

## LEGISLATIVE REORGANIZATION ACTS

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### PROVISIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1946 APPLICABLE TO BOTH HOUSES

#### SECTION 132 OF THE LEGISLATIVE REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1946

(2 U.S.C. 198)

Sec. 132. (a) Unless otherwise provided by the Congress,  
the two Houses shall—

§ 1106. Congressional  
adjournment.

(1) adjourn sine die not later than July 31 of each  
year; or

(2) in the case of an odd-numbered year, provide,  
not later than July 31 of such year, by concurrent res-  
olution adopted in each House by rollcall vote, for the  
adjournment of the two Houses from that Friday in  
August which occurs at least thirty days before the  
first Monday in September (Labor Day) of such year  
to the second day after Labor Day.

(b) This section shall not be applicable in any year if on  
July 31 of such year a state of war exists pursuant to a  
declaration of war by the Congress.

The present form of this section is derived from the Legislative Reorga-  
nization Act of 1970 (sec. 461; 84 Stat. 1140). Before that revision, the  
1946 Act (60 Stat. 812) provided for adjournment sine die of the two Houses  
not later than the last day of July each year except during time of war  
or a national emergency proclaimed by the President. Presidentially de-  
clared emergencies of May 8, 1939, May 27, 1941, and December 16, 1950,  
negated operation of the provision (see Speaker Rayburn, Aug. 1, 1949,  
p. 10486; Aug. 2, 1949, p. 10591; Aug. 4, 1949, p. 10778).

The Committee on Rules has jurisdiction of matters relative to recesses  
and final adjournment of Congress (clause 1(n)(2) of rule X).

Under this provision of law, a concurrent resolution providing in an odd-  
numbered year for an adjournment of the two Houses  
from the first Friday in August until the second day  
after Labor Day or until notified to reassemble pursu-  
ant to a joint agreement of the Leadership of the two

§ 1106a. Not a  
statutory adjournment  
sine die.

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§ 1107

Houses is called up as privileged, requires a ye and nay vote for adoption (July 30, 1973, p. 26657), and is not debatable (July 31, 1991, p. 20675); but the House may adjourn by simple motion on July 31 to meet on August 1 (July 31, 1991, p. 20677). In even-numbered years, and some odd-numbered years, the House has agreed to concurrent resolutions waiving the provisions of this law to provide that the two Houses shall not adjourn for more than three days or sine die until they have adopted a concurrent resolution to that effect (July 25, 1972, p. 25145; July 24, 1974, p. 25008; July 29, 1982, pp. 18562, 18563; July 30, 1986, p. 18146; July 29, 1994, p. 18615; July 30, 1999, p. 18763). To obviate the necessity to adopt a concurrent resolution waiving the requirement in section 132 of Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the House has included the language “in consonance with section 132(a)” in its concurrent resolutions providing for an August recess (*e.g.*, July 31, 1997, p. 17018; July 25, 2003, p. 19752).

SECTION 141 OF THE LEGISLATIVE REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1946

(2 U.S.C. 145a)

§ 1107. Preservation of committee hearings. Sec. 141. The Librarian of the Library of Congress is authorized and directed to have bound at the end of each session of Congress the printed hearings of testimony taken by each committee of the Congress at the preceding session.

This provision became effective on August 2, 1946.

## JOINT AND SELECT COMMITTEES

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### JOINT COMMITTEES

The Joint Economic Committee is composed of 10 Members of the Senate and 10 Members of the House, who are appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker, respectively. Each appoints six Members from the majority and four from the minority (15 U.S.C. 1024(a)). The committee conducts a continuing study of matters relating to the Economic Report made by the President and studies means of promoting the national policy on employment as outlined in the Employment Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1021). The committee is required to file, not later than March 1 of each year, a report with the Senate and the House containing its findings and recommendations on each of the main recommendations made by the President in the Economic Report. It is authorized to hold hearings and make other reports to the Congress and to issue a monthly publication on economic conditions (15 U.S.C. 1024, 1025). The Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978 (sec. 302, P.L. 95-523) requires the joint committee to review and analyze the short-term and medium-term goals set forth in the Economic Report and to hold hearings on the report. Within 30 days after receipt of the report by the Congress, standing committees with legislative jurisdiction and joint committees may submit reports to the joint committee with views and recommendations on matters within their jurisdiction. On or before each March 15, a majority of the members of the joint committee are required to submit a report to the Senate and House Budget Committees, including findings, recommendations, and appropriate analyses with respect to each of the short-term and medium-term goals set forth in the Economic Report.

The Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation is composed of five Members of the Senate and five Members of the House. The House Members, three from the majority and two from the minority, are chosen by the Committee on Ways and Means from the membership of that committee. The joint committee investigates the operation and effects of the Federal system of internal revenue taxation. It is authorized to hold hearings at times and places it deems advisable, has subpoena power, and reports to the Committee on Ways and Means, and, in its discretion, directly to the House (26 U.S.C. 8001-8023).