

lines for an abortion in a state that does not have parental consent or notification laws; and legislation making it a federal crime to cause the death of, or bodily injury to, a child who is in utero.

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. The Committee Reform Amendments of 1974 abolished the size specifications for Committees. 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 in the 13th Congress to a high of 40 Members during the 109th Congress. The first change in the size of the Committee came during the 23rd 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 53rd Congress (1891–1893)

The Room History of the House Committee on the Judiciary

On June 3, 1813, a standing Committee on the Judiciary was established by the House of Representatives to consider legislation relating to judicial proceedings. However, several years elapsed before the Committee would have a dedicated room to conduct business.

In 1877, the Judiciary Committee occupied Room 41 in the Capitol, which was located in the lackluster attic story. To accommodate the growing needs of the Committee, the members moved in 1881 to an equally uninspiring, but larger location, Room 29, in the south corridor of the gallery floor of the Capitol. However, in 1908, Judiciary Committee Chairman John J. Jenkins (WI), agreed to vacate the south corridor, and to take in lieu the Speaker's private room and an adjoining one, Rooms 39 and 40, located on the west corridor. The Committee occupied this high profile space for over 40 years. In the 1950s, the Judiciary Committee moved to the newly constructed Cannon House Office Building, settling in Room 463. The Committee occupied rooms on several floors of the Cannon House Office Building during the 1950s before making its final move to the Rayburn House Office Building in the late 1960s when it settled into the space it still retains today.

Today, the main Committee hearing room is located on the first floor of the Rayburn House Office Building Room 2141. However, over the years, the Committee has grown substantially, as has the space allotted to it. Today, the Committee rooms house five subcommittees, three minority staff offices, three hearing rooms (including the main room, 2141 Rayburn), a computer systems office, a publication and printing office, and a library. These rooms are spread throughout the Rayburn, the Cannon, and the Ford House Office Buildings.

when the Committee had 17 members. The membership remained at 17 until the 59th Congress (1905–1907), when it increased to 18.

In the 62nd 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 73rd 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 92nd and 93rd Congresses (1971–1975).

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 was reduced to 31. In the 97th Congress (1981–1983), the Committee's size was again reduced, to 28 members.

The 98th Congress (1983–1985) saw membership in the Committee increase to 31 members. From the 99th Congress through the 105th Congress (1985–1999), membership on the Committee remained constant at 35 members, with the exception of the 102nd Congress (1991–1993), where there were 34 members on the Committee.

The Committee's size grew in the 106th Congress (1999–2001) to 37 members and again in the 107th Congress (2001–2003) to 38 members. Despite a small reduction in the 108th Congress (to 37 members), the Committee's size grew again with the 109th Congress (2005–2007) to its current level of 40 members.