

EN BLOC AMENDMENT

Offered by Chairman Peterson

(Page numbers refer to the copy of the Rules of the Committee from the 115th Congress at the Members' desks)

The Rules of the Committee on Agriculture for the 115th Congress are amended as follows:

- (1) In Rule I(f), on page 2, line 11, strike “30” and insert “60”;
- (2) In Rule II(b), on page 3, lines 4-5, strike “day” and insert “calendar day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays except when the House is in session on such a day)”;
- (3) In Rule III(b), on page 4, line 15, strike “that meeting or hearing” and insert “the Committee”;
- (4) In Rule III(b), on page 4, line 17, strike “To” and insert “to”;
- (5) In Rule III(b), on page 4, line 17, strike “the Committee shall”;
- (6) In Rule III(b), on page 4, line 20, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”;
- (7) In Rule III(b), on page 4, line 21, strike “Be” and insert “make each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business”;
- (8) In Rule III(m), on page 7, line 15, insert “for vocal conversation” before “during”;
- (9) Strike the heading of Rule VII, on page 11, line 4, and insert “SUBPOENAS, DEPOSITIONS, AND OATHS.”;
- (10) In Rule VII, on page 11, add at the end a new subsection (c):

“(c) Deposition Authority.—

 - (1) The Chairman, upon consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may order the taking of depositions, including pursuant to subpoena, by a Member or counsel of the Committee.
 - (2) Depositions taken under the authority prescribed in this subsection shall be subject to regulations issued by the chair of the Committee on Rules and printed in the Congressional Record.”
- (11) In Rule VIII(b), on page 12, line 11, strike “House Information Systems” and insert “House information system”;
- (12) In Rule VIII(j), on page 16, line 1, strike “voluntarily to” and insert “to voluntarily”;
- (13) In Rule IX(c), on page 20, line 5, strike “writing” and insert “written”;

(14) In Rule IX(f), on page 21, lines 8-9, strike: “If hearings have been held on” and insert “For hearings held related to”;

(15) In Rule X, strike all from line 10 on page 22 through line 20 on page 23, and insert:

“(a) Oversight Plan.—

(1) Not later than March 1 of the first session of the 116th Congress, the Chairman shall prepare, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, an oversight plan; provide a copy of that plan to each Member of the Committee for at least seven calendar days before its submission; and submit such plan (including any supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views submitted by a Member of the Committee) simultaneously to the Committee on Oversight and Reform and the Committee on House Administration pursuant to clause 2(d) of House Rule X.

(2) In developing the plan, the Chairman shall, to the maximum extent feasible—

(A) consult with other committees that have jurisdiction over the same or related laws, programs, or agencies with the objective of ensuring maximum coordination and cooperation among committees when conducting reviews of such laws, programs, or agencies and include in the plan an explanation of steps that have been or will be taken to ensure such coordination and cooperation;

(B) review specific problems with Federal rules, regulations, statutes, and court decisions that are ambiguous, arbitrary, or nonsensical, or that impose severe financial burdens on individuals;

(C) give priority consideration to including in the plan the review of those laws, programs, or agencies operating under permanent budget authority or permanent statutory authority;

(D) have a view toward ensuring that all significant laws, programs, or agencies within the committee’s jurisdiction are subject to review every 10 years; and

(E) have a view toward insuring against duplication of Federal programs.”

(16) In Rule X, on page 26, line 17, re-designate subsection (i) as subsection (j);

(17) In Rule X, on page 26, after line 16, insert a new subsection (i) as follows:

“(i) Member Day Hearing.—During the first session of a Congress, the Committee will hold a hearing at which it receives testimony from Members, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner on proposed legislation within its jurisdiction.”;

(18) In Rule XI, on pages 27-29, strike subsection (c) and insert:

“(c) Jurisdiction.—Each subcommittee shall have the following general jurisdiction and number of Members:

General Farm Commodities and Risk Management (13 members, 7 majority and 6 minority)
– Policies, statutes, and markets relating to commodities including barley, cotton, cottonseed, corn, grain sorghum, honey, mohair, oats, other oilseeds, peanuts, pulse crops, rice, soybeans, sugar, wheat, and wool; the Commodity Credit Corporation; risk management policies and statutes, including Federal Crop Insurance; producer data and privacy issues.

Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit (20 members, 11 majority and 9 minority) – Policies, statutes, and markets relating to commodity exchanges; agricultural credit; rural development; energy; rural electrification.

Conservation and Forestry (11 members, 6 majority and 5 minority) – Policies and statutes relating to resource conservation, forestry, and all forests under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture.

Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations (16 members, 9 majority and 7 minority) – Policies and statutes relating to nutrition, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and domestic commodity distribution and consumer initiatives; departmental and agency oversight; and special investigations.

Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research (23 members, 13 majority and 10 minority) – Policies, statutes, and markets relating to horticulture, including fruits, vegetables, nuts, and ornamentals; bees; and organic agriculture; policies and statutes relating to marketing and promotion orders; pest and disease management, including pesticides; bioterrorism; adulteration and quarantine matters; research, education, and extension; and biotechnology.

Livestock and Foreign Agriculture (22 members, 12 majority and 10 minority) – Policies, statutes, and markets relating to all livestock, poultry, dairy, and seafood, including all products thereof; the inspection, marketing, and promotion of such commodities and products; aquaculture; animal welfare; grazing; foreign agricultural assistance and trade promotion.