

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 121

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to strengthen the budget process.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 17, 2005

Mr. COOPER (for himself, Mr. TANNER, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. BOYD, Mr. ROSS, Mr. BARROW, Mr. CASE, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. SALAZAR, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BOSWELL, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. FORD, Mr. BERRY, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

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## RESOLUTION

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to strengthen the budget process.

1       *Resolved*, That (a) the last sentence of clause 7(e) of  
2 rule XXII of Rules of the House of Representatives is  
3 amended by inserting “and shall contain the estimate of  
4 costs described in section 308(a)(2) of the Congressional  
5 Budget Act of 1974” before the period.

1 (b) Clause 7 of rule XXII of Rules of the House of  
 2 Representatives is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
 3 lowing new paragraph:

4 “(f) It shall not be in order to consider a conference  
 5 report unless it contains an estimate of costs as described  
 6 in the last sentence of paragraph (e).”.

7 ROLL CALL VOTES REQUIRED FOR NEW SPENDING OVER  
 8 \$50,000,000

9 SEC. 2. Clause 10 of rule XX of the Rules of the  
 10 House of Representatives is amended by inserting “au-  
 11 thorizing or providing new budget authority of not less  
 12 than \$50,000,000” before “making general appropria-  
 13 tions” and by adding at the end the following new sen-  
 14 tence: “The Speaker may not entertain a unanimous con-  
 15 sent request or motion to suspend this clause.”.

16 REPEAL OF THE GEPHARDT RULE

17 SEC. 3. The Rules of the House of Representatives  
 18 are amended by repealing rule XXVII (relating to the stat-  
 19 utory limit on public debt) and by redesignating rule  
 20 XXVIII as rule XXVII.

21 SAME-DAY CONSIDERATION OF RULES COMMITTEE

22 REPORTS

23 SEC. 4. In rule XIII of the Rules of the House of  
 24 Representatives, clause 6(a) is amended by striking “the  
 25 same day” and inserting “the same calendar day or less  
 26 than 17 hours after that”.

1 TWO-THIRDS REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN WAIVERS  
 2 UNDER THE RULES

3 SEC. 5. (a) TWO-THIRDS REQUIREMENT.—Clause  
 4 6(c) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representa-  
 5 tives is amended by striking the period and inserting a  
 6 semicolon at the end of subparagraph (2) and by adding  
 7 at the end the following new subparagraph:

8 “(3) a rule or order which would waive the lay-  
 9 over requirement of clause 8 of rule XXII con-  
 10 cerning the availability of reports, would waive the  
 11 three-day layover requirement or the three-day  
 12 Internet availability requirement of clause 4(a)(1) of  
 13 this rule or of clause 8(a)(1) of rule XXII, or would  
 14 waive the scope requirement of the last sentence of  
 15 clause 9 of rule XXII by a vote of less than two-  
 16 thirds of the Members voting, a quorum being  
 17 present.”.

18 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Clause 6(a) of rule  
 19 XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives is  
 20 amended by striking subparagraph (2), by inserting “or”  
 21 after the semicolon at the end of subparagraph (1), and  
 22 by redesignating subparagraph (3) as subparagraph (2).

23 TWO-THIRDS REQUIREMENT FOR AVAILABILITY OF  
 24 CERTAIN MEASURES ON THE INTERNET

25 SEC. 6. (a) Clause 4(a)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules  
 26 of the House of Representatives is amended by inserting

1 “and until the third such calendar day on which the un-  
 2 derlying measure or matter has been made available by  
 3 the Committee on Rules on its Internet site” before the  
 4 period.

5 (b) Clause 8(a)(1)(A) of rule XXII of the Rules of  
 6 the House of Representatives is amended by inserting  
 7 “and until the third such calendar day on which such con-  
 8 ference report and joint explanatory statement have been  
 9 made available by the standing committee of the House  
 10 with subject matter jurisdiction over the underlying legis-  
 11 lation on its Internet site” before the semicolon.

12 WRITTEN JUSTIFICATION FOR EARMARKS

13 SEC. 7. Clause 2 of rule XXI of the Rules of the  
 14 House of Representatives is amended by adding at the end  
 15 the following new paragraph:

16 “(g) The report that accompanies any general appro-  
 17 priation bill shall contain a separate written justification  
 18 for each earmark contained in such bill or report.”.

19 MANDATORY OVERSIGHT

20 SEC. 8. Clause 2(d) of rule X of the Rules of the  
 21 House of Representatives is amended by adding at the end  
 22 the following new subparagraph:

23 “(3) Not later than July 1 in the first session of a  
 24 Congress, and at six-month intervals thereafter during  
 25 that Congress, each committee shall submit reports to the  
 26 Speaker and the minority leader respecting the commit-

- 1 tee's compliance with its oversight plan. Committees shall
- 2 make these reports available to the public.”.

