

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to ensure that Members have a reasonable amount of time to read legislation that will be voted upon.

JANUARY 12, 2007

Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to ensure that Members have a reasonable amount of time to read legislation that will be voted upon.

4 “RULE XXIX

5 “TIME TO READ LEGISLATION BEFORE VOTING

6 “1. Notwithstanding any provision of these rules, no
7 bill, joint resolution, conference report, or amendment be-
8 tween the Houses shall be voted on by the House unless
9 the text of that measure has been available to all Members

1 and their staffs in both printed and electronic format for
2 at least 10 days and any manager's amendment or other
3 amendment which makes substantive changes to the legis-
4 lation has been made available in both printed and elec-
5 tronic versions for at least 72 hours before the scheduled
6 vote on such legislation.

7 "2. Clause 1 shall not apply to—

8 "(1) the intelligence authorization bill, appro-
9 priations, or other legislation containing classified
10 information, or conference report thereon, if Mem-
11 bers have at least 7 days to study the contents of
12 such measure; and

13 "(2) congressional declarations of war or au-
14 thorization of military force to respond to attacks on
15 the United States.

16 "3. (a) Any Member who votes for any measure that
17 has been placed before the House in violation of this rule
18 shall be deemed to have violated House ethics rules and
19 be subject to censure.

20 "(b) Notwithstanding any provision of these rules,
21 any citizen who is eligible to vote and who is not an em-
22 ployee of the executive or judicial branch of the Govern-
23 ment may petition the Committee on Standards and Offi-
24 cial Conduct to investigate allegations that a Member
25 voted for any measure that violated this rule."

1 (b) Clause 6(c) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House
2 of Representatives is amended by striking the period at
3 the end of subparagraph (2) and inserting “; or” and by
4 adding at the end the following new subparagraph:
5 “(3) a rule or order that would waive the provi-
6 sions of rule XXIX.”.

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