
JOINT AND SELECT COMMITTEES
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JOINT AND SELECT COMMITTEES

§ 983-984.

JOINT COMMITTEES

The Joint Economic Committee is composed of 10 members of the Senate and 10 members of the House. The 10 Representatives are appointed by the Speaker: six from the majority and four from the minority. The committee conducts a continuing study of matters relating to the Economic Report made by the President and studies means of promoting the national policy on employment as outlined in the Employment Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1021). The committee is required to file, not later than March 1 of each year, a report with the Senate and the House containing its findings and recommendations on each of the main recommendations made by the President in the Economic Report. It is authorized to hold hearings and make other reports to the Congress and to issue a monthly publication on economic conditions (15 U.S.C. 1024-1025). The Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978 (sec. 302, P.L. 95-523) requires the Joint Committee to review and analyze the short-term and medium-term goals set forth in the Economic Report and to hold hearings on the Report to hear testimony from Members of Congress and other groups. Within 30 days after receipt of the Report by the Congress, standing committees with legislative jurisdiction and joint committees may submit reports to the joint committee with views and recommendations on matters within their jurisdiction. On or before each March 15, a majority of the members of the joint committee are required to submit a report to the Senate and House Budget Committees, including findings, recommendations, and appropriate analyses with respect to each of the short-term and medium-term goals set forth in the Economic Report.

The Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation is composed of five members of the Senate and five members of the House. The House members, three from the majority and two from the minority, are chosen by the Committee on Ways and Means from the membership of that committee. The Joint Committee investigates the operation and effects of the Federal system of internal revenue taxation. It is authorized to hold hearings at times and places it deems advisable, has subpoena powers, and reports

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§ 985-§ 986

to the Committee on Ways and Means, and, in its discretion, directly to the House (26 U.S.C. 8001-8023).

The Joint Committee of Congress on the Library is composed of five members of the Senate and five members of the House.

§ 985. Joint Committee of Congress on the Library. The Chairman of the Committee on House Oversight is a member and four other members of that committee are elected by House resolution. The committee considers proposals concerning the management and expansion of the Library of Congress, the development and maintenance of the Botanic Gardens, the receipt of gifts for the benefit of the Library, and certain matters relating to placing of statues and other works of art in the Capitol (2 U.S.C. 132b).

The House elects four members of the Committee on House Oversight to serve with the chairman of that committee on the

§ 986. Joint Committee on Printing. Joint Committee on Printing, together with the chairman and four other members of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration (44 U.S.C. 101). A member of the joint committee who is reelected to the succeeding Congress continues to serve until a successor is chosen, and a projected vacancy may be filled on the last day of a Congress by appointment (44 U.S.C. 102). The committee adopts and employs measures necessary to remedy inefficiencies or waste in the public printing, binding, and distribution of Government publications. It has control of the arrangement and style of the Congressional Record (44 U.S.C. 901-910). The Joint Committee on Printing is authorized and directed to provide for printing in the Daily Record the legislative program for the day, together with a list of congressional committee meetings and hearings, and the place of meeting and subject matter; and to cause a brief résumé of congressional activities for the previous day to be incorporated in the Record, together with an index of its contents. Such data shall be prepared under the supervision of the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, respectively.

SELECT COMMITTEES

The 103d Congress did not re-establish Select Committees on Hunger, on Children, Youth, and Families, on Narcotics Abuse and Control, or on Aging (formerly established in standing rule X). As of the date of the preface to this edition, the 104th Congress has established no select committee other than the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (rule XLVIII).

SERVICES TO MEMBERS

HOUSE OFFICES

§ 987-§ 991

SERVICES TO MEMBERS

§ 987. Franking. Members may send through the mails, under their frank, certain documents and materials as provided by 39 U.S.C. 3210 *et seq.*, subject to the limitations prescribed in rule XLVI, *supra*.

§ 988. Room assignments. Rooms in the office buildings of the House of Representatives are assigned to Members pursuant to the law of May 28, 1908 (40 U.S.C. 177-184) and pursuant to regulations of the House Office Building Commission (see regulations promulgated June 23, 1990, p. —).

§ 989. General Accounting Office. The preparation, utilization, and distribution (to committees and members) of reports by the General Accounting Office, and its authority to assign its employees to duty with congressional committees, are regulated by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, sections 231-236 (84 Stat. 1140; 31 U.S.C. 1172-1176).

§ 990. Consultants and training. Committees may, with the approval of the Committee on House Oversight, procure the temporary or intermittent services of consultants and obtain specialized training for professional staff, subject to expense resolutions, under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, sections 303 and 304 (84 Stat. 1140; 2 U.S.C. 72a (i) and (j)).

HOUSE OFFICES

§ 991. Congressional Research Service. The organization of the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress and its responsibilities to assist Members and committees were provided in the Legislative Reorganization Acts of 1946 and 1970 (60 Stat. 836; 84 Stat. 1140; 2 U.S.C. 166).

HOUSE OFFICES

§ 992–§ 996a

§ 992. Legislative Counsel. The Office of the Legislative Counsel of the House of Representatives evolved from a single Legislative Drafting Service established for the Congress by the Act of February 24, 1919 (40 Stat. 1057, 1141). The currently applicable provisions of law setting forth the purpose and functions of the Office and providing for its administration are contained in title V of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 (P.L. 91–510; 2 U.S.C. 281 *et seq.*) as amended by the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1972 (P.L. 92–51). As stated in section 502 of such title V, the purpose of the Office is to advise and assist the House of Representatives, and its committees and Members, in the achievement of a clear, faithful, and coherent expression of legislative policies.

§ 994. Law Revision Counsel. The Office of the Law Revision Counsel, to develop a codification of the laws of the United States, was authorized by the Committee Reform Amendments of 1974, section 205 (H. Res. 988, 93d Cong., Oct. 8, 1974, p. 34470, as made permanent law by P.L. 93–544 (2 U.S.C. 285)).

§ 995. Technology Assessment. The Office of Technology Assessment, to assist the Congress in indicating the beneficial and adverse impacts of the application of technology, was authorized by the Technology Assessment Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 472 *et seq.*).

§ 996. Office of the Parliamentarian. A Parliamentarian has been appointed by the Speaker in every Congress since 1927. In the 95th Congress the House formally and permanently established an Office of the Parliamentarian to be managed, supervised, and administered by a non-partisan Parliamentarian appointed by the Speaker (H. Res. 502, Apr. 20, 1977, p. 11415, made permanent law by sec. 115 of P.L. 95–94; see 2 U.S.C. 287 *et seq.*). The compilation and preparation of the precedents of the House of Representatives were authorized by section 208 of the Committee Reform Amendments of 1974 (H. Res. 988, 93d Cong., Oct. 8, 1974, p. 34470, made permanent law by P.L. 93–554, 2 U.S.C. 28a), and the printing and distribution of the precedents were authorized by Public Law 94–551 (2 U.S.C. 28b–e). See also 2 U.S.C. 28, 29.

§ 996a. Office of the Historian of the House. An Office for the Bicentennial was established in the 97th Congress as a new clause 10 of rule I (H. Res. 621, Dec. 17, 1982, p. 31951). The Office coordinated the planning of the commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the House of Representatives. The management, supervision, and administration of the Office is under the direction of the Speaker and is staffed by a professional historian to be appointed by the Speaker on a non-partisan basis. The Office was removed from the standing rules and established by law in P.L. 98–367. In the 101st Congress, an Office of the Historian of the House of Representatives was established in clause 10 of rule I (H. Res. 5, Jan. 3, 1989, p. 72).

HOUSE OFFICES

§ 996b

At its organization the 104th Congress established an office to assist the Speaker in the management of legislative activity on the floor of the House in the following terms:

§ 996b. Office of Floor Assistants.

“There is established in the House of Representatives an office to be known as the Speaker’s Office for Legislative Floor Activities. The Speaker shall appoint and set the annual rate of pay for employees of the Office. The Office shall have the responsibility of assisting the Speaker in the management of legislative floor activity.”

(sec. 223(b), H. Res. 6, 104th Cong., Jan. 4, 1995, p. —).

EARLY ORGANIZATION OF THE HOUSE

[FROM THE COMMITTEE REFORM AMENDMENTS OF 1974,
MADE PERMANENT LAW IN 2 U.S.C. 29a]

(a)(1) The majority leader or minority leader of the House of Representatives after consultation with the Speaker may at any time during any even-numbered year call a caucus or conference, to begin on or after the first day of December and conclude on or before the twentieth day of December in such year and to be attended by all incumbent Members of his or her political party who have been reelected to the ensuing Congress and all other Members-elect of such party, for the purpose of taking all steps necessary to achieve the prompt organization of the Members and Members-elect of such party for the ensuing Congress.

§ 997. December
caucuses.

(2) If the majority leader or minority leader calls an organizational caucus or conference under paragraph (1), he or she shall file with the Clerk of the House a written notice designating the date upon which the caucus or conference is to convene. As soon as possible after the election of Members to the ensuing Congress, the Clerk shall furnish each Member-elect of the party involved with appropriate written notification of the caucus or conference.

(3) If a vacancy occurs in the office of majority leader or minority leader during any even-numbered year (and has not been filled), the chairman of the caucus or conference of the party involved for the current Congress may call an organizational caucus or conference under paragraph (1) by filing written notice thereof as provided by paragraph (2).

(b)(1)(A) Each Member-elect (other than an incumbent Member reelected to the ensuing Congress) who attends a caucus or conference called under subsection (a), and each incumbent Member reelected to the ensuing Congress who attends any such caucus or conference convening after the adjournment sine die of the Congress in the year involved, shall be paid for one round trip between his or her place

of residence in the district which he or she represents and Washington, District of Columbia, for the purpose of attending such caucus or conference. Payment shall be made through the issuance of a transportation request form to each such Member-elect or incumbent Member by the Finance Office of the House before such caucus or conference.

(B) Each Member-elect (other than an incumbent Member reelected to the ensuing Congress) who attends a caucus or conference called under subsection (a) shall in addition be reimbursed on a per diem or other basis for expenses incurred in connection with his or her attendance at such caucus or conference for a period not to exceed the shorter of the following—

- (i) the period beginning with the day before the designated date upon which such caucus or conference is to convene and ending with the day after the date of the final adjournment of such caucus or conference; or
- (ii) fourteen days.

(2) Payments and reimbursements to Members-elect under paragraph (1) shall be made as provided (with respect to Members) in the regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Oversight with respect to travel and other expenses of committees and Members. Reimbursements shall be paid on special voucher forms prescribed by the Committee on House Oversight.

(c) The contingent fund of the House is made available to carry out the purposes of this section.

[FROM H. RES. 10, 94TH CONGRESS, MADE PERMANENT LAW
IN 2 U.S.C. 29a]

Resolved, That (a) each Member-elect (other than an incumbent Member reelected to the ensuing Congress) who attends a caucus or conference called under section 202(a) of House Resolution 988, Ninety-third Congress, and each incumbent Member reelected to the ensuing Congress who attends any such caucus or conference convening after the adjournment sine die of the Congress in the year involved, shall be entitled to designate one staff person to be paid for one round trip between that person's place of residence, provided such place of residence is in the district which the Member-elect or incumbent Member represents, and Washington, District of Columbia, for the purpose of accompanying that Member-elect or incumbent Member to such caucus or conference.

(b) Each Member-elect (other than an incumbent Member reelected to the ensuing Congress) who attends a caucus or conference called under such section 202(a) shall be entitled to designate one staff person who shall in addition be reimbursed on a per diem or other basis for expenses incurred in accompanying the Member-elect at the time of such caucus or conference for a period not to exceed the shorter of the following—

- (i) the period beginning with the day before the designated date upon which such caucus or conference is to convene and ending with the day after the date of the final adjournment of such caucus or conference; or
- (ii) fourteen days.

SEC. 2. (a) Payments and reimbursements to staff persons under the first section of this resolution shall be made as provided (with respect to staff) in the regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Oversight with respect to travel and other expenses of staff. Reimbursements shall be paid on special voucher forms prescribed by the Committee on House Oversight.

(b) Additional funds, if any, for staff allowances and office space for use by Members-elect (other than an incumbent Member reelected to the ensuing Congress) shall be authorized by the Committee on House Oversight.