in favor of the question shall first rise from their seats to be counted, and then those opposed.
- (b) If a Member requests a recorded vote, and that request is supported by at least one-fifth of a quorum, the vote shall be taken by electronic device unless the Speaker invokes another procedure for recording votes provided in this rule. A recorded vote taken in the House under this paragraph shall be considered a vote by the yeas and nays.
- (c) In case of a tie vote, a question shall be lost.

2. (a) Unless the Speaker directs otherwise, the Clerk shall conduct a recorded vote or quorum by electronic device.

(b) When the electronic voting system is inoperable or is not used, the Speaker or Chair may direct the Clerk to conduct a record vote or quorum call as provided in Clause 3.

3. The Speaker may direct the Clerk to conduct a record vote or quorum call by call of the roll. In such a case the Clerk shall call the names of Members, alphabetically by surname. When two or more have the same surname, the name of the State (and, if necessary to distinguish among Members from the same State, the given names of the Members) shall be added. After the roll has been called once, the Clerk shall call the names of those not recorded, alphabetically by surname. Members appearing after the second call, but before the result is announced, may vote or announce a pair.

### ***Automatic yeas and nays***

4. The yeas and nays shall be considered as ordered when the Speaker puts the question on passage of a bill or joint resolution, or on adoption of a conference report, making general appropriations, or on final adoption of a concurrent resolution on the budget or conference report thereon.

### ***Ballot votes***

5. In a case of ballot for election, a majority of the votes shall be necessary to an election. When there is not such a majority on the first ballot, the process shall be repeated until a majority is obtained. In all balloting blanks shall be rejected, may not be counted in the enumeration of votes, and may not be reported by the tellers.

## RULE XII HOUSE AND SENATE RELATIONS

### ***Senate amendments***

1. A motion to disagree to Senate amendments to a House proposition and to request or agree to a conference with the Senate, or a motion to insist on House amendments to a Senate proposition and to request or agree to a conference with the Senate, shall be privileged in the discretion of the Speaker if offered by direction of the primary committee and of all reporting committees that had initial referral of the proposition.

2. When the stage of disagreement has been reached on a bill or resolution with House or Senate amendments, a motion to dispose of any amendment shall be privileged.

## RULE XIII CODE OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

There is hereby established by and for the House the following code of conduct, to be known as the "Code of Official Conduct":

1. A Member, officer, or employee of the House shall behave at all times in a manner that shall reflect creditably on the House.

2. A Member, officer, or employee of the House shall adhere to the spirit and the letter of the Rules of the House and to the rules of duly constituted committees thereof.

3. A Member, officer, or employee of the House may not receive compensation and may not permit compensation to accrue to the beneficial interest of such individual from any source, the receipt of which would occur by virtue of influence improperly exerted from the position of such individual in Congress.

4. A Member, officer, or employee of the House may not accept gifts.

5. A Member, officer, or employee of the House may not accept an honorarium for a speech, a writing for publication, or other similar activity.

6. A Member—

(a) shall keep the campaign funds of such individual separate from the personal funds of such individual;

(b) may not convert campaign funds to personal use in excess of an amount representing reimbursement for legitimate and verifiable campaign expenditures; and

(c) may not expend funds from a campaign account of such individual that are not attributable to bona fide campaign or political purposes.

7. Before a Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House may have access to classified

information, the following oath (or affirmation) shall be executed: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will not disclose any classified information received in the course of my service with the House of Representatives, except as authorized by the House of Representatives or in accordance with its Rules." Copies of the executed oath (or affirmation) shall be retained by the Clerk as part of the records of the House. The Clerk shall make signatures a matter of public record, causing the names of each Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner who has signed the oath during a week (if any) to be published in a portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose on the last legislative day of the week and making cumulative lists of such names available each day for public inspection in an appropriate office of the House.

## RULE XIV GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The provisions of law that constituted the Rules of the House at the end of the previous Congress shall govern the House in all cases to which they are applicable, and the rules of parliamentary practice comprised by Jefferson's Manual shall govern the House in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Rules and orders of the House.

2. In these rules words importing one gender include the other as well.