

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 471

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require that rescission bills always be considered under open rules every year, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 17, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. PAUL, Mr. WALSH of Illinois, and Mr. WESTMORELAND) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require that rescission bills always be considered under open rules every year, and for other purposes.

Whereas a rescissions bill, which would cut Federal spending, should be brought to the House floor at the beginning of every fiscal quarter to give Congress the opportunity to cut and cancel unnecessary, wasteful, and bloated Government spending to eliminate the deficit;

Whereas any Federal appropriations that have not yet been spent would be on the table for cuts;

Whereas the House of Representatives would consider this spending-slashing bill under an open rule procedure that allows any Member of Congress to offer an amendment

to cut Federal spending and demand a recorded vote to hold Congress accountable;

Whereas in this spending-cutting process every single spending item would be up for reconsideration and no Member of Congress could make excuses for failing to cut spending because the process would provide a record of their actions;

Whereas the taxpayer money saved through this spending-cutting process will be returned to the general fund and cannot be used for new spending;

Whereas the process of cutting spending should be open to the public, by posting this spending-cutting bill and its amendments on the Internet, so that Americans can exercise their right to contact their Members of Congress and make their views known; and

Whereas this rescissions spending-cutting process will discipline Federal spending and save taxpayer money: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That (a) this resolution may be cited as the
2 “Cut the Unnecessary Tab Resolution” or the “CUT Res-
3 olution”.

4 (b) Clause 6(c) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House
5 of Representatives is amended by inserting before the pe-
6 riod the following “or a rule or order that would limit any
7 amendment that would otherwise be in order to a rescis-
8 sion bill”.

9 (c) Clause 4(b) of rule X of the Rules of the House
10 of Representatives is amended by inserting “(1)” after

1 “(b)”, by redesignating subparagraphs (1) through (6) as
2 subdivisions (A) through (F), respectively, and by adding
3 at the end the following:

4 “(2)(A) Whenever a rescission bill passes the House,
5 the Committee on the Budget shall immediately reduce the
6 applicable allocations under section 302(a) of the Congres-
7 sional Budget Act of 1974 by the total amount of reduc-
8 tions in budget authority and in outlays resulting from
9 such rescission bill.

10 “(B) As used in this subparagraph, the term ‘rescis-
11 sion bill’ means a bill or joint resolution which only re-
12 scinds, in whole or in part, budget authority and which
13 includes only titles corresponding to the most recently en-
14 acted appropriation bills that continue to include unobli-
15 gated balances.”.

16 (d) Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Represent-
17 atives is amended by adding at the end the following new
18 clause:

19 “8. (a) By February 1, May 1, July 30, and Novem-
20 ber 11 of each session, the majority leader shall introduce
21 a rescission bill. If such bill is not introduced by that date,
22 then whenever a rescission bill is introduced during a ses-
23 sion on or after that date, a motion to discharge the com-
24 mittee from its consideration shall be privileged after the

1 10-legislative day period beginning on that date for the
2 first 5 such bills.

3 “(b) It shall not be in order to offer any amendment
4 to a rescission bill except an amendment that increases
5 the amount of budget authority that such bill rescinds.

6 “(c) As used in this clause and in clause 6, the term
7 ‘rescission bill’ has the meaning given such term in clause
8 4(b)(2)(B) of rule X.”.

9 (e) Rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Represent-
10 atives is amended by adding at the end the following new
11 clause:

12 “11. (a) It shall not be in order to consider any re-
13 scission bill, or conference report thereon or amendment
14 thereto, unless—

15 “(1) in the case of such bill or conference re-
16 port, it is made available to Members and the gen-
17 eral public on the Internet for at least 48 hours be-
18 fore its consideration; or

19 “(2)(A) in the case of an amendment to such
20 rescission bill made in order by a rule, it is made
21 available to Members and the general public on the
22 Internet within one hour after the rule is filed; or

23 “(B) in the case of an amendment under an
24 open rule, it is made available to Members and the
25 general public on the Internet immediately after

1 being offered in a format that is searchable and
2 sortable.

3 “(3) No amendment to an amendment to a re-
4 scission bill shall be in order unless germane to the
5 amendment to which it is offered.”

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