

# H. Res. 64

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## RULES

Of the House of Representatives for the 121st Congress

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Based off of previous House Rules.

## **Rule I. The Speaker of the House.**

1. The Speaker shall have general control over order and procedure in the House of Representatives.
  - 1.1. This includes, but is not limited to: extending the time to vote for any period of time for House floor votes, House amendment votes, House amendment suggestions, and House discussion periods.
2. The Speaker is not required to vote on legislative proceedings. If the Speaker is not voting, they shall vote “Present” to record their presence.
3. The Speaker may appoint a Member as Speaker pro tempore to perform the duties of the Speaker. The Speaker pro tempore shall be appointed for no more than three days, with the following exceptions:
  - 3.1. In case of illness or emergency, the Speaker may appoint a Member to perform the duties of the Chair. This Speaker pro tempore shall be appointed for a period not exceeding 10 days. The Member is subject to the approval of the House.
  - 3.2. If the Speaker is absent and has not selected a Member, or if the House has not approved of the Member, then the House Majority Leader shall take up the role of Speaker pro tempore.
4. The Speaker may call recesses of the House of up to five days, subject to the call of the chair.
  - 4.1. In cases of immediate danger and/or emergency, the Speaker may declare an emergency recess subject to the call of the Chair.
5. The Speaker may appoint a House Legislative Counsel for the duration of the Congress, whose responsibilities shall include:
  - 5.1. Advising members of the House on legal matters.
  - 5.2. Representing the interests of the House in litigation and other judicial matters.
  - 5.3. Initiating civil proceedings against any individual found in contempt of the House to ensure compliance with House processes.

## **Rule II. Majority and Minority Leader.**

1. At the commencement of each session, the House shall elect floor leadership. The candidate receiving the most votes shall be the House Majority Leader.
2. The Majority Leader shall serve as Speaker-pro-tempore, who shall act as Speaker during the vacancy of the Speakership until a vote is held, or for the reason described in Rule I, Section 3.2.

- 2.1. The Majority Leader shall become Speaker without vote if the Speakership falls inactive within two weeks of a federal election.
3. The candidate who achieved the second most votes in the vote for the Speaker of the House shall become the officially recognised House Minority Leader.
  - 3.1. In the case of a tie, the position shall be decided by lot.
  - 3.2. In the case that the Speaker ran unopposed, the runner up in the House Majority Leader vote shall become House Minority Leader.
    - 3.2.1. In the case that both the Speaker and House Majority Leader ran unopposed, the duties and powers of the House Minority Leader shall be granted to the House Majority Leader.
  - 3.3. The Minority Leader in the House of Representatives must be from a different Political Coalition as the Speaker of the House.
4. The Speaker may appoint a House Majority Whip anytime the position is vacant.
5. The Speaker may dismiss the House Majority Whip at any time for any reason.
6. The candidate who received the second most votes in the vote for the House Majority Leader shall become the officially recognised House Minority Whip.
  - 6.1.1. The House Minority Whip may be dismissed and replaced by the House Minority Leader at any time for any reason.
  - 6.1.2. If no candidate from another party challenges the House Majority Leader candidate, than the party with the most seats that does not control Speaker or Majority Leader may fill the position with a Member of their choice.
7. The House of Representatives shall hold no re-caucus for these positions except should the position be vacant or upon a simple majority of the House voting in favor of a re-caucus in the form of a resolution. Resolutions calling for a re-caucus authored or sponsored by the Speaker, House Majority Leader, or House Minority Leader and with the support of a simple majority (22 Members **total**) shall automatically be rushed to a floor vote, but after a re-caucus has been called for and voted on, another re-caucus cannot occur for 30 days.
  - 7.1. In the case of a recaucus for Minority Leader, no member of the party which controls the Speakership or Majority Leadership may run.
  - 7.2. **If there are no Independents, a party in a Political Coalition that does not control a House Leadership position may be eligible to run for Minority Leader.**

### **Rule III. Subpoenas.**

1. When a Member, or employee of the House is properly served with a judicial or administrative subpoena or judicial order directing appearance as a witness relating to the

official functions of the House or for the production or disclosure of any document relating to the official functions of the House, such Member, or employee shall comply, consistently with the privileges and rights of the House, with the judicial or administrative subpoena or judicial order as hereinafter provided, unless otherwise determined under this rule.

2. Once notification has been laid before the House, the Member, or employee of the House shall determine whether the issuance of the judicial or administrative subpoena or judicial order described in Clause 1 is a proper exercise of jurisdiction by the court, is material and relevant, and is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House. Such Member, or employee shall notify the Speaker before seeking judicial determination of these matters.

#### **Rule IV. Organization of Committees.**

1. Each Member shall serve in one Standing House Committee
2. The Standing House Committees are as follows:
  - 2.1. **House Committee on Social Concerns the Judiciary:** This committee shall address social issues, such as civil rights, as well as judicial issues, civil and criminal law, and the organization of the American court system.
  - 2.2. **House Committee on Government Oversight and Infrastructure:** This committee shall address the oversight of federal, local, and state government operations, as well as the maintenance, regulation, and improvement of America's infrastructure.
  - 2.3. **House Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Entitlements:** This committee shall concern higher education and other education, healthcare and public health, as well as labor conditions, including labor unions. The committee will also concern entitlements, such as Social Security and Medicaid.
  - 2.4. **House Committee on Finance and Appropriations:** This committee is responsible for the federal government's finances, appropriations, as well as the budget.
  - 2.5. **House Committee on Armed Services and Foreign Affairs:** This committee shall address matters relating to the military and Veterans Affairs, as well as general foreign affairs, treaties, and force declarations.
  - 2.6. **House Committee on Science, Energy, the Environment, and Commerce:** This committee shall address the regulation and promotion of science and technology, as well as business and business regulation, commerce, regulation of national and international finance, and banking. This committee shall also be responsible for

the oversight and regulation of all sources of energy as well as the maintenance of the environment. This committee shall also concern itself with measures to maintain the American interior including land use, national parks and Native American issues and regulations.

3. The Select Committees are as follows:
  - 3.1. **House Committee on Intelligence:** This committee shall be responsible for the oversight of American intelligence operations and agencies, as well as collecting intelligence and recommending appropriate action as needed.
  - 3.2. **House Committee on Rules:** This committee shall address legislation which concerns rules and procedures of the House, as well as general operations of Congress. This committee shall also address any disputes with House Rules and procedure.
  - 3.3. The Select Committees will have members from all parties serving on them.

#### **Rule V. Composition of Committees.**

1. There shall be up to eight members on each standing House Committee.
2. The Speaker of the House shall give each party “slots” on the various House committees.
3. The various party leaders shall then appoint Members from their own party to fill these slots, thereby composing the House Committees.
  - 3.1. The Speaker of the House shall directly appoint Independent representatives to their committees.
4. Upon notification by the Speaker, each party leader must submit their committee assignments to the Speaker within 48 hours.
  - 4.1. If a party leader fails to supply their assignments in the allotted time, the Speaker may distribute their party’s representatives into their slots.
5. The composition of each committee shall be proportional to the overall party composition of the House.
  - 5.1. The best way to proportionally split up slots falls to the discretion of the Speaker.

#### **Rule VI. Committee Leadership**

1. The Speaker of the House shall select each Committee Chair, and the Minority Leader shall select the ranking members of the committee.
2. If a Committee Chair becomes vacant, the Speaker shall appoint a replacement.
3. At any time or if there is a vacancy, the Minority Leader may dismiss any Ranking Member from their position and appoint a replacement.
4. No representative may be the Chairman or Ranking Member of more than one committee.

5. The Committee Chair shall have similar powers to the Speaker of the House over the floor and shall determine their schedule.
6. The Ranking Member shall serve as Chair pro tempore during the Chair's temporary absences
7. The Committee Chair may establish up to two subcommittees simultaneously. These subcommittees shall purely be for the purposes of composing legislation or exploring an issue, and the Chair shall have full control over these subcommittee(s). The creation of a subcommittee must be approved by the Speaker of the House.
8. The Committee Chair shall have the power to call a markup session of the committee. This markup session will allow Members of the committee to amend and debate on the amendments concurrently.
  - 8.1. This markup session will last for a total of 48 hours.
  - 8.2. The Chair may extend the period up to 72 hours if needed.

**Rule VII. Progress of Legislation.**

1. Members shall submit all legislation to the Congressional docket.
2. The Speaker of the House shall have full authority over the docket and may alter the order of legislation.
  - 2.1. Legislation may be rushed to the floor by virtue of a Discharge Petition, having been signed by a majority of the members of the House of Representatives.
    - 2.1.1. Discharge Petitions must provide for the rules under which the piece of legislation in question will be considered. A piece of legislation brought to the floor via discharge petition can either be considered under normal order or under special rules limiting debate, introduction of amendments, the length of the voting period, or otherwise altering the normal consideration of legislation.
    - 2.1.2. Discharge Petitions are limited to five per subject per session for House legislation only, not Senate legislation.
      - 2.1.2.1. Discharge Petitions dealing with the House rules or the enforcement thereof shall be of unlimited number.
    - 2.1.3. Pieces of legislation dealing predominantly with appropriation or budgetary matters may not be brought forth by Discharge Petition unless the piece of legislation in question has passed in the Senate during the current term.
3. The Moderators shall have general control over the assignment of legislation to committees, unless the Speaker chooses to allow the legislation to bypass committee or chooses to assign legislation to a specific committee(s).

- 3.1. The Speaker may assign a certain bill to multiple committees, however a bill may only be in one committee at once.
4. Amendment proposal periods within committee shall be one day long, and committee votes shall be two days long unless otherwise prescribed by the Chair or by the Moderators.
  - 4.1. Votes may end early if all members have voted.
5. The Chair of all standing committees must prepare a brief, germane Committee Report regarding all legislation within their committee.
  - 5.1. The Ranking Member may, at their discretion, decide to prepare a Minority Report alongside the Chair's Committee Report.
  - 5.2. The Speaker of the House or the Minority Leader will have grounds to remove the Chair or Ranking Member respectively if Committee Reports are not issued on a regular basis.
6. Legislation approved by committee shall be sent to the House floor.
  - 6.1. Unless the Speaker has assigned it to another committee as per Rule 7, Section 3.1.
7. Amendment proposal periods on the floor shall be one day long, and floor votes shall be two days long unless otherwise prescribed by the chair or by the moderators.
  - 7.1. Votes may end early if all members have voted.
8. Bills introduced and passed by the Senate and sent to the House of Representatives for approval shall be treated as a bill introduced in the House.
  - 8.1. The Speaker shall have full control over when bills passed by the Senate are introduced to the House floor.
9. If a bill has been sent to Conference Committee, the Speaker shall dictate the composition of the Conference Committee delegation.

#### **Rule VIII. Censure.**

1. The censure of any member will result in a suspension of committee membership for three weeks, a suspension of the ability to submit legislation to the House docket for two weeks, and the loss of any leadership positions within the House for the remainder of the term.
2. All resolutions seeking to censure a Member or Members shall automatically be rushed to a floor vote.
  - 2.1. Resolutions against the Speaker of the House, the Majority Leader, and the Minority Leader will not be rushed.
3. Each Member is limited to submitting one censure resolution a month.

**Rule IX. Hearings.**

1. The Chair, or a majority, of a Committee may, at any time that at least three quarters of Committee members can attend, hold a hearing. In the event of an emergency, the Chair may hold a hearing at any time so long as the Ranking Member can also attend.
2. The Chair shall have full power over the terms and conditions of the hearing, subject to the discretion of the moderators.
  - 2.1. The committee may overrule a Chair's decision by  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote
3. Committee hearings shall be open to the public, unless a motion is passed to close them.
4. No hearing shall be public which shall relate to:
  - 4.1. National Security.
  - 4.2. Sensitive information relating to domestic law enforcement.
  - 4.3. Or as determined by the Speaker.
5. Whenever a hearing is conducted by a committee on a measure or matter, the minority members of the committee shall be entitled, upon request to the chair by a majority of them before the completion of the hearing, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least one day of hearing thereon.
6. A committee shall be entitled 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.
  - 6.1. The Chair shall authorize relevant requests for subpoena.

**Rule X. Secret Sessions.**

1. 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, Delegates, Resident Commissioner, and officers of the House for the reading of such communications, and debates and proceedings thereon, unless otherwise ordered by the House.
2. A secret session shall conclude with the consent of two-thirds of the present and voting members.

**Rule XI. Amendments in Bad Faith.**

1. No Member shall submit any amendment which strikes all significant portions (where significant portion is taken to all sections, excluding any definitions, short title, or other procedural section) of a part of legislation, which strikes the enacting clause or amends



the enacting clause to a date further than ten years beyond the implementation date of the legislation, or otherwise significantly delays the enactment of the legislation beyond what is just and reasonable, which significantly negates the purpose of the legislation, which strikes particular tenses, letters, or other grammatical functions to make the legislation incoherent, which adds non-germane and/or absurd sections to the legislation to ensure its failure, or which generally alters the language of the legislation in a manner unduly severe or contrary to the original purpose of the legislation.

2. While a bill is under consideration by the various House Standing Committees, it shall be the duty of the Committee Chair to interpret and enforce this rule. This rule may also be interpreted by the House Clerks in committee, but the discretion of the Committee Chair overrides that of the Clerks.
3. During the amendments phase on the House floor, it shall be the duty of the Speaker of the House to interpret and enforce this rule. This rule may also be interpreted and enforced by the House Clerks on the House floor, but the discretion of the Speaker of the House overrides that of the Clerks.
4. The Minority Leader (or Ranking Member in the context of a committee) may object to a ruling by the Speaker (or Committee Chair) that an amendment has been made in bad faith, at which point the Speaker (or Committee Chair) shall be obligated to cite the exact portion of this rule for which the amendment in question has been found in violation.
  - 4.1. Failure to do so by the time voting on amendments has closed shall render the ruling of bad faith to be null and void.

## **Rule XII. Nation Rules**

1. Any bill that appropriates funds from the Treasury or otherwise affects government spending and income must be sent to the Committee on Finance and Appropriations after any other committee or committees it has been sent to.
  - 1.1. This rule may be waived by the Speaker for specific legislation.
2. There shall be weekly threads on the House subreddit where members of the House of Representatives may make speeches on the Congressional record.
  - 2.1. All speeches must be made according to the decorum of the House of Representatives
3. Any member of the House may raise a challenge to a bill sent by the Senate in violation of the Origination Clause, and the Speaker shall rule on the challenge. If the challenge is upheld, the bill shall not be considered by the House and the Speaker shall cause to be transmitted to the Senate a blue slip reaffirming the privileges and powers of the House.

**Rule XII. Conflicting Rules.**

1. In situations not addressed by these rules, the Rules of the One-Hundred-Sixteenth House of Representatives shall apply.
  - 1.1. This may be waived at the discretion of the Speaker.
2. It shall be the duty of the Speaker of the House to enforce these rules.
  - 2.1. In the case of an extraordinary circumstance, the Speaker may temporarily modify or nullify parts of these rules to ensure the continued operation of the House.
    - 2.1.1. Members can overturn the Speaker's modification or nullification by authoring a resolution that has the support of a simple majority (22 Members).

**Rule XIII. Parliamentary Procedure and Motions.**

1. All parliamentary procedures and motions in the House shall come from Jefferson's Manual of Parliamentary Procedure.
  - 1.1. A copy of [Jefferson's Manual](#) has been provided to every member of the House.