

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 524

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to impose limitations respecting certain legislation that affects the economy, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 28, 2005

Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. EVANS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mrs. MALONEY, and Mr. GRIJALVA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to impose limitations respecting certain legislation that affects the economy, and for other purposes.

Whereas this resolution may be cited as the “Social Security Protection and Congressional Accountability Rule”;

Whereas at 2:54 a.m. on a Friday, by three votes, the House of Representatives voted to cut veterans benefits;

Whereas at 2:39 a.m. on a Friday, by five votes, the House approved legislation slashing education and health care;

Whereas at 1:56 a.m. on a Friday, by 31 votes, the House passed tax legislation that overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest corporations and individuals;

Whereas at 2:33 a.m. on a Friday, by one vote, the House passed the Medicare privatization and prescription drug bill;

Whereas at 12:57 a.m. on a Friday, by one vote, the House eviscerated Head Start;

Whereas at 12:12 a.m. on a Friday in October, the House voted \$87 billion for Iraq;

Whereas the House has increasingly resorted to considering important legislation in the middle of the night, after press deadlines have passed, and after the vast majority of Americans had gone to bed;

Whereas though recorded votes in the House are generally concluded after fifteen minutes, House leadership has held votes open for nearly three hours as Members were pressured to support the House leadership's position;

Whereas the House voted on a 3,600-page omnibus spending bill just 16 hours after it was filed, and unwittingly approved a provision included in that bill permitting Members of Congress to access the tax return of any American;

Whereas democracy is weakened by secrecy in government and practices that conceal from the people the actions of their representatives; and

Whereas the American people are not served by a Congress that hides from public scrutiny by acting on important legislation in the middle of the night: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That (a) rule XXI of the Rules of the House
- 2 of Representatives is amended by adding at the end the
- 3 following new clause:

1 “7. (a) It shall not be in order to consider any major
2 legislation until at least 7 calendar days after the following
3 3 items have been published in the Congressional Record:

4 “(1) The text of the legislation as reported (or
5 as introduced if the bill has not been reported).

6 “(2) The text of a manager’s amendment, if
7 any.

8 “(3) The text of any rule or order for the con-
9 sideration of such legislation or manager’s amend-
10 ment, as applicable.

11 “(b) It shall not be in order to conclude a recorded
12 vote on any economically significant legislation or major
13 legislation, or amendment thereto or conference report
14 thereon, after 10 p.m. or before 9 a.m.

15 “(c) It shall not be in order to conclude a recorded
16 vote on any major legislation, or amendment thereto or
17 conference report thereon, more than 30 minutes after the
18 commencement of such recorded vote.

19 “(d) As used in this clause, the term ‘major legisla-
20 tion’ means any bill or joint resolution with an anticipated
21 effect of increasing or decreasing outlays or revenues dur-
22 ing the 5-year period covered by the most recently agreed
23 to concurrent resolution on the budget by at least
24 \$100,000,000.

1 “(e) The applicability of any point of order set forth
2 in this clause shall be determined on the basis of estimates
3 made by the Committee on the Budget.

4 “(f) The Speaker may recognize the majority leader
5 for the purpose of offering a motion to waive this clause
6 on the grounds of national security, homeland security, or
7 other emergency. This clause may not be waived unless
8 two-thirds of the Members voting, a quorum being present,
9 agree to such waiver motion offered by the majority lead-
10 er.”.

11 (b) Clause 6(c) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House
12 of Representatives is amended by striking the period and
13 inserting a semicolon at the end of subparagraph (2) and
14 by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

15 “(3) a rule or order proposing a waiver of
16 clause 7 of rule XXI.”.

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