

LEGISLATIVE REORGANIZATION ACTS

PROVISIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1946 APPLICABLE TO BOTH HOUSES

SECTION 132 OF THE LEGISLATIVE REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1946

(2 U.S.C. 198)

Sec. 132. (a) Unless otherwise provided by the Congress,
the two Houses shall—

§ 1106. Congressional
adjournment.

(1) adjourn sine die not later than July 31 of each
year; or

(2) in the case of an odd-numbered year, provide,
not later than July 31 of such year, by concurrent res-
olution adopted in each House by rollcall vote, for the
adjournment of the two Houses from that Friday in
August which occurs at least thirty days before the
first Monday in September (Labor Day) of such year
to the second day after Labor Day.

(b) This section shall not be applicable in any year if on
July 31 of such year a state of war exists pursuant to a
declaration of war by the Congress.

The present form of this section is derived from the Legislative Reorgani-
zation Act of 1970 (sec. 461; 84 Stat. 1140). Before that revision, the
1946 Act (60 Stat. 812) provided for adjournment sine die of the two Houses
not later than the last day of July each year except during time of war
or a national emergency proclaimed by the President. Presidentially de-
clared emergencies of May 8, 1939, May 27, 1941, and December 16, 1950,
negated operation of the provision (see Speaker Rayburn, Aug. 1, 1949,
p. 10486; Aug. 2, 1949, p. 10591; Aug. 4, 1949, p. 10778).

The Committee on Rules has jurisdiction of matters relative to recesses
and final adjournment of Congress (clause 1(n)(2) of rule X).

Under this provision of law, a concurrent resolution providing in an odd-
numbered year for an adjournment of the two Houses
from the first Friday in August until the second day
after Labor Day or until notified to reassemble pursu-
ant to a joint agreement of the Leadership of the two Houses is called

§ 1106. Not a statutory
adjournment sine die.

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§ 1107

up as privileged, requires a ye and nay vote for adoption (July 30, 1973, p. 26657), and is not debatable (July 31, 1991, p. 20675); but the House may adjourn by simple motion on July 31 to meet on August 1 (July 31, 1991, p. 20677). In even-numbered years, and some odd-numbered years, the House has agreed to concurrent resolutions waiving the provisions of this law to provide that the two Houses shall not adjourn for more than three days or sine die until they have adopted a concurrent resolution to that effect (July 25, 1972, p. 25145; July 24, 1974, p. 25008; July 29, 1982, pp. 18562, 18563; July 30, 1986, p. 18146; July 29, 1994, p. 18615; July 30, 1999, p. 18763). To obviate the necessity to adopt a concurrent resolution waiving the requirement in section 132 of Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the House has included the language “in consonance with section 132(a)” in its concurrent resolutions providing for an August recess (*e.g.*, July 31, 1997, p. 17018; July 25, 2003, p. —).

SECTION 141 OF THE LEGISLATIVE REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1946

(2 U.S.C. 145a)

Sec. 141. The Librarian of the Library of Congress is authorized and directed to have bound at the end of each session of Congress the printed hearings of testimony taken by each committee of the Congress at the preceding session.

§ 1107. Preservation of committee hearings.

This provision became effective on August 2, 1946.