

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 27

Relative to Senate procedure in the 117th Congress.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 3, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was considered and
agreed to

RESOLUTION

Relative to Senate procedure in the 117th Congress.

1 *Resolved,*

2 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of rule
3 XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, or any other
4 provision of the Standing Rules or Standing Orders of the
5 Senate—

6 (1) the committees of the Senate, including
7 joint committees and special committees, for the
8 117th Congress shall be composed equally of mem-
9 bers of both parties, to be appointed at a later time
10 by the two Leaders;

11 (2) the budgets and office space for such com-
12 mittees, and all other subgroups, shall likewise be

1 equal, with up to an additional 10 percent to be allo-
2 cated for administrative expenses to be determined
3 by the Committee on Rules and Administration, with
4 the total administrative expenses allocation for all
5 committees not to exceed historic levels; and

6 (3) the Chairman of a full committee may dis-
7 charge a subcommittee of any Legislative or Execu-
8 tive Calendar item which has not been reported be-
9 cause of a tie vote and place it on the full commit-
10 tee's agenda.

11 SEC. 2. The committee ratios under section 1 shall
12 remain in effect for the remainder of the 117th Congress,
13 except that if at any time during the 117th Congress ei-
14 ther party attains a majority of the whole number of Sen-
15 ators, then each committee ratio shall be adjusted to re-
16 flect the ratio of the parties in the Senate, and the provi-
17 sions of this resolution shall have no further effect, except
18 that the members who were first appointed by the two
19 Leaders to such committees in the 117th Congress, pursu-
20 ant to the authority in this resolution, shall no longer be
21 members of the committees, and the committee chairman-
22 ships shall be held by the party which has attained a ma-
23 jority of the whole number of Senators.

24 SEC. 3. Pursuant to the provisions and exceptions de-
25 scribed in sections 1 and 2, the following additional Stand-

1 ing Orders of the Senate shall be in effect for the 117th
2 Congress:

3 (1) If a committee has not reported out a meas-
4 ure or matter because of a tie vote, then—

5 (A) the Chairman of the committee shall
6 transmit a notice of a tie vote to the Secretary
7 of the Senate and such notice shall be printed
8 in the Record; and

9 (B) after such notice of a tie vote has been
10 transmitted, the Majority Leader or the Minor-
11 ity Leader may, only after consultation with the
12 Chairman and Ranking Member of the com-
13 mittee, make a motion to discharge such meas-
14 ure or matter, and time for debate on such mo-
15 tion shall be limited to 4 hours, to be equally
16 divided between the two Leaders or their des-
17 ignees, with no other motions, points of order,
18 or amendments in order: *Provided*, That fol-
19 lowing the use or yielding back of time, the
20 Senate vote on the motion to discharge, without
21 any intervening action, motion, or debate, and
22 if agreed to, the measure or matter be placed
23 immediately on the appropriate Calendar.

24 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII
25 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, to ensure that

1 any cloture motion shall be offered for the purpose
2 of bringing to a close debate, in no case shall it be
3 in order for any cloture motion to be presented on
4 an amendable item during its first 12 hours of Sen-
5 ate debate: *Provided*, That all other provisions of
6 rule XXII remain in status quo.

7 SEC. 4. It is the sense of the Senate that both Lead-
8 ers shall seek to attain an equal balance of the interests
9 of the two parties when scheduling and debating legislative
10 and executive business generally, and in keeping with the
11 present Senate precedents, a motion to proceed to any
12 Legislative or Executive Calendar item shall continue to
13 be considered the prerogative of the Majority Leader, al-
14 though the Standing Rules of the Senate do not prohibit
15 the right of the Republican Leader, or any other Senator,
16 to move to proceed to any item.

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