

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 20

Limiting certain uses of the filibuster in the Senate to improve the legislative process.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 6, 2015

Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was ordered to lie over, under the rule

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## RESOLUTION

Limiting certain uses of the filibuster in the Senate to improve the legislative process.

1       *Resolved,*

2       **SECTION 1. MOTIONS TO PROCEED.**

3       Paragraph 1 of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of  
4 the Senate is amended by inserting at the end the fol-  
5 lowing new paragraph:

6       “Other than a motion made during the first 2 hours  
7 of a new legislative day as described in paragraph 2 of  
8 rule VIII, consideration of a motion to proceed to the con-  
9 sideration of any debatable matter, including debate on

1 any debatable motion or appeal in connection therewith,  
2 shall be limited to not more than 2 hours, to be equally  
3 divided between, and controlled by, the Majority Leader  
4 and the Minority Leader or their designees. This para-  
5 graph shall not apply to motions considered nondebatable  
6 by the Senate pursuant to rule or precedent.”.

7 **SEC. 2. EXTENDED DEBATE.**

8 Paragraph 2 of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of  
9 the Senate is amended by striking the second undesig-  
10 nated paragraph and inserting the following:

11 “Is it the sense of the Senate that the debate shall  
12 be brought to a close? And if that question shall be decided  
13 in the affirmative by three-fifths of the Senators duly cho-  
14 sen and sworn, except on a measure or motion to amend  
15 the Senate rules, in which case the necessary affirmative  
16 vote shall be two-thirds of the Senators voting, a quorum  
17 being present, then cloture has been invoked.

18 “If that question is on disposition of a bill or joint  
19 resolution, a resolution or concurrent resolution, a sub-  
20 stitute amendment for a bill or resolution, a motion with  
21 respect to amendments between the Houses, a conference  
22 report, or advice and consent to a nomination or treaty,  
23 and if such question shall be decided in the affirmative  
24 by a majority of Senators voting, a quorum being present,  
25 but less than three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and

1 sworn (or less than two-thirds of the Senators voting, a  
2 quorum being present, in the case of a measure or motion  
3 to amend the Senate rules), then it shall be in order for  
4 the Majority Leader (or his or her designee) to initiate  
5 a period of extended debate upon the measure, motion,  
6 or other matter pending before the Senate, or the unfin-  
7 ished business, in relation to which the motion to close  
8 debate was offered, in which case the period of extended  
9 debate shall begin one hour later.

10 “During a period of extended debate, such measure,  
11 motion, or other matter pending before the Senate, or the  
12 unfinished business, shall be the unfinished business to the  
13 exclusion of all other business, except on action or motion  
14 by the Majority Leader (or his or her designee).

15 “During a period of extended debate it shall not be  
16 in order for a Senator other than the Majority Leader (or  
17 his or her designee) to raise a question as to the presence  
18 of a quorum, except immediately prior to a vote or when  
19 it has been more than forty-eight hours since a quorum  
20 was demonstrated. If upon a roll call it shall be  
21 ascertained that a quorum is not present, then the Senate  
22 shall adjourn to a time previously decided by order of the  
23 Senate or, if no such time has been established, then to  
24 a time certain determined by the Majority Leader, after  
25 consultation with the Minority Leader.

1       “During a period of extended debate a motion to ad-  
2       journal or recess shall not be in order, unless made by the  
3       Majority Leader (or his or her designee) or if the absence  
4       of a quorum has been demonstrated. Notwithstanding  
5       paragraph 1 of rule XIX, there shall be no limit to the  
6       number of times a Senator may speak upon any question  
7       during a period of extended debate.

8       “If, during the course of extended debate, the Pre-  
9       siding Officer puts any question to a vote, the Majority  
10      Leader (or his or her designee) may postpone any such  
11      vote, which shall occur at a time determined by the Major-  
12      ity Leader, after consultation with the Minority Leader,  
13      but not later than the time at which a quorum is next  
14      demonstrated.

15      “If at any time during a period of extended debate  
16      no Senator seeks recognition, then the Presiding Officer  
17      shall inquire as to whether any Senator seeks recognition.  
18      If no Senator seeks recognition, then the Presiding Officer  
19      shall again put the question as to bringing debate to a  
20      close (and the Majority Leader or his or her designee may  
21      postpone such vote in accordance with the preceding para-  
22      graph), which shall be decided without further debate or  
23      intervening motion. If that question shall be decided in  
24      the affirmative by a majority of Senators voting, a quorum  
25      being present, then cloture has been invoked and the pe-

1 riod of extended debate has ended. If that question shall  
2 be decided in the negative by a majority of Senators vot-  
3 ing, a quorum being present, then the period of extended  
4 debate has ended.

5 “If cloture is invoked, then the measure, motion,  
6 other matter pending before the Senate, or the unfinished  
7 business, in relation to which the motion to close debate  
8 was offered, shall remain the unfinished business to the  
9 exclusion of all other business until disposed of.”.

10 **SEC. 3. POST-CLOTURE DEBATE ON NOMINATIONS.**

11 Paragraph 2 of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of  
12 the Senate is amended by striking “After no more than  
13 thirty hours of consideration of the measure, motion, or  
14 other matter on which cloture has been invoked, the Sen-  
15 ate shall proceed, without any further debate on any ques-  
16 tion, to vote on” in the fourth undesignated paragraph  
17 and inserting “After no more than 30 hours of consider-  
18 ation of the measure, motion, or other matter on which  
19 cloture has been invoked, except on the question of advice  
20 and consent to a nomination other than a nomination to  
21 a position as Justice of the Supreme Court in which case  
22 consideration shall be limited to 2 hours, the Senate shall  
23 proceed, without any further debate on any question, to  
24 vote on”.

1 **SEC. 4. CONFERENCE MOTIONS.**

2 Rule XXVIII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is  
3 amended by—

4 (1) redesignating paragraphs 1 through 9 as  
5 paragraphs 2 through 10, respectively;

6 (2) redesignating any reference to paragraphs 1  
7 through 9 as paragraphs 2 through 10, respectively;  
8 and

9 (3) inserting before paragraph 2, as redesignig-  
10 nated, the following:

11 “1. A nondivisible motion to disagree to a House  
12 amendment or insist upon a Senate amendment, to re-  
13 quest a committee of conference with the House or to  
14 agree to a request by the House for a committee of con-  
15 ference, and to authorize the Presiding Officer to appoint  
16 conferees (or to appoint conferees), is in order and consid-  
17 eration of such a motion, including consideration of any  
18 debatable motion or appeal in connection therewith, shall  
19 be limited to not more than 2 hours.”

20 **SEC. 5. RIGHT TO OFFER AMENDMENTS.**

21 Paragraph 2 of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of  
22 the Senate is amended by inserting at the end the fol-  
23 lowing:

24 “After debate has concluded under this paragraph  
25 but prior to final disposition of the pending matter, the  
26 Majority Leader and the Minority Leader may each offer

1 not to exceed 3 amendments identified as leadership  
2 amendments if they have been timely filed under this para-  
3 graph and are germane to the matter being amended. De-  
4 bate on a leadership amendment shall be limited to 1 hour  
5 equally divided. A leadership amendment may not be di-  
6 vided.”.

