

COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is charged by the Senate with the responsibility of studying any and all matters pertaining to the problems and opportunities of older people.

In accordance with this responsibility, the committee engages in the following types of activities:

Serving as focal point in the Senate for matters related to the Nation's older citizens;

Making comprehensive studies and investigations into issues affecting older people, including, but not limited to: health, retirement income, employment, tax policy, housing, transportation, energy assistance, crime, and social services;

Submitting its findings and recommendations for legislation to the Senate;

Conducting oversight of agencies and programs designed to assist older people; and

Publishing materials of assistance to those interested in public policies which relate to the elderly.

Senate Resolution 4, 95th Congress, as Amended

[Special Committee on Aging]

SEC. 104. (a)(1) There is established a Special Committee on Aging (hereafter in this section referred to as the "special committee") which shall consist of nineteen members. The members and chairman of the special committee shall be appointed in the same manner and at the same time as the members and chairman of the standing committee of the Senate. After the date on which the majority and minority members of the special committee are initially appointed on or after the effective date of title I of the Committee System Reorganization Amendments of 1977, each time a vacancy occurs in the membership of the special committee, the number of members of the special committee shall be reduced by one until the number of members of the special committee consists of nine Senators.

(2) For purposes of paragraph 1 of rule XXV; paragraph 1, 7(a)(1)-(2), 9, and 10(a) of rule XXVI; and paragraphs 1 (a)-(d), and 2 (a) and (d) of rule XXVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate; and for purposes of section 202 (i) and (j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the special committee shall be treated as a standing committee of the Senate.

(b)(1) It shall be the duty of the special committee to conduct a continuing study of any and all matters pertaining to problems and opportunities of older people, including, but not limited to, problems and opportunities of maintaining health, of assuring adequate income, of finding employment, of engaging in productive and re-

warding activity, of securing proper housing, and, when necessary, of obtaining care or assistance. No proposed legislation shall be referred to such committee, and such committee shall not have power to report by bill, or otherwise have legislative jurisdiction.

(2) The special committee shall, from time to time (but not less often than once each year), report to the Senate the results of the study conducted pursuant to paragraph (1), together with such recommendation as it considers appropriate.

(c)(1) For the purposes of this section, the special committee is authorized, in its discretion, (A) to make investigations into any matter within its jurisdiction, (B) to make expenditures from the contingent funds of the Senate, (C) to employ personnel, (D) to hold hearings, (E) to sit and act at any time or place during the sessions, recesses, and adjourned periods of the Senate, (F) to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance of witnesses and the production of correspondence, books, papers, and documents, (G) to take depositions and other testimony, (H) to procure the services of individual consultants or organizations thereof, in accordance with the provisions of section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, and (I) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(2) The chairman of the special committee or any member thereof may administer oaths to witnesses. (3) Subpoenas authorized by the special committee may be issued over the signatures of the chairman, or any member of the special committee designated by the chairman, and may be served by any person designated by the chairman or the member signing the subpoena.

(d) All records and papers of the temporary Special Committee on Aging established by Senate Resolution 33, Eighty-seventh Congress, are transferred to the special committee.

(e) (Executed.)

Work of Committee

The Special Committee on Aging has no legislative authority. As a result, no bills are referred to it nor does the committee have the authority to report measures. As a study, oversight, and investigative committee, its activities overlap almost every Senate committee. The concerns of the aged cut across the jurisdictions of numerous committees. Perhaps the special committee's overlaps are most pronounced with the Subcommittee on Aging of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources; the Finance Committee, regarding health and social security matters; the Commerce Committee, over consumer issues such as prescription drug advertising; and the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, with respect to housing for the aged.

The Special Committee on Aging, established in 1961, was granted permanent status in a resolution adopted by the Senate on February 1, 1977.