



Legislative Bulletin.....January 5, 2015

Contents:

Amendments to H. Res. 5 — Adopting rules for the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress [Conference Print] (McCarthy, R-CA)

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Order of Business: The amendments to the Conference Print to H. Res. 5 are expected to be considered by the Conference on January 5, 2015.

The text of the Conference Print of H. Res. 5 can be found [here](#).

Amendments:

1. **Sessions (R-TX)**: Managers amendment that makes grammatical and technical changes.
2. **Scalise (R-LA)**: Would reform the way that large Congressional Member Organizations (including the RSC) pay their staff. Specifically, the amendment would allow Member offices to transfer Members Representational Account (MRA) funds into a caucus account for the purpose of paying and supporting caucus staff. This would be limited to officially registered caucuses led by a single Chairman with at least 30 Members and 3 staff. Under current rules, caucus staff must be hired and subsequently fired by as many as six offices each month. This causes a significant administrative burden for both Member offices and House administrative staff, leading to disruptions of pay and benefits for staff. **This amendment is supported by RSC Chairman Flores and the RSC Former Chairmen Woodall, Scalise, Jordan, Price, Hensarling, and Johnson.**
3. **Amash (R-MI)**: Would require bills that propose to repeal or amend existing law that is not in a codified title of the U.S. Code to include parallel citations for those laws to the extent possible. The amendment would further require records of the House to be published in machine-readable formats to the extent possible.
4. **Amash (R-MI) and Posey (R-FL)**: Would amend the [Ramseyer Rule](#) to require that Committee Reports include the entire text of statute that is proposed to be amended or repealed by legislation. This reform was [included](#) in the most recent RSC budget.

5. [Bishop](#) (R-UT): Would exempt conveyances of public lands from the House CUTGO rule in the 114th Congress. The “Cut-As-You-Go” rule requires any new spending to be offset by spending cuts. Under current [CBO](#) scoring, conveyances of land often score as increasing the deficit.

6. [Johnson](#) (R-TX): Would establish a point of order against legislation that reduces the 75-year actuarial balance of the Social Security Old Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund by .01 percent or more unless that legislation would improve the 75-year actuarial balance of the combined Social Security Old Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and Disability Insurance Trust Fund. According to the [Social Security Trustees](#), the Disability Trust Fund will be depleted in 2016, while the Old Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund will be depleted in 2033. This amendment would prohibit consideration of legislation that simply bails out the Disability Trust fund by raiding the retirement Trust Fund, the Obama Administration’s preferred option.

7. [Griffith](#) (R-VA): Would allow amendments to appropriations bills to cut the amount of funding an agency receives, the number and salary of employees at an agency, and the amount that can be paid to a federal employee. This amendment would restore the rules regarding these types of amendments to their 1983 status, before they were changed by a Democrat-controlled house.

8. [Lummis](#) (R, WY): Allows the inclusion of amendments to appropriations bills which reduce mandatory spending.

9. [McClintock](#) (R-CA): Would establish an additional point of order against appropriations that increase spending on unauthorized programs from their current level. Under current House rules, programs must first be authorized before receiving appropriations. However, this rule is often waived. According to [CBO](#), the FY 2014 omnibus appropriations bill included about \$302 billion in unauthorized appropriations.

10. [Gohmert](#) (R-TX): Would establish a new subcommittee to the House Committee on Appropriations with jurisdiction over public assistance, and welfare spending. The subcommittee would have the responsibility to report legislation to appropriate funds dealing with public assistance and welfare spending.

11. [Pearce](#) (R-NM): Would reaffirm that a person subject to a review by either the Committee on Ethics or the Office of Congressional Ethics has a right to be represented by counsel, and would establish that invoking such right is not to be held negatively against them.

12. [Pearce](#) (R-NM): Would establish the ability for junior-level staff (Members or senior-level staff excluded) to seek reimbursement of reasonable attorney fees in limited ethics cases. Provides that reimbursements will be discretionary and on a case-by-case basis that will be evaluated and decided upon by the House Committee on Ethics.

13. [Pearce](#) (R-NM): Would prohibit the House Committee on Ethics and the Office of Congressional Ethics from taking action that would deny a person any rights or protections provided under the Constitution of the United States of America.

14. **Rigell (R, VA)**: Requires new members of the House to receive ethics training no later than 60 days after beginning service in the House. This mirrors what is currently required by House employees.

15. **Rohrabacher (R-CA)**: Would allow additional family members to accompany a Member on officially connected travel that is sponsored by a private entity. Under current House rules, “a relative” is permitted to have travel expenses paid for by a private trip sponsor.

16. **Hartzler (R, MO)** – Allows a Member of Congress, Member-elect, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner to accompany their child (18 years and younger) on the House floor. Currently, the House rules do not address children being allowed on the House floor.

17. **Conaway (R, TX)** – Amends the agency reporting requirement to require bills, joint resolutions or amendments which require a report to Congress by an agency or department to eliminate an existing reporting requirement at the same entity with respect to the same program. In the event there is no reporting requirement on a specific program at an entity, this amendment does not apply.

18. **Garrett (R-NJ)**: Before the consideration of a Senate bill or joint resolution, the chair of a committee of jurisdiction must submit a Constitutional Authority Statement (CAS). Prior to being offered, an amendment in the nature of a substitute and any amendment to a Senate bill or joint resolution must contain a CAS. In addition, conference reports may not be considered unless the House managers submit a CAS. The clerk will read the CAS at the time the bill, joint resolution, amendment or conference report is considered. The CAS must contain the specific article, section, clause and sentence.

19. **Webster (R, FL), Harris (R, MD), Bueschon (R, IN)**: Narrows the ability to offer a Motion to Recommit with instructions when a bill or resolution is considered under an open rule.

20. **Webster (R, FL)**: Prohibits amendments to be made on a subject different from that under consideration or one which contains text that is substantially similar to legislation that was unfavorably reported by a committee, legislation that has not been reported favorably by at least one committee or legislation that has been withdrawn from further consideration in the House.

21. **Yoho (R-FL)**: Requires all bills or joint resolutions that have not been considered by a committee to be made publically available to for 72 hours before consideration.

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