



Committee System Rules Changes in the House, 110th Congress

Judy Schneider
Specialist on the Congress

January 25, 2007

Congressional Research Service

7-5700

www.crs.gov

RS22580

Summary

This report details changes in the committee system contained in H.Res. 6, the Rules of the House for the 110th Congress, agreed to by the House January 4, 2007. The report will not be updated unless further rules changes for the 110th Congress are adopted.

Contents

Committee Organization and Structure 1

 Committee Names..... 1

 Jurisdiction of the Intelligence Committee 1

 Other Jurisdictional Policies 1

 Subcommittees 1

Committee Procedure..... 1

 Depositions 1

 Rules Committee Reports 2

Earmark Reform..... 2

Contacts

Author Contact Information 2

Committee Organization and Structure

Committee Names

H.Res. 6 renamed five committees. The name of the Committee on Education and the Workforce was changed to the Committee on Education and Labor. The name of the Committee on International Relations was changed to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The name of the Committee on Resources was changed to the Committee on Natural Resources. The name of the Committee on Government Reform was changed to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The name of the Committee on Science was changed to the Committee on Science and Technology.

Jurisdiction of the Intelligence Committee

The Rule X, clause 11 jurisdiction of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence was updated to reflect the overhaul of the intelligence community, including the creation of the director of national intelligence.

Other Jurisdictional Policies

Pursuant to a statement inserted in the *Congressional Record* by Rules Committee Chairwoman Louise Slaughter during the debate on H.Res. 6, the jurisdiction of the Committee on Small Business was reaffirmed to include the Small Business Administration and its programs, as well as small business matters related to the Regulatory Flexibility Act and the Paperwork Reduction Act. Other programs and initiatives that address small businesses outside the confines of those acts were referenced as well.

Also inserted in the *Congressional Record* during debate on H.Res. 6 was a memorandum of understanding between the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure detailing the jurisdictional agreement related to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and to port security.

Subcommittees

House Rule X, clause 5(d), which generally limits committees to five subcommittees was waived for three committees. The Armed Services Committee was permitted to have seven subcommittees; the Foreign Affairs Committee was permitted to have seven subcommittees; and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee was permitted to have six subcommittees.

Committee Procedure

Depositions

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform was authorized to adopt a committee rule that authorized and regulated the taking of depositions by a Member or counsel of the committee, including depositions in response to a subpoena. The rules resolution permitted the new committee rule to require those being deposed to subscribe to an oath. It also required the

committee rule to provide the minority with equitable treatment, by providing notice of such a proceeding and a reasonable opportunity to participate.

Rules Committee Reports

The Rules Committee was allowed to publish the record votes taken during committee consideration in committee reports and through other means such as the Internet. The Rules Committee report was shielded from a point of order if the report was filed without a complete list of record votes taken during consideration of a special rule.

Earmark Reform

Committees of jurisdiction were required to publish lists of earmarks, limited tax benefits, and limited tariff benefits contained in any reported bill, unreported bill, manager's amendment, or conference report that comes to the House floor.

Author Contact Information

(name redacted)
Specialist on the Congress
-redacted-@crs.loc.gov, 7-....

EveryCRSReport.com

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) is a federal legislative branch agency, housed inside the Library of Congress, charged with providing the United States Congress non-partisan advice on issues that may come before Congress.

EveryCRSReport.com republishes CRS reports that are available to all Congressional staff. The reports are not classified, and Members of Congress routinely make individual reports available to the public.

Prior to our republication, we redacted names, phone numbers and email addresses of analysts who produced the reports. We also added this page to the report. We have not intentionally made any other changes to any report published on EveryCRSReport.com.

CRS reports, as a work of the United States government, are not subject to copyright protection in the United States. Any CRS report may be reproduced and distributed in its entirety without permission from CRS. However, as a CRS report may include copyrighted images or material from a third party, you may need to obtain permission of the copyright holder if you wish to copy or otherwise use copyrighted material.

Information in a CRS report should not be relied upon for purposes other than public understanding of information that has been provided by CRS to members of Congress in connection with CRS' institutional role.

EveryCRSReport.com is not a government website and is not affiliated with CRS. We do not claim copyright on any CRS report we have republished.