

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 819

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to establish a maximum time for certain record votes and quorum calls.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 18, 2021

Ms. TENNEY (for herself, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. GUEST) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to establish a maximum time for certain record votes and quorum calls.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

3 This resolution may be cited as the “Vote Overtime
4 Tarnishes Everyone Resolution” or the “VOTE Resolu-
5 tion”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The House of Representatives finds the following:

8 (1) On November 5, 2021, at 8:12 a.m., a 15-
9 minute vote on a motion to adjourn was called that
10 Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy

1 Pelosi kept open for 7 hours and 6 minutes, the
2 longest in the modern history of the House of Rep-
3 resentatives.

4 (2) On November 5, 2021, at 3:43 p.m., a 15-
5 minute vote on a question of consideration of the
6 resolution was called that Speaker Nancy Pelosi kept
7 open for 4 hours and 35 minutes.

8 (3) While flexibility is important, the practice of
9 keeping the House of Representatives tied up in a
10 single vote indefinitely is unnecessary and prevents
11 Members of the House from effectively meeting their
12 multiple daily obligations to serve their constituents.

13 (4) For the House of Representatives to func-
14 tion well, the vote schedule and length of votes must
15 be clearly and accurately communicated to all Mem-
16 bers of the House to the furthest extent possible.

17 (5) The ability to keep a vote open indefinitely
18 is an enormous power grab by the Speaker, allowing
19 the Speaker to halt all work on the House floor for
20 as long as the Speaker wishes. It takes further
21 power away from the Members of the House and
22 centralizes it with House leadership.

1 **SEC. 3. REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO TIME FOR CER-**
2 **TAIN RECORD VOTES AND QUORUM CALLS.**

3 Rule XX of the Rules of the House of Representatives
4 is amended—

5 (1) in clause 2(a), by striking “the minimum
6 time for a record vote or quorum call by electronic
7 device shall be 15 minutes” and inserting “the time
8 permitted for a record vote or quorum call by elec-
9 tronic device shall be not less than 15 minutes and
10 not more than the number of minutes equal to two
11 times the number of minutes directed by the Speak-
12 er for such record vote or quorum call”;

13 (2) in clause 3, by adding at the end the fol-
14 lowing: “The time permitted for a record vote or
15 quorum call by call of the roll shall be not more than
16 the number of minutes equal to two times the num-
17 ber of minutes directed by the Speaker for such
18 record vote or quorum call.”; and

19 (3) in clause 4(a), by striking “The minimum
20 time for a record vote or quorum call by tellers shall
21 be 15 minutes” and inserting “The time permitted
22 for a record vote or quorum call by tellers shall be
23 not less than 15 minutes and not more than the
24 number of minutes equal to two times the number

- 1 of minutes directed by the Speaker for such record
- 2 vote or quorum call”.

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