

**MARKUP OF A COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
REGARDING THE HOUSE ACADEMIC COMPETITION**

MEETING
BEFORE THE
**COMMITTEE ON HOUSE
ADMINISTRATION**
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

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MARKUP OF A COMMITTEE RESOLUTION REGARDING THE HOUSE ACADEMIC COMPETITION

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2013

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 11:34 a.m., in Room 1309, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Candice S. Miller [chairman of the committee] presiding.

Present: Representatives Miller, Harper, Gingrey, Schock, Rokita, Brady, and Vargas.

Staff Present: Kelly Craven, Staff Director; Peter Schalestock, Deputy General Counsel; Yael Barash, Legislative Clerk; Salley Wood, Communications Director and Deputy Staff Director; Bob Sensenbrenner, Senior Counsel; John Clocker, Director of Policy and Planning; Kyle Anderson, Minority Staff Director; Matt Pinkus, Minority Senior Policy Advisor; Matt DeFreitas, Minority Professional Staff; Khalil Abboud, Minority Deputy Counsel; Thomas Hicks, Minority Senior Counsel; Mike Harrison, Minority Chief Counsel; Greg Abbott, Minority Professional Staff; and Eddie Flaherty, Minority Chief Clerk.

The CHAIRMAN. I would like to call to order the Committee on House Administration for today's committee hearing. A quorum is present so that we can proceed.

The meeting record will remain open for 5 legislative days so that Members might submit any materials that they wish to be included in the record.

The CHAIRMAN. And today we are just going to consider one item in the markup before we go into our hearing, a committee resolution regarding the House Academic Competition.

Now, earlier this year, with the support of House leadership, we introduced a House resolution, the Academic Competition Resolution of 2013, to establish a competition that promotes greater innovation among students across this country in fields related to science, technology, engineering, and math, also known as STEM. The resolution, cosponsored by nearly every member of this committee, passed the House with an overwhelming 411 votes—a very clear, overdue acknowledgment that in our Nation we need to increase STEM awareness.

As leaders, educators, and parents, it is our responsibility to help equip today's youth with the skills that they need to succeed. STEM research and innovation is the major skill set driving today's

global economy, and, unfortunately, we are at risk of falling behind other countries and losing jobs to our overseas competitors. To remain competitive, we must increase awareness among our students and encourage greater participation in the STEM fields.

With that goal in mind, in February the House adopted a resolution creating a competition that will allow each Member, each Member of Congress, to host an annual competition among students in his or her congressional district. And today, as required by that resolution, we are considering for adoption the regulations that will govern the competition, including rules pertaining to contestants, judges, and the use of resources.

Under the proposed regulations, House Administration will appoint Members to serve as chairs and co-chairs for the purpose of setting specific rules and criteria for each annual competition. Those proposed regulations also permit for the competition's evolution over time so that it continues to challenge students in the specialized STEM areas relevant to ever-changing technology demands.

It is our expectation that the House will plan its inaugural competition to coincide with this school year so that schools and educators can encourage and assist with their students' participation.

Again, it is our responsibility to help to make sure that our students in this country can compete in the STEM fields. Their future and this Nation's economic success depend on it, which is why I am very honored to join my colleagues in advancing this important House initiative.

And I now would like to recognize the ranking member, our colleague, Mr. Brady from Pennsylvania, for the purpose of his opening statement.

Mr. BRADY. Thank you, Madam Chair. I have no opening statement, but I do appreciate you having this meeting and getting this off on the right start. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Any other Members have an opening statement on this particular issue?

The chair recognizes Mr. Gingrey of Georgia.

Mr. GINGREY. Thank you, Madam Chairman. I want to thank you for calling the markup today on the regulations for the recently established House STEM competition.

H. Res. 77 passed with overwhelming support in February of this year, establishing an academic competition in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math, STEM, for students in our congressional districts. And I was proud to join every member of this committee in supporting the resolution. I am proud to rejoin them today to adopt the regulations governing that competition.

In its inaugural year, the competition will allow participating students to develop an app using a technology platform of their choice, really—a tablet, computer, mobile device. This competition creates a valuable chance to engage these students and educators—I am sure they would have a mentor at their local school—and highlight the importance once again that we talk about so much up here, I don't think we can talk about it too much, of STEM education, by providing an incentive for students in a fun and innovative way.

After practicing medicine for nearly 30 years, I am fully aware of just how valuable a strong foundation in math and science can be for the future engineers, computer scientists, and doctors of our Nation. As educators and legislators, we must not neglect our duties to equip these young people, our children, these students, with the tools and the knowledge to build a successful career.

All of the time, we are reading articles about people getting out of great schools with a graduate degree, and there was somebody on one of the cable news shows the other day selling donuts on the streets of New York, saying, "Hire me. I've got"—maybe some of you all saw that clip. But, you know, it is really important that our students know that the job market of the future, and I think for a long time, is in the science, space, and technology and engineering and developing apps and software.

So I see this competition as a valuable opportunity to get involved and generate that interest at an early age in STEM education. Because you have to do it at an early age. I look forward to the successful implementation of the competition, and I hope it will encourage students to express that creativity and interest in STEM for years to come.

So, Madam Chairman, thank you. I think this is a really good idea, kind of like the arts competition program that we have.

Thank you, and I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Any other Member have a comment?

I appreciate, Dr. Gingrey, your comments about the STEM. I do think it is—first, it is sort of modeled after the Artistic Discovery, from that perspective, which has been an incredible success. There are over 300 Members of Congress now participating in that.

And particularly now, when we look at STEM in that—you know, I think the first thing is they are going to be challenging the kids to do an app. I didn't even know what an app was until a couple years ago. Now I have an app for that, right?

And these kids are so unbelievably innovative that who knows what they are going to come up with. So those kinds of things, these kinds of things, I think, can really lead to mentoring for them from the industry and other kinds of things and really help bring our kids along in all of these applications—the apps.

But, at any rate, I now call up and lay before the committee Committee Resolution 113-6, to adopt regulations concerning the House Academic Competition.

[The information follows:]

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

113TH CONGRESS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 113-6

Resolution to Approve Regulations for the Academic Competition

Whereas, pursuant to House Resolution 77, the Academic Competition Resolution of 2013, the House of Representatives directed the Committee on House Administration to adopt regulations governing the Academic Competition,

Whereas, as technology changes, the competition will evolve over time and will challenge students in specialized areas of science, technology, engineering and math. The competition will initially challenge students to develop so-called “apps” for mobile, tablet, or computer devices,

Therefore, be it *Resolved*, that the Committee adopts the following regulations:

Regulations for the Academic Competition

Title 1. Regarding the App.

Platform

Students in the competition may choose a generally available technology platform, such as a mobile, tablet, or computer device, on which to develop their submissions.

Conduct of Contest

The Committee on House Administration shall appoint a Member or group of Members to serve as chairs or co-chairs of the Academic Competition. The Committee on House Administration may also appoint an outside group of experts in the STEM fields to assist the chair or co-chairs in setting guidelines and rules for the Academic Competition. All such guidelines and rules must be approved by the Committee on House Administration.

The rules shall include provisions on name of the contest; the periods of the contest; the appointment of judges; and any other provision necessary for the conduct of the competition.

Disclaimer on Endorsement

The House of Representatives does not endorse or recommend any commercial products, process, or services. For the period of the academic competition and the display of the

submissions by the House, a contestant may not seek to market or manufacture the submitted app for commercial use. A contestant may not make any reference to the academic competition nor imply an endorsement from the House for the purpose of marketing or manufacturing the submitted app.

Use of app for Contest

By submitting an app for the academic competition, a contestant expressly agrees that for the period of the contest, submitted apps are available free of charge for the conduct of the competition. The apps will be judged by the Members or their designee(s) and displayed by the House during that period. The contestant retains ownership rights of the submitted app.

Characteristics of Apps

Submitted apps may not be indecent, immoral, defamatory, vulgar, pornographic, in obvious bad taste, or demonstrate a lack of respect for public morals. Submitted apps may not be illegal under applicable federal and state laws.

Title 2. District Contest**Resources**

The Member office may operate the district competition using only the MRA or personal funds. In accordance with House Rules, the Member office may not accept any outside support or funding in conducting the competition and awards program except as specifically provided below.

Contestants

Contestants in the district competition must be eligible to enroll as students in a school located within the boundaries of the district from which the Member is elected. Contestants in the competition must be legal residents.

Judges

A Member office may seek advice from outside experts in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for the purposes of establishing criteria for the selection of competition judges and for the judging of competition submissions. The Member will establish the judging process.

Outside Sponsors of the Competition

Member offices may not list an outside party as a co-sponsor or supporter. The office may not in any way endorse or promote a third party with official resources.

Franking

A Member office may use the frank to mail official information about the Academic competition, including but not limited to, the notification to students, recruitment of judges, rules, deadlines and notices of official events regarding the competition. A Member office must obtain an Advisory Opinion in order to mail 500 or more unsolicited pieces of mail or e-mail.

MRA

The Academic Competition is an official activity of the House. A Member office may use the MRA to hold an event to display and judge the submissions to the district competition. A Member office may also allow staff time and use of official resources to plan and conduct a district competition. Use of the MRA is subject to the limitations outlined by Title 2 of the U.S. Code and regulations promulgated by the Committee on House Administration.

Advertising

A Member office may purchase advertising for a competition event or for information about the Academic competition. The advertisement regulations in the Members Handbook apply.

Gifts and Awards

A Member office may provide authorized gifts or awards of nominal value as part of the Academic competition. Gifts authorized by the Members' Handbook include certificates, folders, and frames of a nominal value. Outside from the items listed above, an office may not use the MRA to purchase any other prizes as these are considered gifts.

Personal Funds

Subject to the rules and regulations of the House, Members may use their own personal funds to supplement the MRA and the costs of conducting a district competition.

The CHAIRMAN. And, without objection, the first reading of the resolution is dispensed with. And the resolution is considered read and open for any amendment at any point.

Is there any debate on the resolution?

Are there any Members who want to offer an amendment to the resolution?

If not, I move the committee adopt the resolution. And the question is on the motion.

All those in favor will signify by saying aye.

Opposed will say nay.

In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it. The ayes have it. The motion is agreed to.

And, without objection, the motion to reconsider is laid upon the table.

And I would ask the committee for unanimous consent that the staff be authorized to make technical and conforming changes to the measure the committee just considered.

Without objection, so ordered.

And that concludes today's markup. And the markup portion of this meeting is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:39 a.m., the committee proceeded to other business.]