

24 HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Public bills and resolutions enacted into law and constitutional amendment—Con.

No. of law	Title	No. of bill or resolution
PUBLIC CLAIMS		
89-34	To validate certain payments made to employees of the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.	H.R. 6991
89-38	For the relief of the town of Kure Beach, N.C.	H.R. 821
89-65	To remove the present \$5,000 limitation which prevents the Secretary of the Air Force from settling and paying certain claims arising out of the crash of a U.S. aircraft at Wichita, Kans.	H.R. 3994
89-76	For the relief of the port of Portland, Oreg.	H.R. 5184
89-120	For the relief of the State of New Hampshire	S. 579
89-225	To provide for the relief of certain enlisted members of the Air Force	H.R. 5252
REVISION OF THE LAWS		
89-183	To enact pt. III of the District of Columbia Code, entitled "Decedents' Estates and Fiduciary Relations," codifying the general and permanent laws relating to decedents' estates and fiduciary relations in the District of Columbia.	H.R. 4465
MISCELLANEOUS		
89-30	To transfer certain functions of the Secretary of the Treasury, and for other purposes.	H.R. 3995
89-185	To amend titles 10 and 14, United States Code, and the Military Personnel and Civilian Employees' Claims Act of 1964, with respect to the settlement of claims against the United States by members of the uniformed services and civilian officers and employees of the United States for damage to, or loss of, personal property incident to their service, and for other purposes.	H.R. 5024
89-259	To render immune from seizure under judicial process certain objects of cultural significance imported into the United States for temporary display or exhibition, and for other purposes.	S. 2273
89-300	To amend title 28 of the United States Code to authorize the administrative settlement of tort claims arising in foreign countries, and for other purposes.	H.R. 5167
89-318	Providing for the acquisition and preservation by the United States of certain items of evidence pertaining to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.	H.R. 9545

NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

To accomplish its designated tasks, the House Judiciary Committee currently has 35 members assigned to it. Although the Legislative Reorganization Act specified 27 members, it has been recognized that more are necessary to properly perform committee duties. At the time of its creation, the committee consisted of seven members,¹¹ and continued to be composed of this number until 1833.

In the 1st session of the 23d Congress, on Thursday, December 5, 1833, the following is stated:

Committees of the House, Mr. Hubbard again moved his amendments to the 55th rule, which fixes the number and size of the standing committee of the House, so as to make those formerly containing only 7 members now to contain 9, and those consisting of 3, now to consist of 5 members. The amendment was carried and the rule as amended was adopted. An order was passed for the appointment of standing committees. December 9 committee appointed.

The number remained at nine until 1869, when in the 2d session of the 41st Congress on December 9 (Congressional Globe, p. 62) Mr. Welker introduced a resolution authorizing the Speaker to assign Representatives admitted since organization of the present Congress to any of the committees as additional members.

On March 3, 1873, 3d session of the 42d Congress, a resolution was introduced by Mr. Banks amending the Rules of the House so that the standing committees with 9 members are to have 13 members (Congressional Globe, p. 2132).

¹¹ 26 Annals of Congress, 783–784, (1813).

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On January 6, 1880, 2d session of the 46th Congress (Congressional Record, vol. 10, p. 203) a report was adopted fixing membership of committees at 15 from that time forward.

On August 21, 1893, 1st session of the 53d Congress (Congressional Record, vol. 25, p. 554) Speaker announced the appointment of 17 members to the Committee on the Judiciary.

On April 5, 1911, 1st session of the 62d Congress (Congressional Record, vol. 47, pp. 55-80) House Resolution 30 provided for increase of committee membership from 15 to 21.

On December 11, 1925, 1st session of the 69th Congress:

On motion of Mr. Tilson, by unanimous consent,
Ordered, That the membership of the Committee on the Judiciary be increased from 22 to 23 members until March 2, 1927 (Congressional Record, vol. 66, p. 725).

On December 12, 1927, 1st session of the 70th Congress (H. Res. 53 and H. Res. 54, Congressional Record, vol. 69, p. 491), election of 23 Members of to the Committee on the Judiciary announced.

On December 14, 1931, 1st session, 72d Congress (Congressional Record, vol. 75, p. 465) House Resolution 54, providing for 23 members on the Committee on the Judiciary agreed to by the House.

On March 14, 1933, 1st session of the 73d Congress (Congressional Record, vol. 77, p. 43) House Resolution 43, providing for 25 members on the Committee on the Judiciary agreed to by the House.

The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 calls for 27 members on the Judiciary Committee and this is the number specified in rule X of the House Rules. However, the membership has often been changed for a particular Congress by the passage of a House resolution calling for a greater number of members than prescribed by the current rule and/or by electing a greater number of members than is prescribed by the current rule. For example, at present there are 35 members on the Judiciary Committee. House Resolutions 120 and 132 increased the committee to this number for the 89th Congress.

IMPEACHMENTS

Since, under the Constitution, impeachment proceedings must originate in the House of Representatives, and since the Committee on the Judiciary is the law committee of the House, all its members being lawyers, all matters of impeachment, and resolutions calling for investigation of such charges are referred by the House to the Committee on the Judiciary in the first instance.

In the nine impeachment proceedings which have resulted in trial, since the formation of the committee in 1813, the Committee on the Judiciary has done much to develop, clarify, and state the law of impeachment and in this respect has performed a great and lasting service to the country as a whole.

While the House of Representatives has the sole power of impeachment the Senate has the sole power to try all impeachments. However, the jurisdiction of the Senate does not attach until articles of impeachment have been exhibited to it by the House.

The several sections of the Constitution applicable to impeachment proceedings are hereinafter set out.