

House Facilities and Capitol Grounds

A. Hall of the House

§ 1. Control of the Hall of the House Generally

The Hall of the House consists of the House Chamber and its galleries, as well as cloakrooms for each party organization. The rules of the House confer wide discretion on the Speaker to administer the Hall of the House. Use of the Hall of the House is governed by various House rules and precedents and Federal statutes.⁽¹⁾ Clause 3 of rule I⁽²⁾ provides that, “[t]he Speaker shall have general control of the Hall of the House, the corridors and passages in the part of the Capitol assigned to the use of the House, and the disposal of unappropriated rooms in that part of the Capitol.”

Clause 1 of rule IV⁽³⁾ provides that the Hall of the House shall be used for legislative business only (including caucus meetings of the parties),⁽⁴⁾ with the exception of authorized ceremonial events.⁽⁵⁾ Traditionally, ceremonies of a religious nature have not been permitted in the House Chamber.⁽⁶⁾

In addition to the House rules, the Speaker has often inserted into the *Congressional Record* certain policy statements regarding appropriate use of the House Chamber and the comportment of Members, officers, and employees within the Chamber and the halls leading thereto.⁽⁷⁾ Such policy statements typically address the exercise of floor privileges,⁽⁸⁾ the conduct of votes using the Chamber’s electronic voting system,⁽⁹⁾ the distribution of

1. See, e.g., 2 U.S.C. §§ 1801 *et seq.*; 2 U.S.C. §§ 2001 *et seq.*; and 2 U.S.C. §§ 2201 *et seq.*

2. *House Rules and Manual* § 623 (2017).

3. *House Rules and Manual* § 677 (2017).

4. See § 1.11, *infra*.

5. See Deschler’s Precedents Ch. 36. For an example of the House refusing to allow the House Chamber to be used for certain entertainment purposes, see Deschler’s Precedents Ch. 4 § 3.2.

6. See § 1.12, *infra*.

7. See, e.g., 161 CONG. REC. H33–H35 [Daily Ed.], 114th Cong. 1st Sess. These policy statements are applicable for the entirety of that particular Congress.

8. See § 5, *infra*.

9. See § 2, *infra*.

handouts and other material on the House floor,⁽¹⁰⁾ the use of electronic devices on the floor⁽¹¹⁾ and the status of the Chamber when the House is not in session.⁽¹²⁾

The Speaker has also made ad hoc announcements from time to time regarding the exercise of the Speaker's discretionary authority over control of the Chamber. For example, the Speaker has announced a policy of ensuring unimpeded access to the floor to Members during votes and quorum calls.⁽¹³⁾ The Speaker has permitted interview tables to be established by the press in the Speaker's Lobby, just outside the Chamber.⁽¹⁴⁾ The Speaker has responded to parliamentary inquiries regarding thermostat settings inside the Chamber,⁽¹⁵⁾ and has refused to entertain a unanimous-consent request regarding ceremonial displays that might interfere with the Speaker's discretionary authorities.⁽¹⁶⁾ While the Speaker does exercise considerable authority over the use of the Chamber, the Chair has no unilateral authority to order the Chamber doors to be locked (although clause 4(a) of rule XX⁽¹⁷⁾ authorizes the Speaker to have the doors closed during certain votes and quorum calls).⁽¹⁸⁾ When repairs or renovations to the Chamber have occurred, the Speaker has made remarks to the body on the nature of such improvements.⁽¹⁹⁾

The Capitol building and the Hall of the House itself have been the site of numerous security incidents in recent years, including a 1998 shooting of Capitol Police officers. These types of security incidents have generally been the impetus for closed security briefings⁽²⁰⁾ held in the House Chamber

10. See § 1, *infra*.

11. *Id.*

12. *Id.*

13. See § 1.1, *infra*.

14. See § 1.5, *infra*.

15. See § 1.2, *infra*.

16. See § 1.4, *infra*.

17. *House Rules and Manual* § 1019 (2017).

18. See § 1.6, *infra*.

19. See § 1.7, *infra*.

20. *Parliamentarian's Note*: Security briefings held in the Chamber during a recess of the House or periods of adjournment should be distinguished from secret sessions of the House, which are formal (closed) meetings of the House to discuss sensitive (often classified) material. When such secret sessions occur, the Chamber is appropriately prepared to ensure secrecy—a security sweep by the Sergeant-at-Arms and/or the Capitol Police is conducted, and the galleries are cleared. The addition of the Capitol Visitor Center has reduced the need to use the Chamber for security briefings. For more on secret sessions of the House, see Deschler's Precedents Ch. 29 § 85 and Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 1. For earlier briefings on topics such as the progress of World War

(or elsewhere in the Capitol complex).⁽²¹⁾ The 1998 shootings led to a gathering of the party caucuses in the House Chamber for Members to receive a briefing by the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Chief of the Capitol Police on the security developments.⁽²²⁾ The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, prompted a variety of classified security briefings.⁽²³⁾ Other periodic security briefings have been held in the Chamber,⁽²⁴⁾ in the Capitol Visitor Center,⁽²⁵⁾ and in the House office buildings.⁽²⁶⁾ The House has recessed in order to conduct emergency evacuation drills.⁽²⁷⁾ The House has also responded to other safety concerns, such as fire safety in the Capitol and House office buildings,⁽²⁸⁾ asbestos leaks,⁽²⁹⁾ and earthquakes.⁽³⁰⁾

As use of the House Chamber touches many facets of House procedure, the reader is also encouraged to consult the various precedents relating to ceremonies,⁽³¹⁾ the functions of House officers, officials, and staff,⁽³²⁾ and the assembly and convening of the House.⁽³³⁾

In General

§ 1.1 The Speaker announced that he had directed corridors to the Chamber to be cleared during roll call votes and quorum calls to ensure Members unimpeded access to the floor at those times.

II (not held in the House Chamber), see Deschler's Precedents Ch. 1 §§ 4.3–4.6. For a discussion of meeting outside the Hall of the House, see Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 1 § 10. For a more comprehensive list of security briefings held in the Chamber (and elsewhere), see Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 1 § 10.

21. See Division B, *infra*.

22. See § 1.13, *infra*.

23. For an announcement that a classified briefing for Members would be presented in the House Chamber during a recess under clause 12 of rule I, see, *e.g.*, 147 CONG. REC. 16761, 107th Cong. 1st Sess. (Sept. 12, 2001). Other briefings occurred on September 13, September 14, September 25, and October 3, 2001.

24. See § 1.14, *infra*.

25. See § 9.3, *infra*.

26. See § 1.15, *infra*.

27. See § 1.10, *infra*.

28. See § 1.8, *infra*.

29. See § 1.21, *infra*.

30. *Parliamentarian's Note*: On August 23, 2011, the Senate was supposed to meet at 2:30 p.m. in pro forma session. An earthquake occurred in the Washington, D.C., area around 1:50 p.m., causing the Senate to meet in pro forma session at the nearby Postal Square Building. See § 10.9, *infra*.

31. See Deschler's Precedents Ch. 36 and Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 36.

32. See Deschler's Precedents Ch. 6 and Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 6.

33. See Deschler's Precedents Ch. 1 and Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 1.

On January 15, 1979,⁽³⁴⁾ the following announcement was made regarding access to the House Chamber:

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER.⁽³⁵⁾ Pursuant to clause 3, rule 1, the Chair desires to announce that he has instructed the Doorkeeper⁽³⁶⁾ and the Sergeant at Arms of the House to assure that Members will have unimpeded access to the Chamber especially during rollcall votes and quorum calls. Due to the relative brevity of the period during which Members may be recorded and because Members for obvious reasons are entitled to unhindered access to any door of the Chamber from the elevators and corridors, the Chair has directed that these instructions be strictly enforced.

§ 1.2 Following the raising of thermostat controls in the House Chamber to nearly 80 degrees (to comply with an executive order implementing energy conservation measures), the Speaker announced that: (1) standards for appropriate attire in the Chamber would still be observed; (2) he had directed the Architect of the Capitol to improve air circulation in the Chamber by the use of fans; (3) a question of privilege could be offered to permit a relaxation of the normal standards of dress; and (4) a Member currently on the floor should remove himself and appear in proper attire consistent with the Chair's statement.

On July 17, 1979,⁽³⁷⁾ the following announcement was made:

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER.⁽³⁸⁾ The Chair wishes to make a statement.

In recent days the Congress has undertaken measures to comply with the President's Executive order implementing thermostat controls for nonresidential buildings, most particularly by raising the temperature in the Capitol and congressional office buildings to 78 degrees. This effort to conserve energy has undoubtedly resulted in some discomfort for Members, staff, and visitors to the Capitol. As a result, some questions have arisen concerning proper dress for Members when they are in the House Chamber. Over many years and during some uncomfortable seasons, Members have respected an unwritten standard. Historically, a coat and tie has always been required for male Members and appropriate attire for female Members. The Chair believes that the House should continue to adhere to this practice. The Chair certainly intends to. Perhaps the Chair reflects the views of his own generation but he feels that this is one of the ways in which he shows his respect for this institution.

34. 125 CONG. REC. 19, 96th Cong. 1st Sess.; *House Rules and Manual* § 623 (2017).

35. Thomas O'Neill (MA).

36. *Parliamentarian's Note*: The Doorkeeper's duties have now been transferred to the Sergeant-at-Arms. See *House Rules and Manual* § 663a (2017). See also *Precedents* (Wickham) Ch. 6.

37. 125 CONG. REC. 19008, 96th Cong. 2d Sess.; *House Rules and Manual* §§ 621, 705, and 962 (2017). For decorum issues generally, see Deschler's *Precedents* Ch. 29 §§ 40–66 and *Precedents* (Wickham) Ch. 29.

38. Thomas O'Neill (MA).

The Chair does not believe he should become an arbiter of style. What color a person wears or the manner in which he or she combs his hair is certainly a matter for individual determination.

But the older Members will recall previous occasions when this Chamber has been uncomfortable. We have now had about 3 days of seasonal temperatures and humidity, and the Chair has had various parts of the Chamber monitored for temperature readings. On occasion, those readings have indicated temperatures in the high eighties. The Chair does not believe those temperatures are conducive to efficiency. It makes it more difficult for Members to carry out their legislative duties, particularly when we are facing many weeks of hard legislative work and long hours in this Chamber.

While adhering to the President's guidelines, and while maintaining the energy conservation steps which have been undertaken by the Architect, at the Chair's direction, the Chair does intend to see that steps are taken to provide for a better circulation of air in the Chamber. The Architect informs us that some large circulating fans can be installed which should significantly improve the situation. Some have been installed. The Chair would hope that these measures would permit us to maintain our present standards of dress and, thus, some degree of formality.

If any Member would desire to offer a resolution raising a question of privilege of the House to the effect that Members may relax their dress, such Member may so offer the resolution and the Chair would recognize him for such purposes.

Through the years, Members in this Chamber, long before air-conditioning, wore wigs and swallow-tailed coats and high mufflers. The Chair thinks this history shows the respect for the Congress. The Chair would ask the gentleman from Texas if he would kindly remove himself from the floor and appear in the customary attire that the Members of the Congress wear.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. [Robert] BAUMAN [of Maryland]. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry. The SPEAKER. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. BAUMAN. Mr. Speaker, in view of the ruling by the distinguished Speaker of the House, in the future would it be in order, under clause 2 of rule I, which grants the Speaker power to preserve order and decorum, to make a point of order against any Members of the House who do not accede to the dress code that the Speaker has described?

The SPEAKER. The Chair will advise the gentleman from Maryland that the Chair hopes not to have to rule on a point of order concerning a dress code for Members and would prefer that the standards of dress be voluntarily maintained and accepted by the Members.

Mr. BAUMAN. Mr. Speaker, would the Chair entertain such a point of order if it were made?

The SPEAKER. The Chair would not foreclose that at this time.

Mr. BAUMAN. I thank the Chair.

The SPEAKER. The Chair would ask the gentleman from Texas to remove himself from the floor, and the gentleman can address the House at such time as he is in the proper attire.

Mr. [James] MATTOX [of Texas]. Mr. Speaker—

The SPEAKER. The Chair is not recognizing the gentleman. The Chair has made his statement.

If any Member desires to offer a resolution to change the customs and attire with regard to dress, as a point of privilege of the House, the Chair would recognize the Member.

For what purpose does the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. MONTGOMERY) rise?

Mr. [Sonny] MONTGOMERY [of Mississippi]. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Chair. I think what the Chair has done today is certainly in line and upholds the dignity and decorum of the House. I would hope that the gentleman from Texas would remove himself and come back in proper attire, and that at a later date a resolution could be offered if some Member disagrees with the Chair's ruling.

I commend the Speaker. I think you are standing tall, sir. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair will say that he knows the gentleman from Texas is embarrassing the Chair. Maybe the gentleman does not feel this embarrassment himself, but the Chair would be more than happy to recognize the gentleman if he will put on the proper attire. He may then make the statement he desires to make.

§ 1.3 A resolution expressing the sense of the House as to the proper form of attire worn by Members in the House Chamber gives rise to a question of the privileges of the House under rule IX,⁽³⁹⁾ as involving the comfort and convenience of Members.

On July 17, 1979,⁽⁴⁰⁾ the House laid on the table a resolution, offered as a question of the privileges of the House, permitting Members to dispense with coats and ties during the summer months when Federal energy standards required 80-degree temperature in Federal buildings:⁽⁴¹⁾

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE—ATTIRE OF MALE MEMBERS OF HOUSE
DURING SUMMER MONTHS

Mr. [Morris] UDALL [of Arizona]. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House, and I send to the desk a privileged resolution (H. Res. 369) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 369

Whereas traditions of the House require that male Members wear coats and ties at all times in the Chamber

Whereas national energy conservation policies now require that temperatures in the Chamber, The Capitol and House Office Buildings be maintained at new and higher levels during the summer months, causing unnecessary discomfort and inefficiency for male Members and employees; now therefore, be it

39. *House Rules and Manual* § 698 (2017).

40. 125 CONG. REC. 19072–73, 96th Cong. 1st Sess.; *House Rules and Manual* § 621 (2017).

41. *Parliamentarian's Note*: Subsequent to the offering of House Resolution 369, the House agreed to a resolution, also offered as a question of the privileges of the House (House Resolution 370), reiterating the requirement that Members wear proper attire as determined by the Speaker and denying noncomplying Members the privilege of the floor. See 125 CONG. REC. 19073, 96th Cong. 1st Sess. (July 17, 1979).

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House that during the period June 1st to Labor Day in 1979 and each year the current energy or conservation policies are required (as determined by the Speaker for 1980 and subsequent years). Members may dispense with coats and/or ties so long as suitable, dignified, tasteful and appropriate clothes are worn; be it further

Resolved, That at all other times and in all other respects traditional attire shall be appropriate. . . .

PREFERENTIAL MOTION OFFERED BY MR. BAUMAN

Mr. [Robert] BAUMAN [of Maryland]. Mr. Speaker, I offer a preferential motion.

The SPEAKER.⁽⁴²⁾ The Clerk will report the preferential motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. BAUMAN moves to table the resolution.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the preferential motion to table.

The question was taken; and on a division (demanded by Mr. UDALL) there were—yeas 89, nays 31.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nay were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 303, nays 105, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 348] . . .

§ 1.4 The Speaker declined to entertain a unanimous-consent request to permit ceremonial bunting⁽⁴³⁾ to remain hanging in the Chamber, determining instead to exercise his authority over the Hall of the House to permit the display.

On March 2, 1989,⁽⁴⁴⁾ the Speaker declined to recognize for unanimous-consent requests which would infringe upon his general authority under clause 3 of rule I⁽⁴⁵⁾ over the Hall of the House, as follows:

REQUEST THAT BLUE BUNTING OVER DOORS OF HOUSE CHAMBER BE
ALLOWED TO REMAIN

Mr. [Sam] GIBBONS [of Florida]. Mr. Speaker, if I may be recognized for one other brief unanimous-consent request, I ask unanimous consent that the blue bunting over the doors adorned by stars used in today's ceremony be allowed to remain in the Chamber at the discretion of the Speaker.

The SPEAKER.⁽⁴⁶⁾ The Chair will take that suggestion under advisement and will consult with others and consider the advisability of following the gentleman's recommendation.

42. Thomas O'Neill (MA).

43. *Parliamentarian's Note*: The bunting displayed was for the commemoration of the Bicentennial of the Congress.

44. 135 CONG. REC. 3220, 101st Cong. 1st Sess.

45. *House Rules and Manual* § 623 (2017).

46. James Wright (TX).

§ 1.5 The Speaker announced guidelines for a trial period for a radio interview table in the Speaker's Lobby where reporters could use tape recorders to interview Members while the House was in session, and assured Members that recordings of Members' conversations in the Lobby would not be permitted.

On May 22, 1990,⁽⁴⁷⁾ the Chair responded to parliamentary inquiries as follows:

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. [Robert] WALKER [of Pennsylvania]. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry. The SPEAKER.⁽⁴⁸⁾ The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, the Speaker has recently announced a new policy with regard to the use of the Speaker's lobby for the recording by reporters by electronic device of interviews with Members. There has been some concern expressed about that particular policy with regard to the use of the recorders in the Speaker's lobby since that is regarded as a part of the floor. In particular, the concern is that you could have the use of very sensitive microphones there that could record private conversations that might be taking place in the Speaker's lobby, or even record conversations at the periphery of the House floor itself that were not meant for public consumption.

I was wondering, under my parliamentary inquiry, whether the Speaker could give the Members some assurance with regard to this policy that the recording devices will only be used for individual interviews, and would not be permissible for use as a means of recording conversations in the Speaker's lobby as a whole.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. WALKER. So in other words, under this policy, this is strictly aimed at giving only the ability to interview individual Members at the table, and those recording devices would not be permitted to be on during other times that the reporter might be in the lobby?

The SPEAKER. The answer to the gentleman's parliamentary inquiry is that the gentleman is correct.

The Chair will ask the Clerk to read into the RECORD the guidelines established by the Chair for the conduct of this trial period of radio interview.

The Clerk read as follows:

POLICY FOR RADIO INTERVIEW TABLE IN SPEAKER'S LOBBY

(1) No tape recorder will be allowed inside the Speaker's Lobby, other than at a table set aside for the purpose. This table is provided for interviews, which should not disrupt the decorum of the House. Tape recorders must be taken immediately to the designated table.

(2) No more than four tape recorders will be allowed at the table at any one time. Reporters will be allowed to take tape recorders to the table on a rotating pass system. Passes will be distributed by the Radio/TV Gallery staff, who may, at their discretion, set a time limit on the use of the pass.

47. 136 CONG. REC. 11425, 101st Cong. 2d Sess.

48. Thomas Foley (WA).

(3) The table can only be used for interviews of Members during House sessions. It cannot be used during joint meetings or joint sessions.

(4) Failure to honor restrictions placed on news organizations by the House gallery staff, or failure to return radio table passes at the designated time, may result in revocation of a news organization's right to use said passes in the future.

(5) The radio table and the policy for its use is available on a trial basis through the August recess of 1990. At that time the table and its use will be reassessed.

(6) All rules for broadcast coverage in the House will be reevaluated by the Speaker's Office and the Executive Committee at the beginning of each Congress.

Mr. WALKER. I thank the Chair.

§ 1.6 In response to a parliamentary inquiry, the Speaker pro tempore stated that the Chair had no unilateral authority to order doors to the Chamber to be locked during a pending series of votes.

Under clause 2(b) of rule XV,⁽⁴⁹⁾ the Speaker may order that the doors be *closed* "when a call of the House in the absence of a quorum is ordered." The Speaker has no other authority to order the doors *locked*, as evidenced by the Chair's response to the following parliamentary inquiry on June 11, 1997:⁽⁵⁰⁾

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. [Donald] MANZULLO [of Illinois]. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry. The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. [Robert] GOODLATTE [of Virginia]). The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that the Chair direct the Sergeant at Arms to lock the doors in order to keep the Members in the Chamber so we can finish voting here in 5 minutes.

Mr. [José] SERRANO [of New York]. I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair cannot order that at this point.

The Clerk will designate the next amendment on which a separate vote has been demanded.

§ 1.7 The House adopted a resolution authorizing the Speaker to designate individuals for admission to the Hall of the House for the purpose of documenting the improved accessibility of its rostrum, which allowed a Speaker pro tempore using a wheelchair to preside over the House for the first time.⁽⁵¹⁾

49. *House Rules and Manual* § 892 (2017).

50. 143 CONG. REC. 10665, 105th Cong. 1st Sess. See also 7 Cannon's Precedents § 703 and Deschler's Precedents Ch. 20 § 6.

51. *Parliamentarian's Note*: Two articulating platforms had been installed on the east side of the rostrum earlier in the 111th Congress and had been successful in tests. Each

On July 26, 2010,⁽⁵²⁾ the following occurred:

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. [James] LANGEVIN [of Rhode Island]) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, Creator of all and Builder of a just society, this is a House of pride and dignity because of its noble belief in free people. By law and by policy through the years, interior freedom has been uncovered as obstacles to equal opportunity have been removed.

By celebrating the accomplishments of the past 20 years founded in the initiative of the Disabilities Act, Lord God, responsible government has continued to embrace the advent and development of Your people.

Lord, here, may each child of disadvantage and every victim of war and accident be given hope and grounding for personal aspirations to achieve his or her full potential in Your sight.

With the help of research, engineering, medicine, and professional therapy, may government uphold the Nation's commitment to equal opportunity in the pursuit of happiness.

May every American rejoice and thank You, Almighty God, for the next step and every step to be taken to afford open and full accessibility to place and position for all citizens in a just world. For this we pray, and we will continue to work, both now and forever. Amen. . . .

PERMITTING INDIVIDUALS TO BE ADMITTED TO THE HALL OF THE HOUSE
IN ORDER TO DOCUMENT THE IMPROVED ACCESSIBILITY OF THE HALL
OF THE HOUSE

Ms. [Louise] SLAUGHTER [of New York]. Mr. Speaker, on this most important day in the history of the House of Representatives, I send to the desk H. Res. 1555, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1555

Resolved, That the Speaker, in consultation with the minority leader, may designate individuals to be admitted to the Hall of the House and the rooms leading thereto in order to document the improved accessibility of the Hall of the House.

platform moved both vertically and horizontally to deliver a Member using a wheelchair to the presiding officer's position. Pursuant to the authority granted in House Resolution 1555, the Speaker allowed a still photographer on the floor to document the historic opening.

52. 156 CONG. REC. 13938, 13939, 111th Cong. 2d Sess.

The resolution was agreed to.
A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. [Nancy] PELOSI [of California]. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and joy that I rise today to acknowledge the history that you are making. By your leadership and your inspiration and your education of the Congress, you have helped take us to a place that honors the tradition and the goals of our founders; to improve liberty and equality for all Americans.

Today, through technology, under the leadership of the Architect of the House, we are able to, in a way that is almost magical, extend to you the privilege that you deserved all along, to be able to preside over the House.

I'm pleased that we are joined by our former colleague in the House, and now a Senator, Senator HARKIN, who was such a champion in passing the Americans with Disabilities Act; our former colleague, Tony Coelho, also a leader in that regard; our colleagues who have worked so hard on that subject, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KENNEDY; and the champion in our House on the Americans with Disabilities Act, STENY HOYER, our distinguished majority leader.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER has made this part of his legacy in the Congress. Not so fast with the legacy, I know. More to come. But we thank you for being the champion on civil rights that you are.

And I see now that we have been joined by our distinguished Republican leader of the House, Mr. BOEHNER.

This is bipartisan effort. It has been all along. It is a cause for celebration. It is a source of liberation. And it's important to note that there's a reason Mr. LANGEVIN is first. He is first because of his courage. He is first because of his inspiration, and he is first because when I became Speaker, he said to me, Now that you are presiding, I want to preside too.

So on that day, when we made history of having the first woman Speaker of the House, it became clear that we had to make history today in having JIM LANGEVIN preside on this historic occasion, which is a source of pride to all of us but also a source of challenge as to how we go forward addressing the new technologies so that we can continue to remove barriers to participation to all Americans. It's better for them and it's better for our country.

Now we can go forward clearly saying that we respect people for what they can do, not judge them or limit them for what they cannot, and that we can more fully honor the Pledge of Allegiance that Mr. KENNEDY led us in just earlier, one Nation under God, with liberty—and this is about liberation—with liberty and justice for all.

Congratulations, Mr. LANGEVIN.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH
DISABILITIES ACT

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. [John] BOEHNER [of Ohio]. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the Speaker and the majority leader in recognizing the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

First I want to applaud you, Mr. Speaker, for making history today as the first American with disabilities to preside over this distinguished body. It's truly an inspiring sight and a reminder that the disabled are, of course, among the most active and functional members of our society. And it's a testament to the historic measure that we're celebrating today.

I also want to congratulate my colleague, Mr. HOYER, the majority leader, who I know played a key role in making this legislation a reality, along with other colleagues from the other body and retired, along with Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

But really I want to thank all of you for ensuring that we come together, across the aisle when necessary, to make certain that this act fulfills its original mission.

Before the Americans with Disabilities Act, nowhere in the world was there a comprehensive declaration of equality for people with disabilities.

In the medical community, people with disabilities are called "handi-capable" because they strive and succeed in the face of great personal obstacles.

There was a time, however, when courage alone was not enough to get them into their hometown theaters to see a movie or into office buildings to apply for a job, much less to provide for their families. Those wrongs were corrected on July 26, 1990, when President George Herbert Walker Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act into law on the South Lawn of the White House.

On that day President Bush noted that it was roughly a year after the Berlin Wall came down and said that this legislation "takes a sledge hammer to another wall, one which has for too many generations separated Americans with disabilities from the freedom they could glimpse, but not grasp."

For too long our Nation has kept Americans with disabilities dependent, when they all yearned for independence. And the Americans with Disabilities Act has given them the tools to do just that, to quench their thirst for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It has changed the lives of millions, and will do so for many, many generations to come.

Physical Safety and Security

§ 1.8 A resolution alleging certain fire safety deficiencies in the environs of the House and directing the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the matter, gave rise to a question of the privileges of the House concerning the safety of its Members, staff, visitors, and records.⁽⁵³⁾

On May 10, 1988,⁽⁵⁴⁾ the House adopted a resolution offered as a question of the privileges of the House directing the Speaker to appoint a bipartisan

53. See 3 Hinds' Precedents § 2659 (protecting the records of the House from the threat of fire is a matter involving the privileges of the House).

54. 134 CONG. REC. 10286, 10287, 100th Cong. 2d Sess.

select committee to investigate fire safety in the Capitol and House office buildings:

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE—SELECT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE FIRE SAFETY IN THE CAPITOL AND HOUSE OFFICE BUILDINGS

Mr. [Curt] WELDON [of Pennsylvania]. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House, and I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 440) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 440

Whereas on Thursday, May the 5th, a fire occurred in the congressional office of the Speaker of the House, Representative Jim Wright of Texas, located on the second floor of the Longworth House Office Building; and

Whereas after smelling the smoke from said fire, Representative Curt Weldon of Pennsylvania attempted to assist in extinguishing it, only to find fire suppression equipment was not fully functional and available; and

Whereas it was further discovered that the Longworth House Office Building had no manual or automatic fire alarm system to notify the Members, staff, and visitors in the building; and

Whereas the occupants of the Longworth Building had to be notified of the potential danger by someone going to each individual office; and

Whereas some occupants of the Longworth Building were improperly evacuated by way of the elevator which actually stopped on the fire floor; and

Whereas some occupants of the Longworth Building were forced to exit through smoke filled stair towers none of which were enclosed; and

Whereas preplanning and training for such emergencies was clearly lacking; and

Whereas the Capitol, Cannon, Longworth, and Rayburn House Office Buildings are not required to comply with any Federal, State, or District of Columbia fire codes; and

Whereas the safety of the Members of the House of Representatives, as well as staff and visitors to these buildings can not be assured; and

Whereas the security of the files and records of the House of Representatives is in jeopardy because of the inability to respond to any fire situation; and

Whereas the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, comprised of over 150 Members of Congress, was recently established to advance the cause of fire safety in our Nation's Capitol and across the United States; and

Whereas pursuant to the provisions of rule IX of the Rules of the House of Representatives any measure affecting the safety of the proceedings of the House represents a question of the privileges of the House: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That a Select Committee of the House be appointed, comprised of two members from the majority party and two members from the minority party of the House of Representatives to inquire into the origin of the fire which occurred in the Office of the Speaker, and to meet with Federal and local fire officials to report and list any Federal or local fire code violations or any other potential fire or life safety hazards, and report back to the House any recommendations or measures which they deem necessary to assure the safety of the Members, officers, staff, and visitors in the Capitol, Cannon, Longworth, and Rayburn House Office Buildings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. [Kenneth] GRAY of Illinois). The resolution offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] does state a privilege of the House.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] is recognized for 1 hour. . . .

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid upon the table.

§ 1.9 During morning-hour speeches, a Member recounted for the House a description of a terrorist attack inside the House Chamber on March 1, 1954, and submitted for the *Congressional*

Record a detailed account of the attack written by the Clerk to the Parliamentarian.

On March 1, 1994,⁽⁵⁵⁾ the following occurred:

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER.⁽⁵⁶⁾ Pursuant to the order of the House of Friday, February 11, 1994, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for “morning-hour debates.” The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leaders limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. EMERSON].

OBSERVANCE OF THE ATTACK OF MARCH 1, 1954, ON MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of February 11, 1994, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. EMERSON] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. [Bill] EMERSON [of Missouri]. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the fact that it was 40 years ago today that the House was assaulted by a group of terrorists who were in this corner gallery here. This is not an occasion that we celebrate, but it is one that we note, and 40 years seems to be a significant milestone.

Mr. Speaker, I happened to be a Page at the time. That was the second session of the 83d Congress. This being the second session of the 103d Congress means that an awful lot of water has gone over the dam in the intervening period. Another Page at the time, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. KANJORSKI], I gather, will be here at a later period today and may speak on this subject also and I will join him then for further exposition of the event.

Mr. Speaker, I shall not speak at length just now. I wanted to say that there is a lot of curiosity on this subject, which is a reason that I bring it up today. I was visiting recently with our distinguished Parliamentarian, Mr. Brown, and his associate, Mr. Johnson, and they told me about a file that exists in the Parliamentarian’s office noting the occasion, what happened on that particular day.

They called to my attention a memorandum in that file that was written by an employee of the Parliamentarian’s office, Mr. Joe Metzger, whom I recall. Mr. Metzger apparently was given to making side notes, separate and apart from the record, of occurrences in the House of Representatives that were unusual in nature.

On a day or so following the event of March 1 in the House of Representatives, Mr. Metzger wrote a narrative describing what occurred on that occasion, which, quite frankly, is as good a report as I have seen anywhere. He was here. He saw it all. I too, saw the event as it occurred.

55. 140 CONG. REC. 3318, 3319, 103d Cong. 2d Sess.

56. Thomas Foley (WA).

Mr. Speaker, I was the overseer of the Pages at the time on the Democratic side of the House, so I had a very good view of the gallery in which this incident occurred, but there was a difficulty at that time getting ambulances and first aid to the Members who had been wounded. Five Members had been wounded.

Pages were called upon to be stretcher bearers. When the ambulances arrived, I exited the Chamber, having helped carry a couple of Members to awaiting ambulances, and I was not here for the aftermath. Some of the more interesting details of that day were in the aftermath of the shooting, which appear in Mr. Metzger's account.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the account of Mr. Metzger of the House shooting which he had prepared somewhere in the day or so immediately following the incident on March 1, 1954. I think the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. KANJORSKI] has reserved time for a later period in the day, and I shall reserve the remainder of my remarks and will join him on that occasion.

The account of Mr. Metzger is as follows:

On Monday, March 1, 1954 (83d Congress, 2d Session), the House was considering a resolution from the Rules Committee, H. Res. 450, to provide for the consideration of H.J. Res. 3, a joint resolution amending the Act approved July 12, 1951, relating to the supplying of agricultural workers from Mexico. After the previous question was ordered on agreeing to the resolution, a point of order was made that a quorum was not present, and the Speaker determined that 243 Members were present, a quorum. The question was put on agreeing to the resolution, and a division being demanded, by Mr. Cooley of N.C., the Speaker counted the Members rising in the affirmative and announce that the "Ayes" would be seated and the "Noes" should rise. At this moment, at approximately 2:30 p.m., a fusillade came from the gallery of the House. Four Puerto Rican terrorists, 1 woman and 3 men, fired 20 to 30 pistol shots from Gallery 11, located in the southwest corner of the chamber to the left and rear of the Speaker. The woman fired several shots, some upward into the ceiling and probably also some downward into the crowd of Members on the floor. She waved a Puerto Rican flag and shouted "Viva Puerto Rico." The men fired wildly into and among the Members, scattering bullets from one side of the chamber to the other. Five Members were wounded. Other bullets struck the table of the majority leader, unoccupied seats, and also the side walls at the rear toward the northeast corner of the chamber. The House was thrown into a state of utter disorder, and the Speaker, on his own initiative and without request from the floor, at 2:32 p.m. declared the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair. Members wounded were: Mr. Bentley of Michigan, Mr. Jensen of Iowa, Mr. Davis of Tennessee, Mr. Fallon of Maryland, and Mr. Roberts of Alabama.

Other Members, including three who were physicians, Dr. Judd of Minnesota, Dr. Miller of Nebraska, and Dr. Fenton of Pennsylvania, assisted and gave first aid to the wounded.

After a recess of about ten minutes the Speaker called the House to order, and on motion of the Majority Leader, Mr. Halleck of Indiana, the House adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Ambulances had been called and in a short time after the shooting the wounded Members were taken to hospitals.

Meanwhile, the Puerto Ricans who fired the shots had left the gallery. The woman, Lolita Lebron, and two of the men, Rafael Miranda and Andres Cordero, were captured and disarmed before they were more than a few feet beyond the gallery door. The other man, Irving Flores Rodriguez, escaped from the Capitol, but he was arrested in a Washington bus station later in the day.

Injuries sustained by the Members were as follows:

Mr. Bentley of Michigan was struck high in the chest. The bullet perforated the right lung; drove through the diaphragm; tore through the liver, which was virtually shattered, and went through the stomach. At the outset Mr. Bentley's condition was regarded as critical, and he was said to have on a 50-50 chance to survive.

Mr. Jensen of Iowa, was struck in the right shoulder. The bullet passed across to the left side and lodged under his left shoulder blade.

Mr. Davis of Tennessee, was hit by a bullet which passed through the calf of the right leg.

Mr. Fallon of Maryland, was wounded in the fleshy part of the upper thigh on the right side, and the bullet passed all the way through.

Mr. Roberts of Alabama, was struck in the left leg, the bullet entering the fleshy area just above the knee and passing downward and all the way through.

Mr. Bentley, Mr. Fallon, and Mr. Roberts were taken to Casualty Hospital, and Mr. Jensen and Mr. Davis were taken to Bethesda Naval Medical Center.

The Puerto Ricans involved in the shooting were identified by police as belonging to the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party. Two other members of that party had tried to assassinate President Truman in 1950, at Blair House on Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., which was being used as the temporary Executive Mansion at that time. The four terrorists were all residents of New York City. The woman, Lolita Lebron, a divorcee 34 years old, boasted that the shooting was planned on February 22d, and was staged to draw attention to the question of independence for Puerto Rico. Accordingly to police, the incident was timed to coincide with the opening of the Tenth Inter-American Conference in Caracas, Venezuela.

According to the District of Columbia Police, the guns used by the Puerto Ricans and later taken from them were four automatic pistols of German make, 3 9-millimeter Lugers (one with an 8-inch barrel and two with 4-inch barrels) and a 9-millimeter "P-38" Walther with a 4-inch barrel.

The shooting came as a complete surprise. Many Members who were present on the floor of the House at the time later stated they thought a series of fire-crackers had been set off. Even after seeing the pistols in the hands of people in the gallery, some Members thought blank cartridges were being fired. Only after seeing that some Members were wounded and seeing holes in the furniture did many Members realize that real bullets were being fired at the House in session. All found it almost incredible that such a thing was actually happening.

After the wounded were taken to hospitals, conferences were held by the leaders of both parties regarding security measures which might be necessary for the protection of the House and its Members.

All outstanding gallery cards were cancelled, effective the day following the shooting. New cards were printed for distribution the following day, with a request being made to all Members by the Speaker that gallery cards be issued only to persons who could be vouched for by each Member issuing the new cards.

A Congressional Reception which had been scheduled at the White House for the evening of March 2, 1954, was cancelled by the White House.

Expressions of indignation at the shooting and communications expressing sympathy to the wounded Members were received by the Speaker from far and wide. Thousands of letters and telegrams of this nature were received. Many of the letters and telegrams came from people in Puerto Rico. The Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico made a

stirring speech in the House the day following the shooting (CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, March 2, 1954, delivered during recess but not in RECORD) to the effect that the people of Puerto Rico were as disturbed over the matter as were the people of the United States. The Governor of Puerto Rico sent his best wishes to the Speaker on the day of the shooting, and on the following day flew from Puerto Rico and called in person upon the Speaker to denounce the shooting and convey the sympathies of Puerto Rico. The House took a brief recess on March 2, 1954, for greeting the Governor of Puerto Rico informally in the House Chamber.

Resolutions and bills proposing security measures of various kinds were introduced in the House for several days following the shooting. The House on March 4, 1954, adopted a resolution (H. Res. 456) authorizing that necessary medical expenses for Members injured by the shooting on March 1st be paid from the Contingent Fund of the House.

All five of the wounded Members had been discharged from the hospitals by the end of May, 1954. Mr. Roberts, the last to return to his duties, was walking on crutches and spent a lot of his time in a wheel chair at the time of his return to the House on May 25, 1954. It was expected that Mr. Roberts would require medical treatment for at least a year after his release from the hospital, owing to the injured nerves in his leg. Mr. Bentley also continued to require medical attention at the end of the 2d Session of the 83d Congress.

The four Puerto Ricans were brought to trial in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. They were convicted and given the maximum sentences for their crimes. Mrs. Lolita Lebron was convicted on 5 counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, but was given a verdict of not guilty on the counts of assault with intent to kill. She was sentenced to serve 3 years and 4 months to 10 years on each of the counts for which convicted, sentences to run consecutively. Thus her total sentence was to serve from 16 years 8 months to 50 years.

Each of the three men, Rafael Concel Miranda, Irving Flores Rodriguez, and Andres Figueroa Cordero was convicted of 5 counts of assault with a dangerous weapon and 5 counts of assault with intent to kill. They were each sentenced to serve 5 to 15 years on each of the counts of assault with intent to kill, sentences to run consecutively. Thus, each received a sentence to serve from 25 to 75 years. Each of the men also received the same sentence as did Mrs. Lebron, but the latter being for the same act of assault were to run concurrently with the former. Thus, each of the men was sentenced to serve a total of from 25 to 75 years.

§ 1.10 Under clause 12(b) of rule I,⁽⁵⁷⁾ the Speaker may “suspend the business of the House when notified of an imminent threat to its safety” by declaring a recess subject to the call of the Chair, and pursuant to such authority, the House stood in “emergency” recess for 30 minutes for the purpose of conducting a Chamber evacuation drill.⁽⁵⁸⁾

57. *House Rules and Manual* § 639 (2017). See also Deschler's Precedents Ch. 39.

58. *Parliamentarian's Note*: This was the first use of emergency recess authority, which was added to the rules on opening day of the 108th Congress. See H. Res. 5, 149 CONG. REC. 7, 108th Cong. 1st Sess. (Jan. 7, 2003). Contrast this recess authority with the traditional “short” recess authority under clause 12(a) of rule I (*House Rules and Manual* § 639 (2017)), which may be used only “when no question is pending before the

On March 6, 2003,⁽⁵⁹⁾ the following occurred:

Mr. [Peter] HOEKSTRA [of Michigan]. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mrs. [Sue] KELLY).

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 13.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. [Joel] HEFLEY [of Colorado]). The gentlewoman will suspend.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(b) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in emergency recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 35 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. [Ken] CALVERT [of California]) at 11 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.

MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore.⁽⁶⁰⁾ When the recess was declared, the House was considering H.R. 13 and 43½ minutes of debate remained.

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) has 22½ minutes remaining and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) has 21 minutes remaining.

Prior to the recess, the gentleman from Michigan had yielded two minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mrs. KELLY), and the gentlewoman from New York had 2 minutes remaining.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Use of the Chamber

§ 1.11 A meeting of a party's caucus may be held in the Chamber of the House during a recess.⁽⁶¹⁾

House." When proceedings resume under clause 12(b), the Chair restates the allocated time (and other pertinent procedural information) as of the emergency recess declaration. Before clause 12(b) was added, there were two modern examples of emergency recesses declared pursuant to inherent (not necessarily *ultra vires*) authority of the Chair. See, e.g., 89 CONG. REC. 1487, 78th Cong. 1st Sess. (Mar. 2, 1943) and 100 CONG. REC. 2434, 83d Cong. 2d Sess. (Mar. 1, 1954). For an example of a non-drill emergency recess, see Deschler's Precedents Ch. 39 § 2.16.

59. 149 CONG. REC. 5335, 108th Cong. 1st Sess.

60. Ken Calvert (CA).

61. *Parliamentarian's Note*: The mace was removed and the galleries were cleared. While this was the first party caucus meeting in the Chamber during a recess of the House,

On September 30, 1990,⁽⁶²⁾ the following announcement was made:

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONVENING OF DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

Mr. [Steny] HOYER [of Maryland]. Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce to the Democrats that we will have a caucus approximately 15 minutes or shortly after we recess this evening. We will have to stay in and wait upon the Senate, so that will not delay us in any event.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the Democratic Members of the House of Representatives that we will have a caucus in approximately 5 minutes, at a quarter of 6, in this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the minority leader, I very much appreciate his consideration. This is an unusual step, in light of the fact the House will be in recess.

Mr. [Robert] MICHEL [of Illinois]. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. MICHEL. Mr. Speaker, might I inquire of the distinguished chairman of the Democratic caucus, that if we go into recess awaiting the action of the other body, and assuming there are no glitches, but if there were, would it be in order for us to give Members, say, 1 hour's notice that their presence would be required?

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time so I may respond to the distinguished minority leader, we will give no less than one-half hour's notice.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore.⁽⁶³⁾ Pursuant to the order of the House of Friday, September 28, 1990, the House will now stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.) the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 7 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.

§ 1.12 The Senate (and then the House) agreed to a Senate concurrent resolution authorizing use of the Rotunda for an "assembly"

such meetings had occurred during adjournments, prior to the convening of the House. See 130 CONG. REC. 24305, 24306, 98th Cong. 2d Sess. (Sept. 5, 1984). See also Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 3 § 3.5.

62. 136 CONG. REC. 26690-91, 101st Cong. 2d Sess.

63. Gerry Studds (MA).

of House and Senate Members and Chaplains for a National Day of Reconciliation to “seek the blessings of Providence.”⁽⁶⁴⁾

On November 16, 2001,⁽⁶⁵⁾ the House adopted the Senate concurrent resolution.

PROVIDING FOR USE OF ROTUNDA OF CAPITOL FOR A NATIONAL DAY OF RECONCILIATION

Mr. [Thomas] REYNOLDS [of New York]. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 83) providing for a National Day of Reconciliation, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore.⁽⁶⁶⁾ Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 83

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

- 64.** *Parliamentarian’s Note:* On June 25, 2001, a bill (H.R. 2300) calling for the two Houses to meet in the House Chamber for a “National Day of Reconciliation” was introduced and referred to the Committee on House Administration (147 CONG. REC. 11805, 107th Cong. 1st Sess.). On July 10, 2001, a similar measure was introduced in the form of a concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 184, 147 CONG. REC. 12766, 107th Cong. 1st Sess.). That concurrent resolution was adopted by the House by suspension of the rules on October 23, 2001 (Deschler’s Precedents Ch. 36 §§ 6.1, 6.2; 147 CONG. REC. 20388–90, 107th Cong. 1st Sess.). The Senate version on which the two Houses eventually agreed relocated the gathering to the Capitol Rotunda. From the earliest times, ceremonies of a religious nature have traditionally not been held in the Hall of the House. In fact, on November 19, 1804, the House adopted the following resolution: “That, in future, no person shall be permitted to perform divine service in the chamber occupied by the House of Representatives, unless with the consent of the Speaker.” (H. Jour. 17, 8th Cong. 2d Sess. (Nov. 19, 1804)). Apparently as a result of excessive requests upon the Speaker, the House in 1828 ordered that the Chamber should be used only for congressional business and religious services on Sundays. 5 Hinds’ Precedents § 7270. In 1880, the House adopted what is now rule IV, which provides that the House must consent by resolution to any non-legislative use of the Chamber. *House Rules and Manual* § 677 (2017). See also: S. Con. Res. 45, 142 CONG. REC. 4621, 4622, 104th Cong. 2d Sess. (Mar. 13, 1996) (authorizing use of Capitol Rotunda for presentation of Congressional Gold Medal to Reverend and Mrs. Billy Graham); and H. Con. Res. 223, 147 CONG. REC. 16761, 16762, 107th Cong. 1st Sess. (Sept. 12, 2001) (permitting use of Capitol Rotunda for prayer vigil in memory of those who lost their lives in the events of September 11, 2001).
- 65.** 147 CONG. REC. 22910–11, 107th Cong. 1st Sess. The Senate adopted the measure on November 13, 2001. See 147 CONG. REC. 22270, 107th Cong. 1st Sess. See also Deschler’s Precedents Ch. 36 § 6.2.
- 66.** Vito Fossella (NY).

SECTION 1. USE OF ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL.

The rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used at any time on November 27, 2001, or December 4, 2001, for a National Day of Reconciliation where—

(1) the 2 Houses of Congress shall assemble in the rotunda with the Chaplain of the House of Representatives and the Chaplain of the Senate in attendance; and

(2) during this assembly, the Members of the 2 Houses may gather to humbly seek the blessings of Providence for forgiveness, reconciliation, unity, and charity for all people of the United States, thereby assisting the Nation to realize its potential as—

- (A) the champion of hope;
- (B) the vindicator of the defenseless; and
- (C) the guardian of freedom.

SEC. 2. PHYSICAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE ASSEMBLY.

Physical preparations for the assembly shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

§ 1.13 The Speaker announced that following the day's adjournment the majority and minority party caucuses would meet jointly in the Chamber in a closed session to receive a briefing by the Sergeant-at-Arms and Capitol Police Chief on the tragic events of July 24, 1998.⁽⁶⁷⁾

On July 27, 1998,⁽⁶⁸⁾ the following announcement was made:

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER.⁽⁶⁹⁾ The Chair desires to announce that following adjournment tonight, Members are invited to attend a joint party conference caucus for a briefing here in the Chamber.

§ 1.14 Pursuant to clause 3 of rule I⁽⁷⁰⁾ and clause 1 of rule IV,⁽⁷¹⁾ the Speaker having authority over the Hall of the House may permit its use for a closed briefing of Members when the House is not in session.

During the customary colloquy on the legislative program on March 11, 1999,⁽⁷²⁾ the Majority Leader announced that a national security briefing for

67. *Parliamentarian's Note:* On July 24, 1998, two Capitol Police officers were shot and killed by a lone gunman who had infiltrated the Capitol. The security briefing in the Chamber was held to give Members information on the sequence of events that had occurred on the day of the attack and current security protocols, as conveyed by the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Chief of the Capitol Police. See Deschler's Precedents Ch. 36 § 15 and Deschler's Precedents Ch. 38 § 3.5.

68. 144 CONG. REC. 17466, 17467, 105th Cong. 2d Sess.

69. Newt Gingrich (GA).

70. *House Rules and Manual* § 623 (2017).

71. *House Rules and Manual* § 686 (2017).

72. 145 CONG. REC. 4338, 106th Cong. 1st Sess.

all Members would be presented in the Chamber of the House before its scheduled session on the following Thursday:

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. [David] BONIOR [of Michigan]. Mr. Speaker, I have asked to speak for the purpose of inquiring of the distinguished majority leader the schedule for the remainder of the week and next week.

Mr. [Richard] ARMEY [of Texas]. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that we have had our last vote for the week. There will be no votes tomorrow, on Friday, March 12.

On Monday, March 15, the House will meet at 2 p.m. for a pro forma session. Of course, there will be no legislative business and no votes that day. . . .

On Thursday, March 18, we expect a national security briefing on the House floor from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. to discuss the ballistic missile threat. Of course, all Members will want to attend.

On March 18, 1999,⁽⁷³⁾ the House commenced debate on national missile defense policy, and the manager of the bill reminded Members that the closed national security briefing that they had received in the Chamber before the House convened on this day was classified:

Mr. [Floyd] SPENCE [of South Carolina]. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 120, I call up the bill (H.R. 4) to declare it to be the policy of the United States to deploy a national missile defense, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of H.R. 4 is as follows:

H.R. 4

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it is the policy of the United States to deploy a national missile defense.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. [John] SUNUNU [of New Hampshire]). Pursuant to House Resolution 120, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) each will control 1 hour.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE).

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. SPENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, before beginning, I would like to remind all Members who attended this morning's briefing with the Rumsfeld Commission that the briefing was classified. Accordingly, during the next several hours of debate, Members should take extreme care not to discuss any of the details or specifics of what they heard.

§ 1.15 The chair of the Committee on Armed Services took the floor to announce a change in location for a classified briefing for Members.

73. 145 CONG. REC. 4863, 106th Cong. 1st Sess.

On June 5, 2003,⁽⁷⁴⁾ the following announcement was made:

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE FOR MEMBERS-
ONLY BRIEFING ON IRAQ

(Mr. [Duncan] HUNTER [of California] asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, the briefing by Secretary Rumsfeld that was to take place on the floor at 4 p.m. will take place at 4 p.m. in Rayburn 2118.

§ 1.16 Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declared the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair to accommodate a briefing for Members in the Chamber of the House.⁽⁷⁵⁾

On February 3, 2004,⁽⁷⁶⁾ the following occurred:

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore.⁽⁷⁷⁾ Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARTER) at 8 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.

§ 1.17 By unanimous consent, the Chair inserted into the *Congressional Record* certain policy statements by Speaker for 111th Congress, including an inaugural statement on the use of the House Chamber when not in session.⁽⁷⁸⁾

74. 149 CONG. REC. 13890, 108th Cong. 1st Sess.

75. *Parliamentarian's Note*: The 45-minute briefing was conducted at the behest of the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration. It concerned a recent finding of ricin in a Senate mail room. The briefing was classified as "law enforcement sensitive." It was conducted by the House Sergeant-at-Arms, the Chief of Capitol Police, and the Attending Physician. The Chief Administrative Officer also was present to answer questions concerning distribution of the mail.

76. 150 CONG. REC. 928-929, 108th Cong. 2d Sess.

77. John Shimkus (IL).

78. *Parliamentarian's Note*: As mentioned in the Speaker's policy statement, some Members had conducted a mock session of the House during the August recess in 2008 in the House Chamber, potentially giving the impression that these proceedings were officially sanctioned events or actual sessions of the House. A similar demonstration had occurred during a recess of the House on November 18, 1995. This policy statement

On January 6, 2009,⁽⁷⁹⁾ the following announcement was made:

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore.⁽⁸⁰⁾ The Chair customarily takes this occasion at the outset of a Congress to announce her policies with respect to particular aspects of the legislative process. The Chair will insert in the RECORD announcements concerning:

- first, privileges of the floor;
- second, introduction of bills and resolutions;
- third, unanimous-consent requests for the consideration of legislation;
- fourth, recognition for 1-minute speeches;
- fifth, recognition for Special Order speeches;
- sixth, decorum in debate;
- seventh, conduct of votes by electronic device;
- eighth, use of handouts on the House floor;
- ninth, use of electronic equipment on the House floor; and
- tenth, use of the Chamber.

These announcements, where appropriate, will reiterate the origins of the stated policies. The Chair intends to continue in the 111th Congress the policies reflected in these statements. The policy announced in the 102d Congress with respect to jurisdictional concepts related to clause 5(a) of rule XXI—tax and tariff measures—will continue to govern but need not be reiterated, as it is adequately documented as precedent in the House Rules and Manual.

Without objection, the announcements will be printed in the RECORD.

There was no objection.

1. Privileges of the Floor

The Chair will make the following announcements regarding floor privileges, which will apply during the 111th Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER WITH RESPECT TO STAFF

Rule IV strictly limits those persons to whom the privileges of the floor during sessions of the House are extended, and that rule prohibits the Chair from entertaining requests for suspension or waiver of that rule. As reiterated by the Chair on January 21, 1986, January 3, 1985, January 25, 1983, and August 22, 1974, and as stated in Chapter 10, section 2, of House Practice, the rule strictly limits the number of committee staff on the floor at one time during the consideration of measures reported from their committees. This permission does not extend to Members' personal staff except when a Member's amendment is actually pending during the five-minute rule. It also does not extend to

was in response to events of that type and has been continued by subsequent Speakers in each successive Congress. See 157 CONG. REC. 106, 112th Cong. 1st Sess. (Jan. 5, 2011); 159 CONG. REC. H27 [Daily Ed.], 113th Cong. 1st Sess. (Jan. 3, 2013); 161 CONG. REC. H35 [Daily Ed.], 114th Cong. 1st Sess. (Jan. 6, 2015); and 163 CONG. REC. H36 [Daily Ed.], 115th Cong. 1st Sess. (Jan. 3, 2017).

79. 155 CONG. REC. 23–25, 111th Cong. 1st Sess.

80. Tammy Baldwin (WI).

personal staff of Members who are sponsors of pending bills or who are engaging in special orders. The Chair requests the cooperation of all Members and committee staff to assure that only the proper number of staff are on the floor, and then only during the consideration of measures within the jurisdiction of their committees. The Chair is making this statement and reiterating this policy because of Members' past insistence upon strict enforcement of the rule. The Chair requests each committee chair, and each ranking minority member, to submit to the Speaker a list of those staff who are allowed on the floor during the consideration of a measure reported by their committee. The Sergeant-at-Arms, who has been directed to assure proper enforcement of rule IV, will keep the list. Each staff person should exchange his or her ID for a "committee staff" badge, which is to be worn while on the floor. The Chair has consulted with the Minority Leader and will continue to consult with him.

Furthermore, as the Chair announced on January 7, 2003, in accordance with the change in the 108th Congress of clause 2(a) of rule IV regarding leadership staff floor access, only designated staff approved by the Speaker shall be granted the privilege of the floor. The Speaker intends that her approval be narrowly granted on a bipartisan basis to staff from the majority and minority side and only to those staff essential to floor activities.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER WITH RESPECT TO FORMER MEMBERS

The Speaker's policy announced on February 1, 2006, will continue to apply in the 111th Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER, FEBRUARY 1, 2006

The SPEAKER.⁽⁸¹⁾ The House has adopted a revision to the rule regarding the admission to the floor and the rooms leading thereto. Clause 4 of rule IV provides that a former Member, Delegate or Resident Commissioner or a former Parliamentarian of the House, or a former elected officer of the House or a former minority employee nominated as an elected officer of the House shall not be entitled to the privilege of admission to the Hall of the House and the rooms extending thereto if he or she is a registered lobbyist or an agent of a foreign principal; has any direct personal pecuniary interest in any legislative measure pending before the House, or reported by a committee; or is in the employ of or represents any party or organization for the purpose of influencing, directly or indirectly, the passage, defeat, or amendment of any legislative proposal.

This restriction extends not only to the House floor but adjacent rooms, the cloakrooms and the Speaker's lobby.

Clause 4 of rule IV also allows the Speaker to exempt ceremonial and educational functions from the restrictions of this clause. These restrictions shall not apply to attendance at joint meetings or joint sessions, Former Members' Day proceedings, educational tours, and other occasions as the Speaker may designate.

Members who have reason to know that a person is on the floor inconsistent with clause 4 of rule IV should notify the Sergeant-at-Arms promptly. . . .

8. Use of Handouts on House Floor

The Speaker's policy announced on September 27, 1995, which was prompted by a misuse of handouts on the House floor and made at the bipartisan request of the Committee

81. Dennis Hastert (IL).

on Standards of Official Conduct, will continue in the 111th Congress. All handouts distributed on or adjacent to the House floor by Members during House proceedings must bear the name of the Member authorizing their distribution. In addition, the content of those materials must comport with standards of propriety applicable to words spoken in debate or inserted in the Record. Failure to comply with this admonition may constitute a breach of decorum and may give rise to a question of privilege.

The Chair would also remind Members that, pursuant to clause 5 of rule IV, staff is prohibited from engaging in efforts in the Hall of the House or rooms leading thereto to influence Members with regard to the legislation being amended. Staff cannot distribute handouts.

In order to enhance the quality of debate in the House, the Chair would ask Members to minimize the use of handouts.

9. Use of Electronic Equipment on House Floor

The Speaker's policy announced on January 27, 2000, as modified by the change in clause 5 of rule XVII in the 108th Congress, will continue in the 111th Congress. All Members and staff are reminded of the absolute prohibition contained in clause 5 of rule XVII against the use of a wireless telephone or personal computer upon the floor of the House at any time.

The Chair requests all Members and staff wishing to receive or make wireless telephone calls to do so outside of the Chamber. The Chair further requests that all Members and staff refrain from wearing telephone headsets in the Chamber and to deactivate any audible ring of wireless phones before entering the Chamber. To this end, the Chair insists upon the cooperation of all Members and staff and instructs the Sergeant-at-Arms, pursuant to clause 3(a) of rule II and clause 5 of rule XVII, to enforce this prohibition.

10. Use of Chamber

The Speaker will make the following announcement with regard to use of the Chamber in the 111th Congress.

The Chair will announce to the House the policy of the Speaker concerning appropriate comportment in the chamber when the House is not in session.

Under clause 3 of rule I, the Speaker is responsible to control the Hall of the House. Under clause 1 of rule IV, the Hall of the House is to be used only for the legislative business of the House, for caucus and conference meetings of its Members, and for such ceremonies as the House might agree to conduct there.

When the House stands adjourned, its chamber remains on static display. It may accommodate visitors in the gallery or on the floor, subject to the needs of those who operate, maintain, and secure the chamber to go about their ordinary business. Because outside "coverage" of the chamber is limited to floor proceedings and is allowed only by accredited journalists, when the chamber is on static display no audio and video recording or transmitting devices are allowed. The long custom of disallowing even still photography in the chamber is based at least in part on the notion that an image having this setting as its backdrop might be taken to carry the imprimatur of the House.

The imprimatur of the House adheres to the Journal of its proceedings, which is kept pursuant to the Constitution. The imprimatur of the House adheres to the Congressional Record, which is kept as a substantially verbatim transcript pursuant to clause 8 of rule

XVII. The imprimatur of the House adheres to the audio and visual transmissions and recordings that are made and kept by the television system administered by the Speaker pursuant to rule V. But the imprimatur of the House may not be appropriated to other, ad hoc accounts or compositions of events in its chamber.

There have been reports during a recent “August recess” that the chamber was turned to inappropriate use by concerted activity. Those reports included the solicitation of visitors to fill seats on the floor to observe mock proceedings on the floor, dissemination of bootleg “coverage” of these proceedings over the internet, and lobbyist participation in the speechmaking.

Things of this sort should not recur. Members correctly refer to this place as “the people’s House.” It is, indeed, the chamber of the people’s House of Representatives. It is for legislative deliberations and ceremonies. It is not for political rallies. The Chair enlists the good judgment of all Members to the end that this chamber be preserved as the sanctuary of solemnity, deliberacy, and decorum that the rules of the House ordain it to be.

Comportment of Members

§ 1.18 Under clause 7 of rule XVII,⁽⁸²⁾ it is not in order in debate “to introduce to or to bring to the attention of the House” persons in the gallery.

On July 17, 2012,⁽⁸³⁾ the Chair reminded a Member of the prohibition in clause 7 of rule XVII:

Mr. [John] GARAMENDI [of California]. Excuse me just for a moment. I noticed in our gallery two gentlemen, soldiers, who are here, both of them wounded in the wars. This is part of a group that comes in here every day when we’re in session to watch what we’re doing. They just stepped out the door, and I wanted to catch them before they left to recognize them for the services that they provide. They may come back in, in which case I will interrupt you again.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore.⁽⁸⁴⁾ The Chair will remind all Members that it is not in order to bring to the attention of the House an occupant in the gallery.

§ 1.19 In preparation for a joint session to receive a message from the President, the Chair announced that the practice of reserving seats by placard for the joint session would not be allowed and that Members could reserve seats only by physical presence following a security sweep of the Chamber.

On January 24, 2012,⁽⁸⁵⁾ the following customary announcement was made:

⁸². *House Rules and Manual* § 966 (2017).

⁸³. 158 CONG. REC. 11463, 11466, 112th Cong. 2d Sess. See also Deschler’s Precedents Ch. 4 §§ 5.3–5.5.

⁸⁴. Blake Farenthold (TX).

⁸⁵. 158 CONG. REC. 284, 112th Cong. 2d Sess.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore.⁽⁸⁶⁾ After consultation among the Speaker and the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent, the Chair announces that, when the two Houses meet tonight in joint session to hear an address by the President of the United States, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those immediately to his left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House. Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly enforced. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of purporting to reserve seats prior to the joint session by placement of placards or personal items will not be allowed. Chamber Security may remove these items from the seats. Members may reserve their seats only by physical presence following the security sweep of the Chamber.

Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 8:35 p.m. for the purpose of receiving in joint session the President of the United States.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 8:35 p.m.

§ 1.20 Under clause 7 of rule XIV (now clause 5 of rule XVII),⁽⁸⁷⁾ smoking is not permitted in the Chamber of the House.⁽⁸⁸⁾

On October 15, 1990,⁽⁸⁹⁾ the Chair responded to parliamentary inquiries regarding smoking in the Chamber as follows:

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. [Martin] RUSSO [of Illinois]. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore.⁽⁹⁰⁾ The gentleman will state it.

Mr. RUSSO. Mr. Speaker, I was wondering if the Speaker would advise the membership as to what the rules of the House are in terms of smoking cigars, cigarettes, and pipes in the Chamber.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has asked what the rules of the House are on smoking on the floor.

The Chair would advise the gentleman that clause 7 of rule XIV states that “neither shall any person be allowed to smoke upon the floor of the House at any time.”

Mr. RUSSO. I have a further parliamentary inquiry. Does that mean Members can smoke behind the rail, or is that prohibited? Is smoking behind the rail prohibited?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The chair would say to the gentleman that the area behind the rail is part of the area of the floor of the House, and smoking is not allowed.

86. Steve Womack (AR).

87. *House Rules and Manual* § 962 (2017).

88. For a similar ruling in the Committee of the Whole, see 132 CONG. REC. 21707, 99th Cong. 2d Sess. (Aug. 14, 1986).

89. 136 CONG. REC. 29248, 101st Cong. 1st Sess.

90. Richard Gephardt (MO).

Mr. RUSSO. Under no circumstances can a Member have a cigar, cigarette, or pipe lit on the floor of this Chamber, anywhere inside this Chamber?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. RUSSO. Would the Chair indicate how we could enforce those rules?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will attempt to enforce it with officers and employees of the House.

Mr. RUSSO. Well, let Members beware.

§ 1.21 Where the Speaker was informed by the Sergeant-at-Arms of a possible hazardous material spill in the Capitol prior to convening for morning-hour debate, the Speaker exercised authority under an order of the House to dispense with morning-hour debate and convene the House for legislative business at its usual time.⁽⁹¹⁾

On July 10, 2014,⁽⁹²⁾ the following occurred:

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SERGEANT AT ARMS OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 10, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: As you are aware, the time previously appointed for the next meeting of the House is 10 a.m. today for morning-hour debate. This is to notify you, pursuant to clause 12(c) of rule I, of an imminent impairment of the place of reconvening at that time. The impairment is due to an industrial accident.

Sincerely,

PAUL D. IRVING,
Sergeant at Arms.

91. *Parliamentarian's Note:* This was the inaugural use of the Speaker's authority to dispense with morning-hour debate without also changing the date for the convening of the House. This authority was first incorporated into the order for morning-hour debate on January 7, 2014, which was added to enhance the Speaker's "continuity" authorities and give the House greater flexibility in responding to exigent circumstances.

92. 160 CONG. REC. H6039 [Daily Ed.], 113th Cong. 2d Sess.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER.⁽⁹³⁾ Under clause 12(c) of rule I, and the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Speaker dispensed with morning-hour debate today and notified Members accordingly.

§ 2. The Electronic Voting System; Legislative Call System

Over the course of the last several decades, the House Chamber has been equipped with various forms of technology that assist Members in debate and in conducting votes. A microphone amplification system was installed in the 1930s⁽¹⁾ and television broadcasting was enabled in the 1970s.⁽²⁾ To alert Members that a vote in the Chamber would be forthcoming, the House installed a legislative call system (signal bells) that would ring throughout the House side of the Capitol and the House office buildings at certain intervals to indicate a particular type of vote or quorum call.⁽³⁾ The system was first used in 1890 and was significantly modified in 1963 to add light indicators in addition to bells, now integrated into House clocks. The system is still in use today, although the advent of mobile phones and Internet communications has provided alternate means for Members to be informed in a timely manner of votes occurring on the floor. The history and use of the electronic voting system was explored in a select committee report that centered on voting irregularities in the 110th Congress.⁽⁴⁾

The electronic voting system was installed at the end of the 92d Congress in 1972, and was first used in the 93d Congress in 1974.⁽⁵⁾ A resolution amending the rules of the House was adopted in October, 1972, to provide for procedures for conducting votes by electronic device.⁽⁶⁾ On January 15,

93. John Boehner (OH).

1. See § 3, *infra*.

2. *Id.*

3. For a detailed description of the particular signals and their meaning, see *House Rules and Manual* § 1016 (2017). An earlier version of the same information appears at Deschler's Precedents Ch. 30 § 31.2.

4. H. Rept. 110-885, 110th Cong., 2d Sess.

5. *Parliamentarian's Note*: The idea for a mechanical or electronic means of recording votes had been discussed in the House as early as 1886, and hearings on the issue were held in the 63d (1913-1914) and 64th (1915-1916) Congresses. See *Electronic Voting System in the House of Representatives: History and Usage*, CRS Report R41862, (June 13, 2011). However, it was not until the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 that plans for an electronic voting system were finally adopted. The Speaker directed that a vote be conducted by electronic device for the first time on January 23, 1973. See 119 CONG. REC. 1793, 93d Cong. 1st Sess.

6. Clause 2(b) of rule XX authorizes the Chair to conduct record votes and quorum calls under the alternate procedures prescribed in rule XX if the electronic voting system malfunctions. *House Rules and Manual* § 1014a (2017).