

reasonably necessary for the operation of the Office of the Director of Non-legislative and Financial Services until otherwise provided by law.

With my very best wishes,

Sincerely,

CHARLIE ROSE,
Chairman.

§ 14. The Clerk

Second only to the Speaker, the Clerk of the House is arguably the most significant of all of the elected officer positions in the House. The Clerk's responsibilities cover a wide range of areas, both legislative and administrative in nature. The primary duties of the Clerk relate to the legislative process and involve: (1) handling legislative measures introduced by Members and referred to committees of the House; (2) accepting legislative and other reports following committee action; (3) executing legislative actions on the floor of the House (including reading proposals for the body, distributing legislative text, and conducting votes and quorum calls); (4) maintaining a record of House legislative activities (including supervising the production of the House Journal, the *Congressional Record*, and the Calendars of the House); and (5) managing the receipt and transmittal of formal messages between the House and Senate, and between the House and the executive branch (including the engrossment and enrollment of legislation, and presentation to the President for signature or veto).

Additional duties of the Clerk involve a variety of record-keeping and administrative matters. The Clerk is responsible for maintaining House documents and records, and (where appropriate) providing public access to such material. The Clerk's Office also assists with financial audits and other reviews of House operations, and manages a range of additional miscellaneous functions related to the organization of the House.

History; Internal Organization of the Office of the Clerk

The Clerk is the oldest officer position in the House, apart from the Speaker. After the House first achieved a quorum on April 1, 1789, its second order of business (after the election of a Speaker) was to appoint a Clerk of the House.⁽¹⁾ The Office of the Clerk has been an integral part of House operations since that time, and its role has gradually expanded to encompass a diverse range of legislative and administrative services.

The Office of the Clerk comprises several distinct subentities that each fulfills a particular role within the administrative framework of the

1. 1 ANNALS OF CONG. 100, 1st Cong. 1st Sess. (Apr. 1, 1789).

House.⁽²⁾ The Office of Legislative Operations provides support for all aspects of the legislative process, from processing measures at introduction to guiding Members and staff through deliberations on the floor of the House. Assisting with these legislative functions are the Capitol Service Groups (which maintain the Democratic and Republican cloakrooms and other rooms on the House side of the Capitol), Legislative Computer Systems (which provides technical support for the electronic voting system) and the Official Reporters of Debate (who transcribe House proceedings for the *Congressional Record*).⁽³⁾

The Legislative Resource Center, also under the auspices of the Clerk, maintains and provides access to a wide variety of House documents and records.⁽⁴⁾ The Office of Art and Archives works closely with the Office of the Historian⁽⁵⁾ to preserve historical artifacts and art collections in possession of the House. The Office of House Employment Counsel provides advice and legal assistance for employing entities in the House,⁽⁶⁾ while the Office of Communications offers a variety of communication and messaging services.

The Committee on House Administration provides policy direction and oversight of the Clerk's Office, pursuant to clause 4(d)(1)(A) of rule X.⁽⁷⁾ Under clause 1 of rule II,⁽⁸⁾ the Clerk of the House is authorized to appoint all employees within the Office of the Clerk. The Clerk of the House is required to designate a Clerk pro tempore to act as Clerk and take all necessary official actions in the absence or disability of the Clerk.⁽⁹⁾

Election, Resignation, and Removal of Clerk

The election of the Clerk proceeds in the same manner as the election of the other elected officers of the House: by privileged resolution at the commencement of a Congress.⁽¹⁰⁾ The Clerk is typically listed as the first officer to be elected in the resolution electing officers of the House. Upon election,

2. See <http://clerk.house.gov/about/offices.aspx> (last visited Oct. 24, 2019).

3. Pursuant to clause 1 of rule VI, the Clerk appoints all Official Reporters of Debate and oversees their activities, subject to the direction of the Speaker. *House Rules and Manual* § 685 (2019). For more on the *Congressional Record*, see Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 5 §§ 15–24.

4. See http://clerk.house.gov/about/offices__aspx (last visited Oct. 24, 2019).

5. See § 23, *infra*.

6. See § 28, *infra*.

7. *House Rules and Manual* § 752 (2019).

8. *House Rules and Manual* § 640 (2019).

9. Rule II, clause 2(g), *House Rules and Manual* § 651 (2019).

10. See § 13, *supra*.

the Clerk is administered the oath of office, and the Senate⁽¹¹⁾ and the President⁽¹²⁾ are notified of the Clerk's election.

If the position of Clerk becomes vacant during a Congress, the House will usually fill that vacancy via the adoption of a simple resolution electing a new individual to the office.⁽¹³⁾ In addition, the Speaker is authorized by law to appoint a temporary replacement for the Clerk until the House is able to elect a new Clerk on a permanent basis.⁽¹⁴⁾ The election or appointment of a new Clerk may be prospective (*i.e.*, effective at a future date).⁽¹⁵⁾

The position of Clerk may become vacant due to the death or resignation of the individual holding the office. Additionally, the Speaker and the House are authorized by clause 1 of rule II⁽¹⁶⁾ to remove the Clerk.⁽¹⁷⁾

Clerk as Presiding Officer

The Clerk is unique among officers of the House in that the individual serving as Clerk has specific responsibilities that extend beyond adjournment *sine die* of the Congress in which he or she was elected.⁽¹⁸⁾ Prior to the commencement of a new Congress, the Clerk of the previous Congress composes the "Clerk's roll" of Members-elect, *i.e.*, the list of individuals whose certificates of election have been properly transmitted to the House.⁽¹⁹⁾ On opening day, it is the Clerk who presides over the initial quorum call of Members-elect and the election of Speaker.⁽²⁰⁾ This procedure for conducting organizational business at the beginning of a new Congress has its roots in the early customs and traditions of the House, but has now been codified in the standing rules of the House as well.⁽²¹⁾

11. See, *e.g.*, H. Res. 2, 163 CONG. REC. H6 [Daily Ed.], 115th Cong. 1st Sess. (Jan. 3, 2017).

12. See, *e.g.*, H. Res. 4, 163 CONG. REC. H7 [Daily Ed.], 115th Cong. 1st Sess. (Jan. 3, 2017).

13. See § 14.3, *infra*.

14. 2 U.S.C. § 5501.

15. See § 14.2, *infra*.

16. *House Rules and Manual* § 640 (2019).

17. *Parliamentarian's Note*: Under the precedents, the House has the inherent authority to remove any of its officers, and a proposition to remove an officer qualifies as a question of the privileges of the House. 1 Hinds' Precedents § 286.

18. See § 13, *supra*.

19. See Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 2 § 2.

20. See Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 1 §§ 3, 4. There have been instances where the Clerk was unable to preside on opening day, and the Sergeant-at-Arms presided instead. See Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 1 § 3.3. For an instance of the Doorkeeper of the House presiding in the absence of both the Clerk and Sergeant-at-Arms, see Deschler's Precedents Ch. 1 § 5.2.

21. Rule II, clause 2(a), *House Rules and Manual* § 641 (2019).

It was formerly the case that the Clerk would preside over the House whenever the Speaker was absent and no provision had been made to designate a Speaker pro tempore. For example, Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas died between the first and second sessions of the 87th Congress.⁽²²⁾ When the House convened for the first time following the Speaker's death, the Clerk of the House presided over the election of a new Speaker. However, under current practice, the Clerk does not preside in such circumstances. Rather, a Speaker pro tempore, designated by the Speaker at the outset of the Congress, would preside, pursuant to clause 8(b)(3)(B) of rule I.⁽²³⁾ The Clerk is now merely the custodian of the formal letter establishing such designation.⁽²⁴⁾

Legislative Functions—In General

The legislative process necessarily entails the generation of large quantities of official papers—bills and resolutions, amendments, committee reports, conference reports, etc. The Office of the Clerk is the primary entity within the House responsible for coordinating the production of these documents, distributing them to House Members and staff, and maintaining repositories where such material can be accessed.

At the initial stages of the legislative process, the Clerk's Office handles the introduction and sponsorship of bills and resolutions, and ensures their proper distribution to the committees of referral. Pursuant to clause 7(c) of rule XII, constitutional authority statements that accompany legislation are to "be made publicly available in electronic form by the Clerk."⁽²⁵⁾ After a committee has considered a measure, it reports this action to the House via the filing of a committee report with the Clerk.⁽²⁶⁾

In addition to legislative reports, other types of committee reports are also filed with the Clerk. End-of-session activities reports of committees are filed with the Clerk pursuant to clause 1(d) of rule XI.⁽²⁷⁾ Similarly, investigative and oversight reports filed after *sine die* adjournment are delivered to the Clerk pursuant to clause 1(b)(4) of rule XI.⁽²⁸⁾

22. See Deschler's Precedents Ch. 6 §§ 6.6–6.8.

23. *House Rules and Manual* § 632 (2019).

24. See § 10.2, *supra*.

25. *House Rules and Manual* § 826a (2019).

26. Rule XIII, clause 2(a), *House Rules and Manual* §§ 831–833 (2019). Rule XIII, clause 2(c), provides that "supplemental, minority, additional or dissenting views" with respect to committee reports are also to be filed with the Clerk. *House Rules and Manual* § 836 (2019). Certain privileged reports, however, are filed directly from the floor pursuant to clause 5 of rule XIII. *House Rules and Manual* § 853 (2019).

27. *House Rules and Manual* § 790 (2019).

28. *House Rules and Manual* § 788 (2019).

Petitions to discharge measures from committees are filed with and retained by the Clerk of the House.⁽²⁹⁾ Pursuant to clause 2(c) of rule XV,⁽³⁰⁾ the Clerk is directed to make the signatories to a discharge petition a matter of public record via publication in the *Congressional Record*. In the 116th Congress, the “Consensus Calendar” was established,⁽³¹⁾ allowing Members to file motions to bring legislative measures that had garnered 290 cosponsors to the floor. Under the rule, the Clerk maintains custody of any such motions that have been properly filed, and makes publicly available a cumulative list of such motions.⁽³²⁾

Legislative Functions—Floor Activity

On the floor of the House, the rostrum⁽³³⁾ where the Speaker presides is attended by numerous employees of the Clerk’s Office—each with responsibility over a different aspect of the legislative process. These clerks are known as Bill Clerks, Journal Clerks, Readings Clerks, Tally Clerks, and Enrolling Clerks.

Bill Clerks process bills and resolutions introduced by Members and ensure that these legislative measures are printed for public availability and distributed to committees of the House (based on the Speaker’s referral,⁽³⁴⁾ as delegated to the House Parliamentarian).⁽³⁵⁾ Bill Clerks also maintain and regularly update lists of sponsors and cosponsors of measures.⁽³⁶⁾ The

29. Rule XV, clause 2, *House Rules and Manual* § 892 (2019).

30. *House Rules and Manual* § 892 (2019).

31. Rule XV, clause 7, *House Rules and Manual* § 901a (2019).

32. *Id.*

33. *Parliamentarian’s Note*: The rostrum inside the House Chamber is comprised of three levels. The Speaker presides at the uppermost level, while the Reading Clerk’s desk is positioned on the second level. Additional employees of the Clerk’s Office occupy the ground or lowermost level. Several standing rules of the House concern the “Clerk’s desk” which refers to areas of the rostrum where the different clerks carry out their functions. For example, clause 5 of rule XVII prohibits Members from lingering near the Clerk’s desk “during the call of the roll or the counting of ballots.” *House Rules and Manual* § 962 (2019). When a demand is made that a Member’s words be taken down, the words objected to are “taken down in writing at the Clerk’s desk and read aloud to the House.” *House Rules and Manual* § 960 (2019). See also Deschler’s Precedents Ch. 29 §§ 48–52. A little-used rule authorizes the Chair to invite Members to speak “from the Clerk’s desk” in debate. *House Rules and Manual* § 945 (2019). When presidents deliver addresses before joint sessions of Congress, or foreign leaders or other dignitaries address Congress during a joint meeting, they do so from the Clerk’s lectern below the Speaker.

34. Rule XII, clause 2, *House Rules and Manual* § 816 (2019). See also Deschler’s Precedents Ch. 16.

35. See § 18, *infra*.

36. Rule XII, clause 7, *House Rules and Manual* § 825 (2019).

Clerk's Office is also responsible for ensuring the proper distribution of amendments offered in the Committee of the Whole pursuant to clause 5(b) of rule XVIII.⁽³⁷⁾

Journal Clerks are responsible for recording official House business in the Journal of the House⁽³⁸⁾ (as required by the Constitution).⁽³⁹⁾ Journal Clerks are also custodians of discharge petitions filed under clause 2 of rule XV.⁽⁴⁰⁾

Reading Clerks are assigned the task of reading messages received from other branches of government, legislative measures, and other motions or proposals to be placed before the membership.⁽⁴¹⁾ Reading Clerks also conduct the call of the Private Calendar,⁽⁴²⁾ the call of committees under Calendar Wednesday procedures,⁽⁴³⁾ and the morning hour call of committees.⁽⁴⁴⁾ When remarks in debate are objected to as unparliamentary under clause 4 of rule XVII,⁽⁴⁵⁾ it is the Reading Clerk who reads aloud the language that drew objection prior to the Chair's ruling.

Tally Clerks are responsible for the operation of the electronic voting system within the Chamber. Tally Clerks monitor the progress of a vote in real time, and enter votes cast by vote card into the computer system. If the electronic voting system is not or cannot be used, the Tally Clerks oversee the transaction of the vote by an alternate method (such as a vote by tellers or a roll call vote).⁽⁴⁶⁾ Additional duties of the Tally Clerks involve preparation of the Calendar of the House⁽⁴⁷⁾ and processing reports received from committees of the House.

37. *House Rules and Manual* § 978 (2019).

38. See *Precedents* (Wickham) Ch. 5 §§ 10–14.

39. U.S. Const. art. I, § 5, cl. 3.

40. Rule XV, clause 2, *House Rules and Manual* § 892 (2019).

41. Rule XVI, clause 2, provides that the Speaker may direct the Clerk to read any motion aloud to the body before debate thereon. *House Rules and Manual* § 904 (2019).

42. Rule XV, clause 5, *House Rules and Manual* § 895 (2019).

43. Rule XIV, clause 6, *House Rules and Manual* §§ 900, 901 (2019).

44. Rule XIV, clause 4, *House Rules and Manual* §§ 880, 881 (2019). The morning hour call of committees is an old procedure that is no longer used in modern practice.

45. *House Rules and Manual* § 960 (2019).

46. Rule XX, clause 2(a), provides that the electronic voting system be used for all votes, unless the Speaker chooses a different method. *House Rules and Manual* § 1014 (2019). Rule XX, clause 2(b), provides that an alternative voting method be used if the electronic voting system is inoperable. *House Rules and Manual* § 1014a (2019). Rule XX, clause 3, provides procedures for the Clerk to conduct a roll call vote (*House Rules and Manual* § 1015 (2019)), while rule XX, clause 4, provides directions for a vote by tellers (*House Rules and Manual* § 1019 (2019)). Additional rules relating to the Clerk's role in establishing the presence of a quorum are found in clauses 4(b), 5(b), and 6(b) of rule XX. *House Rules and Manual* §§ 1020, 1021, and 1025 (2019). Pursuant to clause 5(c)(4)(C) of rule XX, the Clerk is consulted regarding the contents of a catastrophic quorum failure report. *House Rules and Manual* § 1024a (2019).

47. *Parliamentarian's Note*: This document, known as the "Calendar of the United States House of Representatives and History of Legislation" is produced each legislative day

Enrolling Clerks are not stationed on the floor of the House, but are responsible for preparing legislation after it has passed the House (the engrossment) or after it has passed both Houses (the enrollment).⁽⁴⁸⁾ Pursuant to clause 2(d) of rule II,⁽⁴⁹⁾ the Clerk certifies the passage of all bills and joint resolutions. Enrolling Clerks also prepare the formal messages to the Senate regarding House actions.⁽⁵⁰⁾

The Official Reporters of Debate are stenographers and other employees charged with transcribing the proceedings of the House for publication in the *Congressional Record*.⁽⁵¹⁾ These employees fall under the jurisdiction of the Clerk's Office: pursuant to clause 1 of rule VI,⁽⁵²⁾ the Clerk appoints the official reporters, subject to the direction and control of the Speaker.

Messages

Official communications between the House and the Senate, and between the House and other branches of the Federal government, are conducted by formal message.⁽⁵³⁾ For virtually its entire history, the House's agent for transmitting and receiving these messages has been the Clerk of the House.⁽⁵⁴⁾ It was formerly the case that the House was required to be in session to accept messages from the Senate or the executive, and the House would, on an ad hoc basis, authorize the Clerk to receive messages during periods of adjournment.⁽⁵⁵⁾ However, in the 97th Congress in 1981, the rules of the House were amended to provide standing authority for the Clerk to receive messages any time that the House was adjourned.⁽⁵⁶⁾ In the 111th

and contains a wide variety of information on House legislative activities, including: (1) legislative business currently on the House, Union, Private, Discharge, and Consensus Calendars; (2) a listing of legislative measures reported by committees of the House or considered by the House; (3) measures currently being considered by a conference committee of the House and Senate; (4) a calendar of days the House has been in session; (5) the status of major legislation (such as appropriation bills); and (6) miscellaneous excerpts of rules and orders of the House affecting the order of business. This document is a cumulative review of House business as of the date of publication, and a final Calendar is printed at the end of a Congress (with statistical analyses and comparisons to prior Congresses).

48. For more on the engrossment, enrollment, and presentation of legislation to the President, see Deschler's Precedents Ch. 24 §§ 11–16 and Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 24.

49. *House Rules and Manual* § 648 (2019).

50. For messages between the Houses generally, see Deschler's Precedents Ch. 32 §§ 1–6.

51. See Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 5 §§ 15–24.

52. *House Rules and Manual* § 685 (2019).

53. For messages between the Houses generally, see Deschler's Precedents Ch. 32 §§ 1–6.

54. The Clerk's counterpart in the Senate is the Secretary of the Senate.

55. See, e.g., Deschler's Precedents Ch. 6 § 18.13.

56. *House Rules and Manual* § 652 (2019).

Congress in 2009, this authority was expanded to explicitly cover periods of recess as well as adjournment.⁽⁵⁷⁾

The Clerk also has a role in transmitting House messages to other entities. With respect to House–Senate relations, legislative activity of the House is formally transmitted to the Senate by the Clerk. Pursuant to clause 2(d) of rule II,⁽⁵⁸⁾ the Clerk “shall attest and affix the seal of the House to all writs, warrants, and subpoenas issued by order of the House.”

Other miscellaneous House rules address distribution of information to or from the executive branch. For example, clause 2(b) of rule II⁽⁵⁹⁾ requires the Clerk to provide each Member with a list of executive reports required to be submitted to Congress (along with the statutory authority for each report and the names of executive officers responsible for producing each report). Official papers relating to the settlement of government claims are required by clause 7 of rule VII⁽⁶⁰⁾ to be transmitted to the relevant executive officials by the Clerk.

Records of the House

The Clerk of the House has long been the custodian of official House documents, papers, and records. The standing rules of the House contain many provisions related to producing, accepting, maintaining, and providing access to the records of the House.

As noted elsewhere, the Clerk’s duties including recording the proceedings of the House in various forms.⁽⁶¹⁾ Pursuant to clause 2(c) of rule II,⁽⁶²⁾ the constitutional requirement that the House keep a Journal of its proceedings is fulfilled by the Clerk of the House (specifically, the Journal Clerks who compose and publish the Journal of the House). Pursuant to clause 1 of rule VI,⁽⁶³⁾ the Clerk (subject to the direction and control of the Speaker) appoints and supervises the Official Reporters of Debate, who transcribe House proceedings for the *Congressional Record*. Clause 2(e) of rule II⁽⁶⁴⁾ requires the Clerk to distribute the calendars of the House each legislative day.

Pursuant to clause 2(f) of rule II,⁽⁶⁵⁾ the Clerk maintains a library of House documents for the use of Members, and Members may request copies

57. *Id.* For a discussion of “pocket vetoes” and the ability of the House to accept presidential messages during periods of adjournment, see Deschler’s Precedents Ch. 24 § 18.

58. *House Rules and Manual* § 648 (2019).

59. *House Rules and Manual* § 646 (2019).

60. *House Rules and Manual* § 696 (2019).

61. See Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 5 §§ 10–24.

62. *House Rules and Manual* § 647 (2019).

63. *House Rules and Manual* § 685 (2019).

64. *House Rules and Manual* § 649 (2019).

65. *House Rules and Manual* § 650 (2019).

of virtually any document deposited therein. With respect to noncurrent records of the House, the standing rules provide procedures for collecting and archiving this material.⁽⁶⁶⁾ Pursuant to clauses 1(a) and 1(b) of rule VII,⁽⁶⁷⁾ committee chairs and officers of the House are to forward to the Clerk all noncurrent records in their possession at the end of each Congress. The Clerk then forwards this material to the Archivist of the United States for appropriate preservation at the National Archives and Records Administration.⁽⁶⁸⁾ Clauses 3 and 4 of rule VII⁽⁶⁹⁾ provide procedures by which the Clerk may authorize the Archivist to make such records accessible to the public. As provided in clause 7 of rule VII,⁽⁷⁰⁾ records of the House may not typically be withdrawn from the House without its leave.

Two types of documents relating to oaths of secrecy are retained by the Clerk. Pursuant to clause 3(d) of rule XI,⁽⁷¹⁾ the oath of secrecy taken by members of the Committee on Ethics with regard to confidential information of the committee is filed with the Clerk as part of the records of the House. Members, officers, and employees must also subscribe to an oath of secrecy in order to access classified information, pursuant to clause 13 of rule XXIII.⁽⁷²⁾ The Clerk retains custody of these oaths executed by Members, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner as part of the records of the House (oaths executed by officers and employees are retained by the Sergeant-at-Arms).⁽⁷³⁾

With respect to the availability of documents generally, clause 3 of rule XXIX provides that, “If a measure or matter is publicly available at an electronic document repository operated by the Clerk, it shall be considered as having been available to Members, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner for purposes of these rules.”⁽⁷⁴⁾ This provision allows the Clerk of the House to distribute documents to the membership electronically, obviating the need for physical distribution. Pursuant to a separate order contained in the resolution adopting rules for the 114th Congress,⁽⁷⁵⁾ the Clerk is required to make publicly available (in electronic form) any state memorials

66. *Parliamentarian’s Note*: The definition of a “record” in this context is provided by clause 6(a) of rule VII. *House Rules and Manual* § 695 (2019).

67. *House Rules and Manual* § 695 (2019).

68. *Id.*

69. *Id.*

70. *House Rules and Manual* § 696 (2019).

71. *House Rules and Manual* § 806 (2019).

72. *House Rules and Manual* § 1095 (2019).

73. *Id.*

74. *House Rules and Manual* § 1105a (2019).

75. H. Res. 5, 161 CONG. REC. 35, 114th Cong. 1st Sess. (Jan. 6, 2015).

calling for a convention to propose constitutional amendments. This separate order has been reiterated in subsequent Congresses.⁽⁷⁶⁾

Administrative Functions

The Clerk performs a variety of other administrative and financial functions. For instance, the Clerk submits semiannual reports to the Committee on House Administration regarding the “financial and operational status of each function under the jurisdiction of the Clerk.”⁽⁷⁷⁾ Pursuant to clause 2(k) of rule II, the Clerk “shall fully cooperate” with other offices in the conduct of performance reviews and audits of House operations.⁽⁷⁸⁾

The Clerk also assumes responsibility of the administration of a Member’s office after the death of the Member. This authority ceases upon the election of a new Member to the seat.⁽⁷⁹⁾ Formerly, it was the case that the Clerk had similar responsibilities upon the death of a former Speaker of the House under clause 2(i)(2) of rule II.⁽⁸⁰⁾

Other administrative functions of the Clerk involve supervising compliance with various ethics rules. For example, the Clerk receives financial disclosure reports from Members, officers, and employees (pursuant to the Ethics in Government Act of 1978) and is directed by clause 1 of rule XXVI to forward such reports to the Committee on Ethics.⁽⁸¹⁾ Board members of the Office of Congressional Ethics are likewise required to file annual financial disclosures statements, which the Clerk also submits to the Committee on Ethics.⁽⁸²⁾ Under rule XXV (“Limitations on Outside Earned Income and Acceptance of Gifts”),⁽⁸³⁾ the Clerk processes travel reimbursements for Members and officers of the House, and also receives notice when Members donate honoraria to charity. The Clerk also makes public certain recusal statements regarding conflicts-of-interest in employment negotiations pursuant to clause 4 of rule XXVII.⁽⁸⁴⁾

76. See H. Res. 5, 163 CONG. REC. H9 [Daily Ed.], 115th Cong. 1st Sess. (Jan. 3, 2017) and 165 CONG. REC. H20 [Daily Ed.], 116th Cong. 1st Sess. (Jan. 3, 2019).

77. Rule II, clause 2(j), *House Rules and Manual* § 654 (2019).

78. *House Rules and Manual* § 655 (2019).

79. See Deschler’s Precedents Ch. 38 § 4 and Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 38.

80. *House Rules and Manual* § 653 (2019). While this authorization remains in the standing rules, the statutory requirements were repealed in the 115th Congress. See P.L. 115–224; 132 Stat. 2897. See also § 1, *supra*.

81. *House Rules and Manual* § 1103 (2019).

82. Rule XXVI, clause 3, *House Rules and Manual* § 1103 (2019).

83. *House Rules and Manual* § 1099 (2019).

84. *House Rules and Manual* § 1103a (2019).

Election of the Clerk**§ 14.1 The House adopted a privileged resolution electing officers of the House, including the Clerk from the previous Congress.⁽⁸⁵⁾**

On January 4, 2007,⁽⁸⁶⁾ Karen Haas of Maryland was elected as Clerk at the beginning of the 110th Congress:

ELECTION OF CLERK OF THE HOUSE, SERGEANT AT ARMS, CHIEF
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND CHAPLAIN

Mr. [John] LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 1) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1

Resolved, That Karen L. Haas of the State of Maryland, be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives;

That Wilson S. Livingood of the Commonwealth of Virginia be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives;

That James M. Eagen, III, of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives; and

That Father Daniel P. Coughlin of the State of Illinois, be, and is hereby, chosen Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER.⁽⁸⁷⁾ The question is on the remainder of the resolution offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON).

The remainder of the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER. The Chair will now swear in the officers of the House.

The officers presented themselves in the well of the House and took the oath of office as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations.

§ 14.2 Officers of the House, including the Clerk, may be elected prospectively via the adoption of a privileged resolution.

On February 6, 2007,⁽⁸⁸⁾ the House adopted a privileged resolution electing the Clerk of the House (and Chief Administrative Officer) with a future effective date:

85. *Parliamentarian's Note:* To ease the transition to the first Democratic majority in 12 years, the Speaker asked the Clerk, the Chief Administrative Officer, and the Sergeant-at-Arms from the previous Congress to continue in office for an interim period. A new Clerk and a new CAO were prospectively elected on February 6, 2007, to begin service on February 15, 2007. See § 14.2, *infra*.

86. 153 CONG. REC. 6, 110th Cong. 1st Sess.

87. Nancy Pelosi (CA).

88. 153 CONG. REC. 3156, 3160, 110th Cong. 1st Sess.

ELECTING OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. [Steny] HOYER [of Maryland]. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 129) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 129

Resolved, That Lorraine C. Miller of the State of Texas, be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives, effective February 15, 2007; and

That Daniel P. Beard of the State of Maryland be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, effective February 15, 2007.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have an opportunity to speak on the resolution before its immediate adoption.

The SPEAKER pro tempore.⁽⁸⁹⁾ The Chair will distribute the time. . . .

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

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

First, the question is on adopting the first portion of the question (relating to the election of Clerk).

The first portion of the question was adopted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Now, the question is on adopting the second portion of the question (relating to the election of Chief Administrative Officer).

The second portion of the question was adopted.

A motion to reconsider the adoption of the resolution was laid on the table.

On February 15, 2007,⁽⁹⁰⁾ the Clerk and the Chief Administrative Officer were sworn in by the Speaker:

SWEARING OF CLERK OF THE HOUSE AND CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

The SPEAKER.⁽⁹¹⁾ The Chair will now swear in the new officers of the House, Lorraine C. Miller as the Clerk of the House, and Daniel P. Beard as the Chief Administrative Officer.

The officers presented themselves in the well of the House and took the oath of office as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations.

§ 14.3 In the event of a vacancy in the Office of the Clerk, the House adopts a privileged resolution to elect a new Clerk to fill the vacancy.

89. Brian Baird (WA).

90. 153 CONG. REC. 4242, 110th Cong. 1st Sess.

91. Nancy Pelosi (CA).

On December 6, 2005,⁽⁹²⁾ Karen Haas was elected as Clerk of the House, filling a vacancy:

ELECTION OF CLERK OF THE HOUSE

Ms. [Deborah] PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 580) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 580

Resolved, That Karen L. Haas of the State of Maryland, be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER.⁽⁹³⁾ Would the Clerk-designate please take the well.

The Clerk-designate presented herself at the bar of the House and took the oath of office as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter. So help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

NOTIFICATION TO THE SENATE

Mr. [Doc] HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 581) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 581

Resolved, That the Senate be informed that Karen L. Haas, a citizen of the State of Maryland, has been elected Clerk of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Ninth Congress.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

92. 151 CONG. REC. 27569, 109th Cong. 1st Sess. For a similar example, see 121 CONG. REC. 41324, 94th Cong. 1st Sess. (Dec. 17, 1975).

93. Dennis Hastert (IL).

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO INFORM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF THE ELECTION OF THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 582) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 582

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to inform the President of the United States that the House of Representatives has elected Karen L. Haas, a citizen of the State of Maryland, Clerk of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Ninth Congress.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Appointment of the Clerk

§ 14.4 In the event of a vacancy in the Office of the Clerk, the Speaker may, pursuant to statute, appoint a new Clerk on a temporary basis.⁽⁹⁴⁾

On November 18, 2005,⁽⁹⁵⁾ the following appointment of Karen Haas of Maryland to be Clerk of the House occurred:

APPOINTMENT AS CLERK OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore.⁽⁹⁶⁾ Pursuant to section 208 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. § 75a-1), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment as Clerk of the House of Representatives Mrs. Karen L. Haas of Maryland.

Resignation of the Clerk

§ 14.5 The resignation of an elected officer of the House, including the Clerk, is subject to acceptance by the House.

On November 18, 2005,⁽⁹⁷⁾ the Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation, which was accepted by the House:

94. *Parliamentarian's Note*: In the case of a vacancy among the elected officers of the House, the Speaker is authorized to appoint a person "to act as, and to exercise temporarily the duties of" the vacant office until a successor is elected. 2 U.S.C. § 5501. Ms. Haas was subsequently elected by the House as Clerk on December 6, 2005. See § 14.3, *supra*.

95. 151 CONG. REC. 27489, 109th Cong. 1st Sess. For another example of the Speaker's appointment of a Clerk, see 121 CONG. REC. 36901, 94th Cong. 1st Sess. (Nov. 17, 1975).

96. Daniel Lungren (CA).

97. 151 CONG. REC. 27489, 109th Cong. 1st Sess. For the Speaker's appointment of Karen Haas as Clerk, see § 14.4, *supra*.

RESIGNATION AS CLERK OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I am writing to tender my resignation as Clerk effective upon the appointment of my successor November 18, 2005.

It has been an honor to serve this Institution, its people and the Nation for more than 20 years. I leave knowing the incredible ability of the people who serve here and their commitment to the people they represent.

I will especially depart with a deep sense of admiration and respect for the individuals working in and with the Office of the Clerk. I wish to thank them for their efforts over the last seven years during my tenure as Clerk of the House.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL.

The SPEAKER pro tempore.⁽⁹⁸⁾ Without objection, the resignation is accepted.
There was no objection.

§ 14.6 The Clerk may resign following adjournment *sine die* of the House, and the Speaker may, pursuant to statute, appoint a new Clerk during such adjournment.⁽⁹⁹⁾

On January 6, 1999,⁽¹⁰⁰⁾ the Chair laid before the House communications regarding events that had occurred following *sine die* adjournment of the prior Congress, including the resignation of the Clerk of the House and the Speaker's appointment of a temporary replacement:

PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT OF THE
105TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION AND FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE
FINAL EDITION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF THE 105TH
CONGRESS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 21, 1998.

98. Daniel Lungren (CA).

99. *Parliamentarian's Note*: Robin Carle, who was elected as Clerk of the House in the 104th and 105th Congresses, resigned that office by letter to the Speaker on December 21, 1998, effective January 1, 1999. Pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 5501, the Speaker then appointed Jeff Trandahl (formerly the Assistant Clerk) to fill the vacancy. Mr. Trandahl presided over the convening of the 106th Congress as an appointed Clerk from the previous Congress and subsequently was elected as Clerk for the 106th Congress.

100. 145 CONG. REC. 257–58, 106th Cong. 1st Sess.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, House of Representatives, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I write today to inform you of my decision to end my service as Clerk of the House effective January 1, 1999.

Because of your vision and support, many of the goals you set at the dawn of the 104th Congress have already been achieved, the most significant among them being the amount of immediate legislative information now available to all citizens via the Internet. Many others are well underway and when fully implemented will position this Office to support the efforts of the House in even more dramatic ways as we approach the millennium.

Thank you for providing such a magnificent opportunity for me to be a part of this unique institution.

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE.

APPOINTMENT BY THE SPEAKER AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to the provisions of section 208(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 75a-1(a)), and section 5 of House Resolution 594, 105th Congress, the Speaker on Monday, December 21, 1998, appointed Jeffrey J. Trandahl of Virginia to act and to exercise temporarily the duties of Clerk of the House of Representatives effective Friday, January 1, 1999.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

OFFICE OF SPEAKER,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 21, 1998.

Re temporary appointment of Clerk.

Hon. WILLIAM M. THOMAS,
Chairman, Committee on House Oversight, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR BILL: In accordance with 2 U.S.C. 75a-1, I hereby appoint Mr. Jeffrey J. Trandahl to fill the vacancy in the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives, effective January 1, 1999. Mr. Trandahl shall exercise all the duties, shall have all the powers, and shall be subject to all the requirements and limitations applicable to the position of Clerk until his successor is chosen by the House and duly qualifies as Clerk.

Please contact Dan Crowley, General Counsel in the Office of Speaker, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker.

Designation of Clerks Pro Tempore

§ 14.7 Pursuant to clause 2(g) of rule II,⁽¹⁰¹⁾ the Clerk is required to designate other individuals to act in the Clerk's stead during any temporary absence or disability.

On January 7, 2015,⁽¹⁰²⁾ the following designations occurred:

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. [Ted] POE of Texas) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 6, 2015.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Under Clause 2(g) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I herewith designate Mr. Robert Reeves, Deputy Clerk, and Mr. Kirk D. Boyle, Legal Counsel, to sign any and all papers and do all other acts for me under the name of the Clerk of the House which they would be authorized to do by virtue of this designation, except such as are provided by statute, in case of my temporary absence or disability.

This designation shall remain in effect for the 114th Congress or until modified by me. With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

Processing Enrollments and Engrossments

§ 14.8 Where official legislative papers have been lost, the House may, by privileged concurrent resolution, direct the Clerk of the House and Secretary of the Senate to produce official duplicates.

On October 5, 1992,⁽¹⁰³⁾ the following concurrent resolution was agreed to:

PROVIDING FOR PREPARATION OF OFFICIAL DUPLICATES OF CERTAIN
LEGISLATIVE PAPERS

Mr. [John Joseph] MOAKLEY [of Massachusetts]. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 376, providing for the

101. *House Rules and Manual* § 651 (2019).

102. 161 CONG. REC. 146, 114th Cong. 1st Sess.

103. 138 CONG. REC. 32064, 102d Cong. 2d Sess. The Senate agreed to this concurrent resolution later the same day. See 138 CONG. REC. 31520, 102d Cong. 2d Sess.

preparation of official duplicates of certain legislative papers, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 376

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate each shall prepare, sign, and furnish to the other as appropriate, official duplicates of the papers of the two Houses on the following bills and resolutions of the One Hundred Second Congress: H.R. 5400, H.R. 5194, H.R. 5427, S. 2532, S. 1985, S. 1002, S. 893, S. 1569, S. 225, S. 758, S. 759, S. 1146, and S. 2661. Each official duplicate shall be in a form certified by the Clerk or the Secretary to be true. An official duplicate certified as true shall be considered for all purposes as original.

The SPEAKER pro tempore.⁽¹⁰⁴⁾ Without objection the concurrent resolution is adopted.

Mr. [Robert] WALKER [of Pennsylvania]. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, let me ask the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MOAKLEY] to explain the purpose of the resolution.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, evidently 13 bills were misplaced or lost. This is just an official resolution so they can be rewritten and processed.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, are these bills that have been rumored to be headed for a trash dump somewhere on the east coast which we are not able to retrieve?

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, we do not have a lock jack on that. We do not know where they are headed. We know they are not where they are supposed to be.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, the gentleman will acknowledge that the suspicion is that these are items that were picked up by the trash men last night and they may well in fact be headed for a landfill, is that correct?

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I do not know who picked them up. Maybe if our mail got the same service, we would all be better off.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, some people would think that maybe they did us a favor. But my understanding is that the resolution will allow us to engross these bills a second time, is that correct?

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the concurrent resolution is agreed to. There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

§ 14.9 By unanimous consent, the House considered and agreed to a Senate concurrent resolution rescinding the signature of the Speaker on an enrolled bill and directing the Clerk of the House to correct the enrollment.⁽¹⁰⁵⁾

¹⁰⁴. Romano Mazzoli (KY).

¹⁰⁵. *Parliamentarian's Note*: The enrollment of S. 2367 was signed by the Speaker and laid before the House on December 7, 2012. However, an error was discovered that necessitated correction. The House used Senate Concurrent Resolution 114 of the 99th Congress as a model for how to proceed in correcting an enrollment that had already been

On December 19, 2012,⁽¹⁰⁶⁾ the following occurred:

CORRECTING THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 2367

Mr. [Pete] OLSON [of Texas]. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table Senate Concurrent Resolution 63 and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER.⁽¹⁰⁷⁾ Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 63

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Secretary of the Senate is requested to return to the House of Representatives the enrolled bill (S. 2367, an Act to strike the word "lunatic" from Federal law, and for other purposes). Upon the return of such bill, the action of the Speaker of the House of Representatives in signing it shall be rescinded. The Secretary of the Senate shall reenroll the bill with the following correction: In section 2(b)(1)(B), strike "in subsection (b)" and insert "in subsection (j)".

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Receipt of Messages

§ 14.10 The House may instruct the Clerk to transmit certain messages to the Senate upon receipt of a particular Senate message, and the Clerk notifies the House when such communications have been transacted.

On March 23, 1983,⁽¹⁰⁸⁾ the following unanimous-consent request was agreed to:

Mr. [Daniel] ROSTENKOWSKI [of Illinois]. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that if and when the clerk receives a message from the Senate indicating that that body has passed the bill (H.R. 1900) to assure the solvency of the social security trust funds, to reform the medicare reimbursement of hospitals, to extend the Federal supplemental compensation program, and for other purposes, with an amendment or amendments, insisted upon its amendment or amendments and requested a conference with the House, that the House be deemed to have disagreed to the Senate amendment or amendments and agreed to the conference requested by the Senate, and that the Speaker be deemed to have appointed conferees without intervening motion.

signed by the Speaker. See 132 CONG. REC. 4240–41, 99th Cong. 2d Sess. (Mar. 11, 1986).

106. 158 CONG. REC. 17752, 112th Cong. 2d Sess.

107. John Boehner (OH).

108. See 129 CONG. REC. 6824, 98th Cong. 1st Sess. See also Deschler's Precedents Ch. 40 § 10.8.

The SPEAKER.⁽¹⁰⁹⁾ Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois? The Chair hears none, and appoints the following conferees: . . .

On March 24, 1983,⁽¹¹⁰⁾ the Speaker laid before the House a communication from the Clerk advising that the requisite Senate message has been received, and that House actions in response (pursuant to the previous order) had been communicated to the Senate:

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC, *March 24, 1983.*

Hon. THOMAS P. O'NEILL, Jr.,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5, Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received at 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 23, 1983, the following message from the Secretary of the Senate: That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 1900 and requested a conference thereon.

In accordance with action taken by the House on Wednesday, March 23, 1983, the Clerk has notified the Senate that the House disagreed to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 1900 and agreed to a conference thereon.

With kind regards, I am,

Sincerely,

BENJAMIN J. GUTHRIE,
Clerk, House of Representatives.

§ 14.11 Under prior practice, the standing rules did not permit the Clerk to receive messages during an adjournment of the House, though such authorization could be granted by unanimous consent.⁽¹¹¹⁾

On December 16, 1980,⁽¹¹²⁾ the following unanimous-consent request was transacted:

109. Thomas O'Neill (MA).

110. 129 CONG. REC. 7300, 98th Cong. 1st Sess. See also Deschler's Precedents Ch. 33 § 2.25 and 128 CONG. REC. 32137, 97th Cong. 2d Sess. (Dec. 18, 1982).

111. *Parliamentarian's Note*: At the beginning of the 97th Congress in 1981, the standing rules were amended to allow the Clerk to receive messages from the President or the Senate when the House was not in session. This authority was expanded in the 111th Congress to specifically apply to recesses as well as adjournments. See rule II, clause 2(h), *House Rules and Manual* § 652 (2019). For a discussion of "pocket vetoes," which relate to the ability of the House to receive messages from the President, see Deschler's Precedents Ch. 24 §§ 17–23 and Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 24.

112. 126 CONG. REC. 34309, 96th Cong. 2d Sess.

Mr. [John] BRADEMAs [of Indiana]. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the sine die adjournment of the House, the Clerk be authorized to receive messages from the Senate and that the Speaker or the Speaker pro tempore be authorized to sign any enrolled bills and joint resolutions duly passed by the two Houses and found truly enrolled.

The SPEAKER.⁽¹¹³⁾ Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana? There was no objection.

§ 15. The Sergeant-at-Arms

The Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives is an elected officer whose duties fall primarily within the spheres of security and the enforcement of rules relating to proper conduct and decorum in the House Chamber. Pursuant to House rule,⁽¹⁾ the Sergeant-at-Arms attends all sittings of the House. At the beginning of each legislative day, the Sergeant-at-Arms (or an employee of the office) leads the procession of officers as they enter the Chamber, bearing the mace of the House of Representatives⁽²⁾ (the symbol of the Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms).⁽³⁾

The Sergeant-at-Arms is one of the oldest officer positions in the House. When the House first ordered that a committee be formed to draft standing rules for the House, it simultaneously ordered that “they also report the duty and services of a sergeant-at-arms, or other proper officer for enforcing the orders of the House.”⁽⁴⁾ Provisions establishing the Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms were thereafter incorporated into the standing rules on April 14, 1789.⁽⁵⁾

It was formerly the case that the Sergeant-at-Arms had additional duties relating to the financial operations of the House, including handling payroll

113. Thomas O'Neill (MA).

1. Rule II, clause 3(a), *House Rules and Manual* § 656 (2019).
2. *Parliamentarian's Note*: The current mace, a symbol of the House's authority, has been used in the Chamber since 1841. A previous mace was destroyed when the British burned the Capitol during the War of 1812. See <http://history.house.gov/Collection/Listing/2006/2006-162-000/> (last visited Oct. 24, 2019).
3. See rule II, clause 3(b), *House Rules and Manual* § 657 (2019).
4. 1 ANNALS OF CONG. 101, 1st Cong. 1st Sess. (Apr. 2, 1789).
5. 1 ANNALS OF CONG. 128–29, 1st Cong. 1st Sess. (Apr. 14, 1789). These original provisions regarding the Sergeant-at-Arms have remained remarkably stable over the course of the history of the House, and form the basis of current clauses 3(a) and 3(b) of rule II. *House Rules and Manual* §§ 656, 657 (2019). Prior to the advent of statutory contempt procedures in 1857, the Sergeant-at-Arms was responsible for arresting those cited by the House for contempt of Congress (see, e.g., 3 Hinds' Precedents § 1714) but this authority has not been used in many decades.