

112TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 541

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to provide that the House may not consider major legislation unless it addresses one issue at a time.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 8, 2012

Mr. POLIS 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 provide that the House may not consider major legislation unless it addresses one issue at a time.

Whereas, the House Republicans' Pledge to America states: "We pledge to make government more transparent in its actions, careful in its stewardship, and honest in its dealings."; and

Whereas, the House Republicans' Pledge to America states under the heading "Advance Legislative Issues One at a Time": "We will end the practice of packaging unpopular bills with 'must-pass' legislation to circumvent the will of the American people. Instead, we will advance major legislation one issue at a time.": Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That rule XXI of the Rules of the House  
2 of Representatives is amended by adding at the end the  
3 following new clause:

4       “12.(a) It shall not be in order to consider—

5               “(1) a bill or joint resolution that is major leg-  
6 islation and advances more than one issue;

7               “(2) an amendment to a bill or joint resolution  
8 to be offered at the outset of its consideration for  
9 amendment by a member of a committee of initial  
10 referral as designated in a report of the Committee  
11 on Rules to accompany a resolution prescribing a  
12 special order of business that is major legislation  
13 and advances more than one issue; or

14               “(3) a conference report to accompany a bill or  
15 joint resolution that is major legislation and ad-  
16 vances more than one issue.

17       “(b) It shall not be in order to consider a rule or  
18 order that waives the application of paragraph (a). As dis-  
19 position of a point of order under this paragraph or para-  
20 graph (a), the Chair shall put the question of consider-  
21 ation with respect to the rule or order, bill, joint resolu-  
22 tion, or conference report, as applicable. The question of  
23 consideration shall be debatable for 10 minutes by the  
24 Member initiating the point of order and for 10 minutes

1 by an opponent, but shall otherwise be decided without  
2 intervening motion except one that the House adjourn.

3 “(c) For the purpose of this clause, the term ‘major  
4 legislation’ means legislation that is not a Sense of Con-  
5 gress or naming bill and would have a substantial impact  
6 on the American people.

7 “(d) For the purpose of this clause, the term ‘ad-  
8 vances only one issue’ means that the proposition focuses  
9 on one scope and object.”.

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