

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 330

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require that legislation and conference reports be available on the Internet for 72 hours before consideration by the House, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 23, 2011

Mr. PETERS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require that legislation and conference reports be available on the Internet for 72 hours before consideration by the House, and for other purposes.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS TO RULE XIII REGARDING**

3 **AVAILABILITY OF LEGISLATION AND RE-**

4 **PORTS.**

5 (a) Clause 4 of rule XIII of the Rules of the House
6 of Representatives is amended—

7 (1) in its side heading, by inserting “legislation
8 and” before “reports”;

1 (2) in paragraph (a) by striking subparagraph
2 (1) and inserting the following new subparagraph:

3 “(1) Except as specified in subparagraph (2), it
4 shall not be in order to consider in the House a
5 measure or matter until 72 hours (excluding Satur-
6 days, Sundays and holidays except when the House
7 is in session on such a day) after the text of such
8 measure or matter (and, if the measure or matter is
9 reported, the text of all accompanying reports) have
10 been made available to Members, Delegates, the
11 Resident Commissioner, and the general public pur-
12 suant to subparagraph (3).”;

13 (3) by adding at the end of paragraph (a) the
14 following new subparagraph:

15 “(3) Without further amendment before floor
16 consideration, the full text of the measure or matter
17 and each committee report thereon shall be posted
18 continuously by means of the Internet in such a
19 manner that they are conveniently accessible using
20 existing technology, anonymously and at no cost, in
21 a format that is searchable by text.”; and

22 (4) in paragraph (c), by striking “the third cal-
23 endar day” and inserting “at least 72 hours” and by
24 striking “on” and inserting “after”.

1 (b) Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Represent-
 2 atives is further amended—

3 (1) in clause 5(b), by striking “and the Resi-
 4 dent Commissioner” and inserting “the Resident
 5 Commissioner, and the general public”; and

6 (2) in clause 6(c), by striking “or” at the end
 7 of subparagraph (1), by striking the period at the
 8 end of subparagraph (2) and inserting “; or”, and
 9 by inserting before the period “a rule or order pro-
 10 posing a waiver of clause 4(a) of rule XIII or of
 11 clause 8(a) or 8(b) of rule XXII, unless a question
 12 of consideration of the rule is adopted by a vote of
 13 two-thirds of the Members voting, a quorum being
 14 present”.

15 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO RULE XXII REGARDING AVAIL-**
 16 **ABILITY OF CONFERENCE REPORTS AND**
 17 **AMENDMENTS REPORTED IN DISAGREE-**
 18 **MENT.**

19 Clause 8 of rule XXII of the Rules of the House of
 20 Representatives is amended—

21 (1) by striking subparagraph (a) and inserting
 22 the following new paragraph:

23 “(a)(1) It shall not be in order to consider a con-
 24 ference report until 72 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sun-
 25 days and holidays except when the House is in session on

1 such a day) after the conference report and the accom-
2 panying joint explanatory statement have been available
3 to Members, Delegates, the Resident Commissioner, and
4 the general public pursuant to subparagraph (2).

5 “(2) Without further amendment before floor
6 consideration, the full texts of the conference report
7 and the accompanying signed joint explanatory
8 statement shall be posted continuously by means of
9 the Internet in such a manner that they are conven-
10 iently accessible using existing technology, anony-
11 mously and at no cost, in a format that can be
12 searched by text.”;

13 (2) in paragraph (b), by striking subparagraphs
14 (1) and (2) and inserting the following new subpara-
15 graphs:

16 “(1) It shall not be in order to consider a mo-
17 tion to dispose of a Senate amendment reported in
18 disagreement by a conference committee until at
19 least 72 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and
20 holidays except when the House is in session on such
21 a day) after the report in disagreement and any ac-
22 companying statement have been available to Mem-
23 bers, Delegates, the Resident Commissioner, and the
24 general public pursuant to subparagraph (2).

1 “(2) Without further amendment before floor
2 consideration, the full texts of a Senate amendment
3 reported in disagreement and any accompanying
4 statement shall be posted continuously by means of
5 the Internet in such a manner that they are conven-
6 iently accessible using existing technology, anony-
7 mously and at no cost, in a format that can be
8 searched by text.”.

9 **SEC. 3. PROTECTION OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.**

10 Nothing in this resolution or any amendment made
11 by it shall be interpreted to require or permit the declas-
12 sification or posting on the Internet of classified informa-
13 tion in the custody of the House of Representatives. Such
14 classified information shall be made available to Members
15 in a timely manner as appropriate under existing laws and
16 rules.

17 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING AMENDMENTS.**

18 It is the sense of the House that, with the objective
19 of preventing circumvention of clause 4(a) of rule XIII of
20 the Rules of the House of Representatives that the Com-
21 mittee on Rules should develop standardized policies and
22 procedures to require that proposed amendments (except
23 those offered under an open rule) that are major in size,

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- 1 scope, or cost be posted on the Internet for an appropriate
- 2 number of hours.

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