

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 1360

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to guarantee reasonable time prior to the consideration of legislation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 13, 2010

Mr. KRATOVL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to guarantee reasonable time prior to the consideration of legislation.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. PURPOSE.**

3 The purpose of this resolution is to—

4 (1) allow for a careful study of the facts and
5 potential impacts of legislative actions;

6 (2) restore public trust in elected representa-
7 tives and the legislative process;

8 (3) foster bipartisanship;

1 (4) improve the quality of legislation by ena-
2 bling the close scrutiny of issues that the gravity of
3 our Nation’s challenges require and deserve; and

4 (5) fulfill the promise of our Republic by pro-
5 viding the opportunities and time for public partici-
6 pation that empowers Members of Congress to rep-
7 resent their constituents as effectively as possible;
8 by amending the Rules of the House of Representatives
9 to improve Americans’ representation in their Government
10 and the legislative process.

11 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO RULE XIII REGARDING AVAIL-**
12 **ABILITY OF MEASURES, MATTERS, AND RE-**
13 **PORTS.**

14 (a) Clause 4 of rule XIII of the Rules of the House
15 of Representatives is amended—

16 (1) in its side heading, by inserting “***meas-***
17 ***ures, matters, and***” before “***reports***”;

18 (2) in paragraph (a), by amending subpara-
19 graph (1) to read as follows:

20 “(1) It shall not be in order to consider in the House
21 a measure or matter until 72 (excluding Saturdays, Sun-
22 days, and holidays, except for those hours when the House
23 is in session on such a day) hours after the legislation,
24 report, measure, or matter has been available on the Li-
25 brary of Congress website, www.thomas.gov (and, if the

1 measure or matter is reported by one or more committees,
2 the text of all accompanying reports) has been made avail-
3 able pursuant to subparagraph (2) to Members, Delegates,
4 the Resident Commissioner, and the public.”; and

5 (3) by amending subparagraph (2) to read as
6 follows:

7 “(2) The full text of the measure or matter and each
8 committee report thereon shall be posted continuously on
9 the Library of Congress website, www.thomas.gov, in such
10 a manner that they are accessible using existing tech-
11 nology, anonymously and at no cost to the public, in a
12 format that is searchable by text.”.

13 (b) Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Represent-
14 atives is further amended—

15 (1) in clause 5(b), by striking “and the Resi-
16 dent Commissioner” and inserting “the Resident
17 Commissioner, and the public”;

18 (2) in clause 6(a), by striking “may not be
19 called up for consideration on the same day it is pre-
20 sented to the House” and inserting “may not be
21 called up in the first 72 hours after is it presented
22 to the House”; and

23 (3) in clause 6(c), by inserting before the period
24 “; or a rule or order proposing a waiver of clause
25 4(a) of this rule or of clause 8(a) or 8(b) of rule

1 XXII, unless a question of consideration of the rule
2 is adopted by a vote of two-thirds of the Members
3 voting, a quorum being present”.

4 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO RULE XXII REGARDING AVAIL-**
5 **ABILITY OF CONFERENCE REPORTS AND**
6 **AMENDMENTS REPORTED IN DISAGREE-**
7 **MENT.**

8 Clause 8 of rule XXII of the Rules of the House of
9 Representatives is amended—

10 (1) by striking paragraph (a) and inserting the
11 following new paragraph:

12 “(a)(1) It shall not be in order to consider a con-
13 ference report until 72 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sun-
14 days and holidays except when the House is in session on
15 such a day) after the conference report and the accom-
16 panying joint explanatory statement have been available
17 to Members, Delegates, the Resident Commissioner, and
18 the public pursuant to subparagraph (2). The preceding
19 sentence may be waived or suspended only by the affirma-
20 tive vote of two-thirds of the Members, a quorum being
21 present.

22 “(2) Without further amendment before floor consid-
23 eration, the full texts of the conference report and the ac-
24 companying signed joint explanatory statement shall be
25 posted continuously on the Library of Congress website,

1 www.thomas.gov, in such a manner that they are acces-
2 sible using existing technology, anonymously and at no
3 cost to the public, in a format that can be searched by
4 text.”; and

5 (2) in paragraph (b), by striking subparagraphs
6 (1) and (2) and inserting the following new subpara-
7 graphs:

8 “(1) It shall not be in order to consider a motion to
9 dispose of a Senate amendment reported in disagreement
10 by a conference committee until at least 72 hours (exclud-
11 ing Saturdays, Sundays and holidays except when the
12 House is in session on such a day) after the report in dis-
13 agreement and any accompanying statement have been
14 available to Members, Delegates, the Resident Commis-
15 sioner, and the public pursuant to subparagraph (2). The
16 preceding sentence may be waived or suspended only by
17 the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members, a
18 quorum being present.

19 “(2) Without further amendment before floor consid-
20 eration, the full texts of a Senate amendment reported in
21 disagreement and any accompanying statement shall be
22 posted continuously on the Library of Congress website,
23 www.thomas.gov, in such a manner that they are acces-
24 sible using existing technology, anonymously and at no

1 cost to the public, in a format that can be searched by
2 text.”.

3 **SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO RULE XIX REGARDING AVAIL-**
4 **ABILITY OF MOTIONS TO RECOMMIT.**

5 Clause 2(a) of rule XIX of the Rules of the House
6 of Representatives is amended by adding at the end the
7 following new sentences: “When a motion to recommit is
8 offered, the Chair shall put the question in the form ‘Shall
9 the House now consider the motion?’. If the question is
10 agreed to, then the House shall proceed to consideration.
11 If the question is not agreed to, the Chair shall postpone
12 further consideration of the motion in the House for 2
13 hours, and the text of any such motion to recommit shall
14 be available on the Internet website of the Committee on
15 Rules to Members, Delegates, the Resident Commissioner,
16 and the public during such 2-hour period.”.

17 **SEC. 5. AVAILABILITY OF AMENDMENTS.**

18 Rule XVI of the Rules of the House of Representa-
19 tives is amended by adding at the end the following new
20 clause:

21 **“Availability of amendments**

22 “9.(a) It shall not be in order to consider any amend-
23 ment to any bill or resolution unless the full text of the
24 amendment has been posted for 24 hours continuously on
25 the Library of Congress website, www.thomas.gov, in such

1 a manner that it is accessible using existing technology,
2 anonymously and at no cost to the public, in a format that
3 can be searched by text.

4 “(b) Paragraph (a) may be waived by the affirmative
5 vote of two-thirds of the Members, a quorum being
6 present.”.

7 **SEC. 6. AVAILABILITY OF LEGISLATION AND AMENDMENTS**
8 **IN COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES.**

9 Clause 2 of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Rep-
10 resentatives is amended by adding at the end the following
11 new paragraph:

12 “(q)(1) It shall not be in order in any committee, or
13 a subcommittee thereof, to consider any bill or resolution
14 until 72 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holi-
15 days, except for those hours when the House is in session
16 on such a day) after the text of such bill or resolution
17 has been made available to its Members, Delegates, the
18 Resident Commissioner, and the public on the Library of
19 Congress website, www.thomas.gov, in such a manner that
20 the bill or resolution is accessible using existing tech-
21 nology, anonymously and at no cost to the public, in a
22 format that is searchable by text.

23 “(2) Subparagraph (1) may be waived by the affirma-
24 tive vote of two-thirds of the Members, a quorum being
25 present.

1 “(3) Clause 9 of rule XVI (relating to the availability
2 of amendments) is applicable to the consideration of
3 amendments in any committee or subcommittee thereof.”.

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