

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 40

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to establish a minority bill of rights to require the House to be administered in a bipartisan manner and to require regular order in the legislative process.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 2007

Mr. MCHENRY (for himself, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. CARTER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. CAMPBELL of California, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. ISSA, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. COBLE, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mrs. SCHMIDT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to establish a minority bill of rights to require the House to be administered in a bipartisan manner and to require regular order in the legislative process.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. BIPARTISAN ADMINISTRATION OF HOUSE OF**
3 **REPRESENTATIVES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Rules of the House of Rep-
5 resentatives are amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

1 “RULE XXIX

2 “BIPARTISAN ADMINISTRATION OF HOUSE

3 “1. (a) The elected leadership of the majority and mi-
4 nority parties shall engage in regular consultations with
5 each other to discuss scheduling, administration, and oper-
6 ations of the House.

7 “(b) The chair and ranking minority member of each
8 committee, as well as their staffs, shall have regular meet-
9 ings with each other.

10 “2. The House should have a predictable, profes-
11 sional, family-friendly schedule that allows the legislative
12 process to proceed in a manner that ensures timely and
13 deliberate dispensation of the work of the Congress.”.

14 (b) ALLOCATION OF COMMITTEE EXPENSES.—
15 Clause 6 of rule X of the Rules of the House of Represent-
16 atives is amended by adding at the end the following new
17 paragraph:

18 “(f) Of the amount provided to a committee under
19 a primary expense resolution or a supplemental expense
20 resolution under this clause, or during an interim funding
21 period described in clause 7, one-third of such amount,
22 or such greater percentage as may be agreed to by the
23 chair and ranking minority member of the committee,
24 shall be paid at the direction of the ranking minority mem-
25 ber.”.

1 **SEC. 2. REGULAR ORDER FOR LEGISLATION.**

2 The Rules of the House of Representatives, as
3 amended by section 1, are further amended by adding at
4 the end the following:

5 “RULE XXX

6 “REGULAR ORDER FOR LEGISLATION

7 “1. Legislation shall be developed following full hear-
8 ings and open subcommittee and committee markups, with
9 appropriate referrals to other committees. Members
10 should have at least 24 hours to examine any legislation
11 before its consideration at the subcommittee level.

12 “2. Legislation shall generally come to the floor
13 under a procedure that allows open, full, and fair debate
14 consisting of a full amendment process that grants the mi-
15 nority the right to offer its alternatives, including a sub-
16 stitute.

17 “3. Members shall have at least 24 hours to examine
18 bill and conference report text prior to floor consideration.
19 Rules governing floor debate must be reported before 10
20 p.m. for any legislation to be considered the following day.

21 “4. Floor votes shall be completed within 15 minutes,
22 with the customary 2-minute extension to accommodate
23 Members’ ability to get to the House Chamber to cast
24 their votes. No vote shall be held open in order to manipu-
25 late the outcome.

1 “5. Conference committees shall hold regular meet-
2 ings (at least weekly) of all conference committee Mem-
3 bers. All managers appointed to a conference committee
4 shall be informed of the schedule of conference committee
5 activities in a timely manner, and given ample opportunity
6 for input and debate as decisions are made toward final
7 language for the conference report.

8 “6. The Suspension Calendar shall be restricted to
9 non-controversial legislation, and the ratio of legislation
10 on the Calendar which is sponsored by members of the
11 minority party shall be the same as the ratio of the num-
12 ber of members of the party to the membership of the
13 whole House.”.

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