

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3356

To amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to establish the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 21, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida (for herself, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, and Mr. FEENEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to establish the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*

2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Joint Administra-

5 Procedures Committee Act of 2003” or the “JAPC Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE**
2 **PROCEDURES COMMITTEE.**

3 Section 802 of title 5, United States Code, is amend-
4 ed by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (i) and
5 by inserting before subsection (i) the following new sub-
6 section:

7 “(h)(1) There is established a Joint Administrative
8 Procedures Committee to be composed of 12 Members of
9 the Senate to be appointed by the majority leader of the
10 Senate and 12 Members of the House of Representatives
11 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Represent-
12 atives. In each instance, not more than 7 Members shall
13 be members of the same political party.

14 “(2) In carrying out its duties under this chapter,
15 the joint committee, or any duly authorized subcommittee
16 thereof, is authorized to—

17 “(A) hold such hearings, to sit and act at such
18 places and times within the United States during the
19 sessions, recesses, and adjourned periods of Con-
20 gress;

21 “(B) require the attendance of such witnesses
22 and the production of such books, papers, and docu-
23 ments, administer such oaths, take such testimony,
24 procure such printing and binding as it deems nec-
25 essary; and

1 “(C) make such rules respecting its organiza-
2 tion and procedures as it deems necessary.

3 “(3) The joint committee may selectively review exist-
4 ing major rules of any Federal agency and recommend—

5 “(A) to the committees of jurisdiction in each
6 House of Congress that they take appropriate legis-
7 lative actions to amend or repeal laws within their
8 jurisdictions sufficient to effectuate its recommenda-
9 tions; and

10 “(B) to such Federal agency that it amend or
11 repeal all or any part of such major rules.

12 “(4) The joint committee shall periodically review the
13 regulatory plan of each Federal agency of its most impor-
14 tant significant regulatory actions that the agency reason-
15 ably expects to issue in proposed or final form in the fiscal
16 year in which such plan is submitted (or thereafter) to
17 the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the
18 Office of Management and Budget and may submit com-
19 ments to such Office respecting such plan. Within 10 cal-
20 endar days after receiving any such agency plan, such Of-
21 fice shall submit a copy of such plan to the joint committee
22 for its comments. Upon completion of its review or waiver
23 of its review of each such agency plan, the Office shall
24 also submit to the joint committee a detailed summary of
25 its recommendations.

1 “(5) The joint committee may selectively review exist-
2 ing rules of any Federal agency that were in effect before
3 the enactment of chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code,
4 and that the joint committee finds would satisfy the cri-
5 teria of subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (2)
6 of section 804 of such title and recommend—

7 “(A) to the committees of jurisdiction in each
8 House of Congress that they take appropriate legis-
9 lative actions to amend or repeal laws within their
10 jurisdictions sufficient to effectuate its recommenda-
11 tions; and

12 “(B) to such Federal agency that it amend or
13 repeal all or any part of such major rules.

14 “(6) The members of the joint committee who are
15 Members of the Senate shall from time to time report to
16 appropriate standing committees of the Senate, and the
17 members of the joint committee who are Members of the
18 House of Representatives shall from time to time report
19 to appropriate standing committees of the House their rec-
20 ommendations with respect to matters within the jurisdic-
21 tion of their respective Houses which are referred to the
22 joint committee or otherwise within the jurisdiction of the
23 joint committee.

24 “(7) Vacancies in the membership of the joint com-
25 mittee shall not affect the power of the remaining mem-

1 bers to execute the functions of the joint committee, and
2 shall be filled in the same manner as in the case of the
3 original selection. The joint committee shall select a chair-
4 man and a vice chairman from among its members at the
5 beginning of each Congress. The vice chairman shall act
6 in place of the chairman in the absence of the chairman.
7 The chairmanship shall alternate between the Senate and
8 the House of Representatives with each Congress, and the
9 chairman shall be selected by the Members from that
10 House entitled to the chairmanship. The vice chairman
11 shall be chosen from the House other than that of the
12 chairman by the Members from that House.

13 “(8) The joint committee may appoint and fix the
14 compensation of such staff as it deems necessary.

15 “(9)(A) Notwithstanding any law, rule, or other au-
16 thority, there shall be paid out of the applicable accounts
17 of the House of Representatives such sums as may be nec-
18 essary for one-half of the expenses of the joint committee.
19 Such payments shall be made on vouchers signed by the
20 chairman or vice chairman of the joint committee who is
21 a Member of the House of Representatives, as the case
22 may be, and approved in the manner directed by the Com-
23 mittee on House Administration of the House of Rep-
24 resentatives. Amounts made available under this para-
25 graph shall be expended in accordance with regulations

1 prescribed by the Committee on House Administration of
2 the House of Representatives.

3 “(B) (To be supplied by the Senate).”.

4 **SEC. 3. CONSIDERATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-**
5 **TIVES AND THE SENATE.**

6 Section 802 of title 5, United States Code, is amend-
7 ed by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g) and
8 by inserting after subsection (e) the following new sub-
9 section:

10 “(f)(1) In the House, after the third legislative day
11 after the date on which the committee to which a joint
12 resolution is referred has reported, it is in order for any
13 Member of the House to move to proceed to consideration
14 of the joint resolution. All points of order against the mo-
15 tion to proceed and against consideration of that motion
16 are waived. The motion is privileged in the House and is
17 not debatable. The motion is not subject to amendment,
18 or to a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to
19 the consideration of other business. A motion to reconsider
20 the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed
21 to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the
22 consideration of the joint resolution is agreed to, the
23 House shall immediately proceed to consideration of the
24 joint resolution without intervening motion (except one
25 motion to adjourn), order, or other business.

1 “(2) In the House, debate shall be confined to the
2 joint resolution and shall not exceed one hour equally di-
3 vided and controlled by a proponent and an opponent of
4 the joint resolution. The previous question shall be consid-
5 ered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage
6 without intervening motion, except one motion to recom-
7 mit. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the
8 joint resolution shall not be in order.”.

9 **SEC. 4. CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW.**

10 (a) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW.—Section 801(a) of
11 title 5, United States Code, is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “, the
13 joint committee,” after “each House of the Con-
14 gress”;

15 (2) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “and the
16 joint committee” after “each House of Congress”;

17 (3) in paragraph (1) by adding at the end the
18 following new subparagraph:

19 “(D) Within 30 days (excluding days either House
20 of Congress is adjourned for more than 3 days during a
21 session of Congress) after the date on which the report
22 referred to in subparagraph (A) is received, the joint com-
23 mittee may report a committee resolution recommending
24 that each standing committee with jurisdiction to which
25 copies of the applicable report were provided under sub-

1 paragraph (C) report a joint resolution pursuant to section
2 802 disapproving the applicable rule.”; and

3 (4) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “the joint
4 committee” after “committees of jurisdiction in each
5 House of the Congress”.

6 (b) EFFECT OF DISAPPROVAL.—Section 801(b)(2) of
7 title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting before
8 the period at the end the following: “or the reissued or
9 new rule carries out the recommendation, if any, set forth
10 in the report submitted by the joint committee to the com-
11 mittees of jurisdiction pursuant to subsection (a)(1)(D)
12 respecting the rule that did not take effect because it was
13 the subject to an enacted resolution of disapproval”.

14 (c) DEFINITIONS.—Section 804 of title 5, United
15 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
16 lowing new paragraph:

17 (4) The term ‘joint committee’ refers to the
18 Joint Administrative Procedures Committee.”.

19 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

20 This Act and the amendments made by it shall take
21 effect at noon on January 3, 2005.

