

leader, the minority leader, and the chairman and ranking minority party member of the Committee on House Oversight a report on each audit conducted under this rule.”.

SEC. 5. The results of such auditing, shall to the extent appropriate, be reported by the Inspector General in accordance with House Rule VI, clause 3(e) which provides “reporting to the Committee on Standards of Official conduct information involving possible violations of any Member, officer, or employee of the House any rule of the House or any law applicable to the performance of official duties or the discharge of official responsibilities which may require referral to the appropriate Federal or State authorities pursuant to clause 4(e)(1)(C) [sic]⁽¹⁶⁾ of rule X.”.

Mr. ARMEY (during the reading). Mr. Speaker I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore.⁽¹⁷⁾ Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] is recognized for 1 hour. . . .

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

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. [Richard] GEPHARDT [of Missouri]. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present. The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 0, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 525] . . .

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

§ 21. Legislative Counsel

The Office of Legislative Counsel is established by law⁽¹⁾ as a nonpartisan office within the House, headed by an attorney known as the House Legislative Counsel. The Office of Legislative Counsel’s primary mission is to provide legislative drafting services to Members and committees of the House. The House Legislative Counsel is appointed by the Speaker “without regard to political affiliation.”⁽²⁾

An office specifically responsible for drafting legislative text for Congress was first created in 1919 and was originally known as the Legislative Drafting Service.⁽³⁾ Title V of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 created

16. As in the original. Text should read: 4(e)(1)(C).

17. Joel Hefley (CO).

1. 2 U.S.C. §§ 281–282e.

2. 2 U.S.C. § 282.

3. For more on the history and functions of the office, see *Office of Legislative Counsel: House*, CRS Report RS20735 (May 21, 2014).

separate drafting entities for both the House and the Senate.⁽⁴⁾ The House Legislative Counsel is authorized to appoint attorneys and other employees of the office, with the approval of the Speaker.⁽⁵⁾ The Legislative Counsel is required to designate one attorney as the Deputy Legislative Counsel, who performs the functions of the Legislative Counsel during the latter's absence or disability.⁽⁶⁾

While there is no requirement that Members of the House utilize the services of the Office of Legislative Counsel in drafting legislation, most Members will consult with the office prior to introducing measures or composing amendments. The attorneys who staff the office are experts in legislative drafting and their specialized expertise is essential to crafting proper legislative text.⁽⁷⁾ In addition to providing Members' offices with advice on converting legislative proposals to specific text, the Office of Legislative Counsel similarly advises committees of the House regarding the preparation of committee reports, conference reports, and joint explanatory statements to accompany conference reports. Of particular value is the ability of the Office of Legislative Counsel to compose comparative prints depicting the changes that would be made to existing law should the proposed legislation be enacted.⁽⁸⁾

Appointment of the Legislative Counsel

§ 21.1 Pursuant to law,⁽⁹⁾ the Speaker appoints the Legislative Counsel of the House, and such appointment is announced to the House for the information of Members.

On July 1, 2016,⁽¹⁰⁾ the following announcement of the appointment of Ernest Ballou, Jr. as Legislative Counsel was made:

4. P.L. 91–510, 84 Stat. 1140. The provisions regarding the House Office of Legislative Counsel have been codified at 2 U.S.C. §§ 281–282e.
5. 2 U.S.C. § 282a.
6. *Id.* These provisions were added by P.L. 92–51, 85 Stat. 125.
7. For tributes by Members to the Office of Legislative Counsel and its attorneys, see 132 CONG. REC. 26305, 99th Cong. 2d Sess. (Sept. 25, 1986); 134 CONG. REC. 32857, 100th Cong. 2d Sess. (Oct. 21, 1988); 143 CONG. REC. 19314, 105th Cong. 1st Sess. (Sept. 18, 1997); and 148 CONG. REC. 15139, 107th Cong. 2d Sess. (July 26, 2002). See also Deschler's Precedents Ch. 37 § 10.6.
8. For more on this requirement to produce comparative prints (also known as "Ramseyers"), see Deschler's Precedents Ch. 17 and Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 17. See also *House Rules and Manual* §§ 846, 848, and 1068k (2019).
9. 2 U.S.C. § 282.
10. 162 CONG. REC. H4190 [Daily Ed.], 114th Cong. 2d Sess. For similar appointments, see 155 CONG. REC. 17493, 111th Cong. 1st Sess. (July 13, 2009) and 143 CONG. REC. 17034, 105th Cong. 1st Sess. (July 31, 1997).

The SPEAKER pro tempore.⁽¹¹⁾ . . .

Pursuant to section 521 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 (2 U.S.C. 282), the Speaker appoints Ernest Ballou, Jr., Legislative Counsel, to succeed Sandra L. Strokoff, resigned.

Resignation of the Legislative Counsel

§ 21.2 The resignation of the House Legislative Counsel is laid before the House for the information of Members.⁽¹²⁾

On July 1, 2016,⁽¹³⁾ the following resignation of Sandra Strokoff as Legislative Counsel was laid before the House:

RESIGNATION AS LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL AND APPOINTMENT AS LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as Legislative Counsel of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL,
Washington, DC, June 24, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I hereby submit my resignation as Legislative Counsel of the United States House of Representatives, effective at the close of business August 1, 2016. It has been a great honor and privilege to serve as Legislative Counsel.

Sincerely,

SANDRA L. STROKOFF,
Legislative Counsel.

The SPEAKER pro tempore.⁽¹⁴⁾ The Speaker accepts the resignation of Sandra L. Strokoff, Legislative Counsel, effective August 1, 2016.

§ 22. Law Revision Counsel

The Office of Law Revision Counsel is established by law⁽¹⁾ as a non-partisan office within the House of Representatives. The purpose of the office is “to develop and keep current an official and positive codification of

11. Mark Meadows (NC).

12. *Parliamentarian’s Note*: As the Legislative Counsel is not an elected officer of the House, the resignation of such official is not subject to acceptance by the House. See Deschler’s Precedents Ch. 37 § 9.3.

13. 162 CONG. REC. H4190 [Daily Ed.], 114th Cong. 2d Sess. For similar resignations, see 155 CONG. REC. 17493–500, 111th Cong. 1st Sess. (July 13, 2009) and 143 CONG. REC. 17033–34, 105th Cong. 1st Sess. (July 31, 1997). See Deschler’s Precedents Ch. 37 § 9.3.

14. Mark Meadows (NC).

1. 2 U.S.C. §§ 285–285g.