

**SUMMARY OF HOUSE COMMITTEE REFORMS**  
**PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE**

- (1) **Committee Jurisdiction Realignment** -- The Rules Committee would be directed to study and report to the House within one year its recommendations for realigning committee jurisdictions along more rational and functional lines to eliminate duplication, overlap and inefficiencies in the present system.
- (2) **Oversight Reform** -- Committees would be required to formally adopt and submit to the House Administration Committee by March 1st of the first session their oversight plans for that Congress. It would not be in order to consider the funding resolution for any committee which does not submit its oversight plans as required. The House Administration Committee, after consultation with the majority and minority leaders, would report the plans to the House by March 15th together with its recommendations, and those of the joint leadership group to assure coordination between committees. The Speaker would be authorized to appoint ad hoc oversight committees for specific tasks from the membership of committees with shared jurisdiction. Committee would be required to include an oversight section in their final activity report at the end of a Congress.
- (3) **Elimination of Joint Bill Referral** -- The joint referral of bills to two or more committees would be abolished, while split and sequential referrals would be retained, subject to time limits and designation by the Speaker of a committee of principal jurisdiction.
- (4) **Early Committee Organization** -- Committees must be elected within seven legislative days of the convening of a new Congress and must hold their organizational meeting not later than three legislative days after their election.
- (5) **Party Ratios** -- The party ratios on committees would be required to reflect that of the full House (except for the Standards Committee which is bipartisan). The requirement would extend to select and conference committees as well.
- (6) **Subcommittee Limits** -- No committee (except Appropriations) could have more than six subcommittees, and no Member could have more than four subcommittee assignments.
- (7) **Proxy Voting Ban** -- All proxy voting on committees would be prohibited.
- (8) **Open Committee Meetings** -- Committee meetings, which can now be closed for any reason, could only be closed for national security, personal privacy, or personnel reasons.

## Summary/2

- (9) **Majority Quorums** -- A majority of the membership of a committee would be required for the transaction of any business.
- (10) **Report Accountability** -- Committee reports on bills would be required to include the names of those members voting for and against reporting a bill or, in the case of a non-record vote, the names of those members actually present when the bill is ordered reported.
- (11) **Committee Documents** -- Any committee prints or documents to be made available to the public which have not been approved by the committee must contain a disclaimer to that effect on their cover, may not contain the names of committee members other than the chairman authorizing the printing, and may not be made public until at least three days after they have been circulated to committee members.
- (12) **Foreign Travel Reports** -- All Members and staff taking part in foreign travel at House expense would be required to disclose their official itinerary (including meetings, interviews, functions, inspections) by country and date, in addition to currently required expense disclosure, and such reports would be available for public inspection in the offices of each committee not later than 60-days after the completion of travel.
- (13) **Committee Staffing** -- Committee funding resolutions could not be considered until the House has first adopted a resolution from the House Administration Committee setting an overall limit on committee staffing for the session. The minority would not be entitled to up to one-third of the investigative staff funds on request. The overall committee staff limit for the 102nd Congress could not be more than 90% of the total at the end of the 101st Congress.
- (14) **Intelligence Committee Oath** -- Members and staff of the Select Committee on Intelligence would be required to take an oath that they will not directly or indirectly disclose to any unauthorized person any classified information received in the course of their duties except by the approval of the committee or of the House.

(Note: For the full text of these amendments to House Rules, see the Congressional Record of January 3, 1991, pp. H 9-13.)