

## **Chronology of Changes in the Size of the Committee on the Judiciary**

When the House Judiciary Committee was first created on June 3, 1813, during the 13th Congress, it was composed of seven Members. At that time and until 1975, the House set size limitations in its Rules for the numbers of members of the standing committees. Since January 3, 1975, the House Rules have not fixed the size of committees, but have assigned to the party organizations the duty of determining the size of each committee.

The size of the Judiciary Committee has fluctuated over the years ranging from seven members during the 13th Congress to a high of 38 Members in the 92d and 93d Congresses. The first change in the size of the committee came during the 23d Congress, on December 5, 1833, when the rule that fixed the number and size of House committees was amended to permit those committees consisting of seven members to increase to nine members. The Judiciary Committee had nine members until the 44th Congress (1875–1877) when it had 11 members.

Eleven members continued to serve on the committee until the 46th Congress (1879–1881) when it had 15 members. The next change in the committee's size occurred in the 53d Congress (1891–1893) when the committee had 17 members. The membership remained at 17 until the 59th Congress (1905–1907) when it increased to 18.

In the 62d Congress (1911–1913) the committee had 21 members, the size it kept until the 69th Congress (1925–1927) when it expanded to 23 members. Between the 73d Congress (1933–1935) and the 80th Congress (1947–1949), the committee grew from 25 members to 27. The committee expanded to 32 members in the 85th Congress (1957–1959), 35 in the 88th Congress (1963–1965), and 38 members in the 92d and 93d Congresses (1971–1974).

In the 94th Congress (1975–1977), the first Congress in which committee size was not fixed by the House Rules, 34 members were elected to the committee. The membership remained at 34 until the 96th Congress (1979–1981) when it changed to 31. In the first session of the 97th Congress, the committee was composed of 28 members.

### **Major Investigations, Oversight Hearings, and Related Activities**

In addition to its normal legislative functions the House Committee on the Judiciary has conducted several major oversight studies and investigations since the 80th Congress. Oversight includes meetings and hearings held for one of the following purposes: (1) To analyze the effectiveness of legislative programs and policies; (2) to review and attempt to regulate unacceptable forms of bureaucratic behavior; (3) to determine whether the Federal Government is implementing the policy objectives of Congress; and (4) to analyze national and international problems requiring Federal action. (Hearings or meetings held to consider or draft legislation or to authorize programs are deemed not to constitute oversight—even though some oversight of a program or agency may legitimately be a byproduct of the authorization and legislative process.)