

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 724

Amending rule XXXI of the Standing Rules of the Senate to limit the time during which a nomination shall be confirmed or rejected, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 13, 2018

Mr. MERKLEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

RESOLUTION

Amending rule XXXI of the Standing Rules of the Senate to limit the time during which a nomination shall be confirmed or rejected, and for other purposes.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. PROCEEDINGS ON NOMINATIONS.**

3 Rule XXXI of the Standing Rules of the Senate is
4 amended by—

5 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “A covered
6 nominee shall submit the basic requirements to the
7 appropriate committee within 30 legislative days of
8 the covered nomination being transmitted to the
9 Senate. The appropriate committee shall vote on the

1 covered nomination within 30 legislative days of re-
2 ceipt of the basic requirements. By agreement of the
3 chairman and ranking minority member, the com-
4 mittee may extend or suspend the deadline on the
5 committee to vote. If the committee does not hold a
6 vote, the nominee is deemed reported to the full Sen-
7 ate. For a covered nomination for a position de-
8 scribed in section 5312 of title 5, United States
9 Code, the Senate shall vote on the covered nomina-
10 tion within 40 legislative days of the committee re-
11 porting the covered nomination. For a covered nomi-
12 nation other than for a position described in section
13 5312 of title 5, United States Code, if not fewer
14 than 10 Senators, within 30 legislative days of the
15 committee reporting on the covered nomination, have
16 submitted written requests for the record that the
17 covered nomination be considered by the full Senate
18 in executive session within 40 days of the committee
19 reporting the covered nomination, the Senate shall
20 vote on the covered nomination. If the covered nomi-
21 nation is not confirmed or rejected within 40 days
22 of the committee reporting the covered nomination,
23 the nomination shall be deemed to be confirmed. De-
24 bate on any covered nomination other than for a po-
25 sition described in section 5312 of title 5, United

1 States Code, debate shall be limited to not more
2 than 2 hours.” after “consent.”; and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following:

4 “8. (a) In paragraph (1)—

5 “(1) the term ‘basic requirements’ means—

6 “(A) an agreement with the Office of Gov-
7 ernment Ethics;

8 “(B) a financial disclosure form;

9 “(C) a background check conducted by the
10 Federal Bureau of Investigation;

11 “(D) responses to a questionnaire of each
12 relevant committee;

13 “(E) tax forms, if required by a relevant
14 committee; and

15 “(F) any other requirements of a relevant
16 committee; and

17 “(2) the term ‘covered nomination’ means a
18 nomination of an individual to a position in an execu-
19 tive agency, as defined in section 105 of title 5,
20 United States Code.”.

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