

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 169

Establishing a Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD (for himself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BYRNE, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. COOPER, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. KIND, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MESSER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. WALZ, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. ISSA, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. BOST, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. DOLD, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. YODER, Mr. REED, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. HULTGREN, and Mr. ROSKAM) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Establishing a Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress.

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring),*

3 **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP.—There is
5 established an ad hoc Joint Committee on the Organiza-

1 tion of the Congress (referred to as the “Committee”) to
 2 be composed of—

3 (1) 12 members of the Senate—

4 (A) 6 to be appointed by the majority lead-
 5 er; and

6 (B) 6 to be appointed by the minority lead-
 7 er; and

8 (2) 12 members of the House of Representa-
 9 tives—

10 (A) 6 to be appointed by the Speaker; and

11 (B) 6 to be appointed by the minority lead-
 12 er.

13 (b) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The majority leader
 14 and the minority leader of the Senate and the majority
 15 leader and the minority leader of the House of Represent-
 16 atives shall be ex officio, voting members of the Com-
 17 mittee, but shall not be counted for the purpose of
 18 ascertaining the presence of a quorum of the Committee.

19 (c) ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEE.—(1) A chairman
 20 from each House shall be designated from among the
 21 members of the Committee by the majority leader of the
 22 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

23 (2) A vice chairman from each House shall be des-
 24 ignated from among the members of the Committee by

1 the minority leader of the Senate and the minority leader
2 of the House of Representatives.

3 (3) The Committee may establish subcommittees
4 comprised of only members from one House, who may con-
5 sider only matters related solely to that House.

6 (4)(A) No recommendation shall be made by the
7 Committee except upon a majority vote of the members
8 representing each House, respectively.

9 (B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), any rec-
10 ommendation with respect to the rules and procedures of
11 one House which only affects matters related solely to that
12 House may only be made and voted on by the members
13 of the committee from that House, and upon its adoption
14 by a majority of such members shall be considered to have
15 been adopted by the full Committee as a recommendation
16 of the Committee. Once such recommendation is adopted,
17 the full Committee may vote to make an interim or final
18 report containing any such recommendation.

19 **SEC. 2. STUDY OF ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF THE**
20 **CONGRESS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall make a full
22 and complete study of the organization, operations, func-
23 tions, and relevant interactions of the Members of Con-
24 gress and make recommendations that serve the following
25 objectives:

1 (1) Making the operations and the organization
2 of the Congress more effective and more efficient.

3 (2) Making the Congress and its members more
4 accountable to the citizens they serve.

5 (3) Improving the relationships between the
6 Houses of Congress.

7 (4) Improving the relationships between and
8 among other branches of the Government, particu-
9 larly relative to the congressional oversight of those
10 branches.

11 (5) Improving the orderly, timely, and effective
12 consideration and disposal of legislation.

13 (6) Improving the relationships among both
14 elected Members of the Congress and the staff of
15 those Members, particularly relating to relationships
16 between the minority and majority Members.

17 (7) Improving the relationship between mem-
18 bers and the citizens they serve, especially in the op-
19 portunities citizens have to participate in the process
20 of governing.

21 (b) ADDITIONAL MATTER TO BE STUDIED.—The
22 Committee shall also include in its study the role of the
23 standing, select, and special committees and their effec-
24 tiveness in addressing legislative responsibilities, particu-
25 larly those involving the authorization of Federal pro-

1 grams and agencies and the future fiscal impact of entitle-
2 ment programs.

3 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY AND EMPLOYMENT AND COMPENSA-**
4 **TION OF STAFF.**

5 (a) **AUTHORITY OF COMMITTEE.**—The Committee or
6 any of its subcommittees may—

7 (1) sit and act at such places and times as the
8 Committee, or any duly authorized subcommittee
9 thereof, determines are appropriate during the ses-
10 sions, recesses, and adjourned periods of Congress;
11 and

12 (2) require the attendance of witnesses and the
13 production of books, papers, and documents, admin-
14 ister oaths, take testimony, and procure printing and
15 binding.

16 (b) **APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION OF STAFF.**—

17 (1) The Committee may appoint and fix the compensation
18 of such experts, consultants, technicians, and clerical per-
19 sonnel as it deems necessary, but shall utilize existing staff
20 to the extent possible. Staff shall be compensated and re-
21 imbursed in accordance with current rules, statutes, prac-
22 tices, and procedures under which congressional staff are
23 currently compensated and reimbursed for their official
24 expenses.

1 (2) The Committee may utilize such voluntary and
2 uncompensated services as it deems necessary and may
3 utilize the services, information, facilities, and personnel
4 of other agencies of the legislative branch.

5 (c) WITNESSES.—Witnesses requested to appear be-
6 fore the Committee shall be reimbursed for travel, subsist-
7 ence, and other necessary expenses incurred in traveling
8 to and from Committee proceedings.

9 (d) EXPENSES.—There shall be paid out of the appli-
10 cable accounts of the House of Representatives such sums
11 as may be necessary for one-half of the expenses of the
12 Committee. Such payments shall be made on vouchers
13 signed by the chairman or vice chairman of the Committee
14 who is a Member of the House of Representatives, as the
15 case may be, and approved in the manner directed by the
16 Committee on House Administration of the House of Rep-
17 resentatives. Amounts made available under this para-
18 graph shall be expended in accordance with regulations
19 prescribed by the Committee on House Administration of
20 the House of Representatives.

21 **SEC. 4. COMMITTEE REPORT.**

22 The Committee shall report its findings to the House
23 of Representatives and the Senate not later than the con-
24 clusion of each session of Congress during which the Com-
25 mittee is authorized. The report at the conclusion of each

1 session shall include recommendations of the Committee
2 for its continuation or designation of a similar entity to
3 continue the pursuit of improvements in the congressional
4 process.

