

109TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 686

Amending the Rules of the House to restore transparency, accountability,  
and oversight, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 16, 2006

Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Ms. MATSUI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, 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

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## RESOLUTION

Amending the Rules of the House to restore transparency,  
accountability, and oversight, and for other purposes.

1       *Resolved,*

2       **SECTION 1. CHANGES AFFECTING THE SCOPE RULE FOR**  
3       **CONFERENCE REPORTS.**

4       Clause 9 of rule XXII of the Rules of the House of  
5 Representatives is amended by inserting “(a)” after “9.”

6 and by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

7       “(b) A rule or order providing for the consideration  
8 of a conference report to the House shall contain an

1 itemized list of any provisions in such conference report  
2 that would be in violation of paragraph (a).

3 “(c)(1) It shall not be in order to consider a rule or  
4 order that provides for the consideration of a conference  
5 report to the House in violation of paragraph (a).

6 “(2) As disposition of a point of order under para-  
7 graph (a), the Chair shall put the question of consider-  
8 ation with respect to the proposition that is the subject  
9 of the point of order. A question of consideration under  
10 this clause shall be debatable for 10 minutes by the Mem-  
11 ber initiating the point of order and for 10 minutes by  
12 an opponent of the point of order, but shall otherwise be  
13 decided without intervening motion except one that the  
14 House adjourn or that the Committee of the Whole rise,  
15 as the case may be.

16 “(3) The disposition of the question of consideration  
17 under this clause with respect to a bill or joint resolution  
18 shall be considered also to determine the question of con-  
19 sideration under this clause with respect to an amendment  
20 made in order as original text.

21 “(d) A motion proposing only to strike a provision  
22 in a conference report in violation of paragraph (a), if oth-  
23 erwise in order, may be precluded from consideration only  
24 by specific terms of a special order of the House.”.

1 **SEC. 2. WAIVER OF 3-DAY LAYOVERS AGAINST CON-**  
2 **ERENCE REPORTS.**

3 Clause 8(a) of rule XXII of the Rules of the House  
4 of Representatives is amended by adding at the end the  
5 following new subparagraph:

6 “(3)(A) It shall not be in order to consider a rule  
7 or order that provides for the waiver of subparagraph (1).

8 “(B) As disposition of a point of order under sub-  
9 paragraph (1), the Chair shall put the question of consid-  
10 eration with respect to the proposition that is the subject  
11 of the point of order. A question of consideration under  
12 this clause shall be debatable for 10 minutes by the Mem-  
13 ber initiating the point of order and for 10 minutes by  
14 an opponent of the point of order, but shall otherwise be  
15 decided without intervening motion except one that the  
16 House adjourn or that the Committee of the Whole rise,  
17 as the case may be.

18 “(C) The disposition of the question of consideration  
19 under this clause with respect to a bill or joint resolution  
20 shall be considered also to determine the question of con-  
21 sideration under this clause with respect to an amendment  
22 made in order as original text.”.

23 **SEC. 3. INTEGRITY OF A CONFERENCE.**

24 Clause 8 of rule XXII of the Rules of the House of  
25 Representatives is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
26 lowing new paragraph:

1 “(f)(1) It shall not be in order to consider a con-  
2 ference report if—

3 “(A) it contained a serious violation of clause  
4 9(a);

5 “(B) it contained changes (including additions  
6 or deletions) made after the managers had reached  
7 a final agreement;

8 “(C) the managers on the part of the House  
9 who are minority party members were not allowed to  
10 fully participate in the conference; or

11 “(D) there were any other serious violation of  
12 the Rules of the House in events surrounding the  
13 conference report or any conference committee meet-  
14 ings.

15 “(2) A point of order may only be made pursuant  
16 to this paragraph by majority leader or minority leader  
17 of the House.”.

18 “(3)(A) As disposition of a point of order under sub-  
19 paragraph (1), the Chair shall put the question of consid-  
20 eration with respect to the proposition that is the subject  
21 of the point of order. A question of consideration under  
22 this clause shall be debatable for 10 minutes by the Mem-  
23 ber initiating the point of order and for 10 minutes by  
24 an opponent of the point of order, but shall otherwise be  
25 decided without intervening motion except one that the

1 House adjourn or that the Committee of the Whole rise,  
 2 as the case may be.

3 “(B) The disposition of the question of consideration  
 4 under this clause with respect to a bill or joint resolution  
 5 shall be considered also to determine the question of con-  
 6 sideration under this clause with respect to an amendment  
 7 made in order as original text.”.

#### 8 **SEC. 4. ROLL CALL VOTE IN CONFERENCE COMMITTEES**

9 Clause 8 of rule XXII of the Rules of the House of  
 10 Representatives (as amended by section 3) is further  
 11 amended by adding at the end the following new para-  
 12 graph—

13 “(g) Each conference report to the House may only  
 14 be considered if a roll call vote, in an open meeting, was  
 15 held on the final version of the conference report and the  
 16 result of such vote was included in the joint explanatory  
 17 statement of managers accompanying such conference re-  
 18 port.”.

#### 19 **SEC. 5. FILING OF REPORTS BY THE COMMITTEE ON** 20 **RULES.**

21 Clause 6(a) of the Rules of the House of Representa-  
 22 tives is amended by striking ”on the same day” and insert-  
 23 ing “within 24 hours of when”.

1 **SEC. 6. DISCLOSURE RESPECTING EXTENDED PERIODS OF**  
2 **TIME FOR VOTING.**

3 Clause 2(a) of rule XX of the House of Representa-  
4 tives is amended by adding at the end the following new  
5 sentences: “Whenever the maximum time exceeds be 30  
6 minutes, the Speaker shall have published in the Congres-  
7 sional Record for that legislative day a log of all voting  
8 activity occurring after the first 30 minutes of the re-  
9 corded vote. The log shall set forth the names of any Mem-  
10 bers who changed their votes or first voted after such 30-  
11 minute period.”.

12 **SEC. 7. POST-EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS FOR MEMBERS.**

13 Rule XXIII of the Rules of the House of Representa-  
14 tives is amended by redesignating clause 14 as clause 15  
15 and by adding after clause 13 the following new clause:

16 “14. No Member, Delegate, or Resident Commis-  
17 sioner may negotiate for future employment with any per-  
18 son who has a direct interest in legislation referred to any  
19 committee during this or the preceding Congress while  
20 that Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner serves  
21 on that committee.”.

22 **SEC. 8. SUSPENSION OF THE RULES.**

23 Clause 1 of rule XV of the Rules of the House of  
24 Representatives is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
25 lowing:

1 “(d) Any bill or joint resolution that authorizes or  
2 appropriates more than \$100,000,000 may not be consid-  
3 ered under suspension.

4 “(e) The Speaker shall endeavor to the maximum ex-  
5 tent possible to allow an equal number of bills and resolu-  
6 tions sponsored by majority party members and minority  
7 party members under suspension during any session of  
8 Congress.”.

9 **SEC. 9. VOTING TO CHANGE THE STATUTORY LIMIT ON THE**  
10 **DEBT.**

11 The Rules of the House of Representatives are  
12 amended by repealing rule XXVII.

13 **SEC. 10. PRIVILEGED REPORTS BY THE COMMITTEE ON**  
14 **RULES.**

15 Clause 6(c) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House  
16 of Representatives is amended by striking the period at  
17 the end and inserting “; or” and by adding at the end  
18 the following new subparagraph:

19 “(3) a rule or order unless at least one minority  
20 party member of the committee is allowed to offer  
21 an amendment to the rule or order.”.

22 **SEC. 11. UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENTS.**

23 Clause 6 of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of  
24 Representatives is amended by inserting at the end the  
25 following new paragraph:

1       “(h) Following adoption of an order of business, the  
2 Speaker may not entertain a unanimous consent request  
3 that modifies such order of business unless the text of  
4 such modification has been available to Members, Dele-  
5 gates, and the Resident Commissioner for at least 24  
6 hours.”.

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