

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1003

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to provide increased accountability and transparency in the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. McCOTTER, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. CARTER, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. DREIER, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, Mr. HOBSON, and Mr. TIAHRT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to provide increased accountability and transparency in the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE ON STAND-**
3 **ARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Clause 5(a)(3)(A) of rule X of the
5 Rules of the House of Representatives is amended to read
6 as follows:

7 “(A) The Committee on Standards of Official Con-
8 duct shall be composed of ten members appointed jointly

1 by the Speaker and the minority leader, three from the
 2 majority party and three from the minority party and four
 3 former Members who have not been registered lobbyists
 4 for a period of at least two years. The four former Mem-
 5 bers shall possess in such committee the same powers and
 6 privileges as the other members of the committee, except
 7 that only a current Member may serve as chairman.”.

8 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 9 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to the One Hun-
 10 dred Eleventh Congress and each succeeding Congress.

11 **SEC. 2. ROTATING CHAIRMANSHIP OF COMMITTEE OF**
 12 **STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT.**

13 Clause 5(a)(3) of rule X of the Rules of the House
 14 of Representatives is amended by adding at the end the
 15 following new subdivision:

16 “(D) In the One Hundred Eleventh Congress, the
 17 chairmanship of the Committee on Standards of Official
 18 Conduct shall be held by a member of the political party
 19 that is the majority party at the beginning of that Con-
 20 gress. The chairmanship in the next Congress shall be held
 21 by a member of the opposite political party and, with re-
 22 spect to succeeding Congresses, the chairmanship shall
 23 continue to alternate, Congress by Congress, between the
 24 two parties.”.

1 **SEC. 3. RECEIPT BY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF CER-**
2 **TAIN ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT BY**
3 **MEMBERS, DELEGATES, THE RESIDENT COM-**
4 **MISSIONER, OFFICERS, OR EMPLOYEES OF**
5 **THE HOUSE.**

6 Clause 6 of rule II of the Rules of the House of Rep-
7 resentatives is amended by adding at the end the following
8 new paragraph:

9 “(d) The Inspector General shall receive and prompt-
10 ly transmit (without any change) to the Committee on
11 Standards of Official Conduct any written information
12 submitted by any outside individual or organization of an
13 alleged violation by a Member, Delegate, Resident Com-
14 missioner, officer, or employee of the House of the House
15 of the Code of Official Conduct or a law, rule, regulation,
16 or other standard of conduct applicable to the conduct of
17 such Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, office, or
18 employee in the performance of his duties or the discharge
19 of his responsibilities.”.

20 **SEC. 4. MONTHLY PUBLIC REPORTS ON INVESTIGATIVE AC-**
21 **TIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON STAND-**
22 **ARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT.**

23 Clause 3(q) of rule XI of the rules of the House of
24 Representatives is amended by striking “and” at the end
25 of subparagraph (2), by striking the period and inserting

1 “; and” at the end of subparagraph (3), and by adding
2 at the end the following new subparagraph:

3 “(4) each month the committee shall publish a
4 public report on its investigative activities, including
5 a list of each new allegation received since the pre-
6 ceding report, but without disclosing the name of
7 any individual who is the subject of any allegation
8 or its particulars, and each such report shall also in-
9 clude status updates on all pending matters not pre-
10 viously reported as resolved, using notations such as:
11 awaiting investigation, under active investigation,
12 dismissed—frivolous, dismissed—allegations deter-
13 mined to lack merit, subject of an active investiga-
14 tive subcommittee, action suspended—deferral to
15 Justice Department, action suspended—internal
16 committee disagreement, matter resolved publicly—
17 see attached report, matters resolved privately (re-
18 quires concurrence by at least 8 out of 10 members,
19 referred to the Department of Justice (with or with-
20 out recommendation).”.

1 **SEC. 5. RESOLUTION OF PARTISAN IMPASSES IN THE COM-**
2 **MITTEE OF STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CON-**
3 **DUCT.**

4 Clause 3(b) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of
5 Representatives is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing new subparagraph:

7 “(8) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
8 clause, not later than 30 calendar days after the chairman
9 and the ranking minority member, an investigative sub-
10 committee, an adjudicatory subcommittee, or the com-
11 mittee is unable to reach a consensus at any stage of an
12 investigation respecting any alleged violation described in
13 subparagraph (a)(2), the committee shall publicly disclose
14 its inability to reach a resolution of the alleged violation.
15 Not later than 60 calendar days after the end of any appli-
16 cable 30-calendar day period, the committee shall forward
17 the compliant and all accompanying documentation to the
18 Department of Justice for its consideration if such im-
19 passe persists.”.

1 **SEC. 6. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF WHETHER A MEMBER,**
2 **DELEGATE, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, OFFI-**
3 **CER OR EMPLOYEE IS UNDER INVESTIGA-**
4 **TION BY THE COMMITTEE OF STANDARDS OF**
5 **OFFICIAL CONDUCT.**

6 Clause 3(b) of rule XI of the Rules of the House or
7 Representatives (as amended by section 5) is amended by
8 adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

9 “(9) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
10 clause, not more than 30 calendar days after receipt of
11 a written request from any Member, Delegate, Resident
12 Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House inquiring
13 whether he is under investigation by the committee, the
14 committee shall publicly disclose whether that individual
15 is or is not under investigation and, if such individual is
16 under investigation, the current status of the investigation
17 using the terminology set forth in its monthly reports on
18 investigative activities.”.

19 **SEC. 7. PRESERVATION OF COMMITTEE SUBPOENA POWER.**

20 Nothing in this resolution or in any amendment made
21 by it shall be construed to alter the authority of the Com-
22 mittee on Standards of Official Conduct to authorize or
23 issue a subpoena pursuant to rule XI of the Rules of the
24 House of Representatives.

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