

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 526

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to implement the first set of recommendations adopted by the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2019

Mr. KILMER (for himself, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. POCAN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. TIMMONS, and Mr. NEWHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## RESOLUTION

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to implement the first set of recommendations adopted by the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

3 This resolution may be cited as the “Improving

4 Transparency for the American People Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. ADOPTION OF STANDARDIZED FORMAT FOR LEGIS-**  
2 **LATIVE DOCUMENTS.**

3 The Clerk is authorized and directed to provide peri-  
4 odic updates to the Committee on House Administration  
5 and the Committee on Rules regarding the implementation  
6 of the U.S. Legislative Markup and a plan for its comple-  
7 tion including a timeline.

8 **SEC. 3. LEGISLATION COMPARISON PROJECT.**

9 The Clerk shall report to the Committee on House  
10 Administration and the Committee on Appropriations an  
11 assessment of the funding and other resources needed to  
12 expedite and complete the legislation comparison project,  
13 including the training of staff.

14 **SEC. 4. ASSIGNMENT OF UNIQUE IDENTIFIERS FOR RE-**  
15 **PORTS FILED BY REGISTERED LOBBYISTS.**

16 (a) ASSIGNMENT OF IDENTIFIERS.—The Clerk, in  
17 consultation with the Secretary of the Senate, shall estab-  
18 lish and implement a process under which the Clerk shall  
19 assign a unique identification number with respect to each  
20 person who files a registration statement or other report  
21 required to be filed with the Clerk under the Lobbying  
22 Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), and shall  
23 ensure that such unique identification number will be used  
24 for all purposes under such Act (including the public avail-  
25 ability of such statements and reports) with respect to

1 each statement or report filed by that person with the  
2 Clerk under such Act.

3 (b) DEADLINE.—The Clerk shall establish and imple-  
4 ment the process required under subsection (a) not later  
5 than 180 days after the date of the adoption of this resolu-  
6 tion.

7 **SEC. 5. DATABASE OF INFORMATION ON EXPIRATION OF**  
8 **AUTHORIZATIONS OF PROGRAMS.**

9 (a) DUTIES OF THE CLERK.—Clause 2 of rule II of  
10 the Rules of the House of Representatives is amended by  
11 adding at the end the following new paragraph:

12 “(1) The Clerk shall—

13 “(1) establish and maintain on its public  
14 website an up-to-date database of the expiration  
15 dates of all Federal programs and the committee of  
16 subject matter jurisdiction over each such program;

17 “(2) provide that such database is searchable,  
18 sortable, and downloadable; and

19 “(3) post all such information within 30 days  
20 after receipt of such information.”.

21 (b) DUTIES OF COMMITTEES.—Rule X of the Rules  
22 of the House of Representatives is amended by adding at  
23 the end the following new clause:

1 **“Duty to provide certain information to the Clerk**

2 “12.(a) Except as provided by paragraph (b), each  
3 standing committee shall provide to the Clerk on an ongo-  
4 ing basis an up-to-date list of the expiration dates of all  
5 programs within its subject matter jurisdiction so the  
6 Clerk can post the information required by clause 2(1) of  
7 rule II.

8 “(b) The requirements described in paragraph (a) do  
9 not apply to the following committees: the Committee on  
10 Appropriations, the Committee on Ethics, and the Com-  
11 mittee on Rules, and the Permanent Select Committee on  
12 Intelligence.”.

13 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The committees referred to  
14 in the amendment made by subsection (b) to clause 12(a)  
15 of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives  
16 shall provide to the Clerk the information so required not  
17 later than 90 days after the date of adoption of this sub-  
18 section.

19 **SEC. 6. DATABASE OF VOTES TAKEN IN COMMITTEES.**

20 (a) DUTIES OF THE CLERK.—Clause 2 of rule II of  
21 the Rules of the House of Representatives (as amended  
22 by section 5) is further amended by adding at the end  
23 the following new paragraph:

24 “(m) The Clerk shall—

25 “(1) establish and maintain on its public  
26 website a separate database for the 116th and each

1 subsequent Congress of all recorded votes in commit-  
2 tees except for the Committee on Ethics or for any  
3 votes taken in executive session, and ensure that the  
4 database is up-to-date, sortable, and downloadable  
5 on a committee-by-committee basis; and

6 “(2) incorporate information on such votes on  
7 the database with respect to a committee imme-  
8 diately upon receipt of the relevant information from  
9 the committee under clause 13 of rule X.”.

10 (b) DUTIES OF COMMITTEES.—Rule X of the Rules  
11 of the House of Representatives (as amended by section  
12 5) is further amended by adding at the end the following  
13 new clause:

14 **“Duty to provide certain information to the Clerk**

15 “13.(a) Each standing and select committee shall  
16 provide to the Clerk the information respecting recorded  
17 votes in that committee so the Clerk can post on a timely  
18 basis on its website the information required by clause 2(1)  
19 of rule II. For any recorded vote, such information shall  
20 be transmitted to the Clerk not later than the 72 hours  
21 after the vote is recorded.

22 “(b) In providing information to the Clerk under  
23 paragraph (a), the committee shall include a brief descrip-  
24 tion of the matter on which the recorded vote was taken,  
25 including the name of each member of the committee vot-

1 ing on that matter and whether the vote was in the affirm-  
2 ative or the negative and the total tally of the votes.

3 “(c) The requirements described in this clause do not  
4 apply to the Committee on Ethics or to any vote taken  
5 in executive session.”.

6 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
7 subsections (a) and (b) shall apply to votes taken 72 or  
8 more hours after the Clerk notifies all committees that the  
9 database established under clause 2 of rule II of the Rules  
10 of the House of Representatives has been established.

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