

**RULES OF THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND
APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS REFORM**

[Adopted during the Joint Committee's organizational meeting
on April 17, 2018.]

RULE I—IN GENERAL

1. The provisions of subtitle B of [title IV](#), division C of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (P.L. 115–123) governing the proceedings of the [Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform](#) (hereinafter “Joint Committee”) are hereby incorporated by reference and nothing herein shall be construed as superseding any provision of that Act.

2. The rules of the House of Representatives—to the extent that they are applicable to committees and do not conflict with the rules of the Joint Committee or subtitle B of [title IV](#), division C of the [Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018](#)—shall govern the proceedings of the Joint Committee.

3. If a measure or matter is publicly available in electronic form, it shall be considered to have been available to members of the Joint Committee for purposes of these rules.

4. In each case where authority is granted to the Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee, such authority may only be exercised jointly by the Co-Chairs.

RULE II—MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

MEETINGS

1. (a) The Co-Chairs shall provide an agenda to the Joint Committee members not less than 48 hours in advance of any meeting.

(b) The text of any report and proposed legislative language shall be publicly available in electronic form at least 24 hours prior to its consideration.

HEARINGS

3. The Co-Chairs shall make a public announcement of the date, place, time, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted not less than seven days in advance of such hearing, unless the Co-Chairs determine that there is good cause to begin such hearing at an earlier date.

WITNESSES' STATEMENTS

4. (a) A witness appearing before the Joint Committee shall file a written statement of proposed testimony at least two calendar days before the appearance of the witness, unless this

requirement is waived by the Co-Chairs, following their determination that there is good cause for failure to comply with such requirement.

(b) Any witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity shall include with their written statement of testimony a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of any Federal grants or contracts, or contracts or payments originating with a foreign government, received during the current calendar year or either of the two previous calendar years by the witness or an entity represented by the witness and related to the subject matter of the hearing. These statements, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy or security of a witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form not later than one day after the witness appears. Such disclosure shall include:

(i) the amount and source of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) related to the subject matter of the hearing; and

(ii) the amount and country of origin for any payment or contract related to the subject matter of the hearing originating with a foreign government.

VOTING AND QUORUMS

5. (a) Nine members of the Joint Committee shall constitute a quorum for purposes of voting and meeting.

(b) Five members of the Joint Committee shall constitute a quorum for holding hearings.

6. A record vote on any motion, amendment, measure, or matter may be ordered upon the request of any member of the Joint Committee.

7. The Co-Chairs may jointly agree to set a series of votes on any amendment or agreeing to a measure or matter, or postpone a requested record vote on such amendment, measure or matter, to occur at a time certain. Reasonable notice shall be given to members prior to resuming proceedings on any postponed question.

8. No proxy voting shall be allowed on behalf of the members of the Joint Committee.

RULE III—QUESTIONING WITNESSES

1. Questioning of witnesses will be conducted under the five-minute rule.¹ Each member of the Joint Committee shall be allocated five minutes to question witnesses during the initial round and any subsequent round of questioning.

RULE IV—STAFFING AND RECORDS STAFF

1. The staff of the Joint Committee shall be appointed as provided in [sections 30442\(b\)\(4\)\(I\)\(i\)](#) and [30442\(b\)\(4\)\(I\)\(ii\)](#) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.

RECORDS

2. The Joint Committee shall maintain a complete record of all committee action, including—

(a) in the case of a hearing or meeting transcript, a substantially verbatim account of remarks actually made during the proceedings, subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks involved; and

(b) the result of each record vote taken by the Joint Committee, including a description of the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, the name of each member voting for and voting against such amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, and the names of the members of the Joint Committee present but not voting.

RULE V—CONTENT OF REPORT

1. In the report required under section [30442\(b\)\(2\)\(B\)\(i\)\(I\)](#) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, the Joint Committee shall include—

(a) with respect to each record vote on a motion to report the Joint Committee's recommendations or accompanying legislative language, and on any amendment offered to the recommendations or language, the total number of votes cast for and against, and the names of members voting for and against; and

(b) a document, showing by appropriate typographical devices the omissions and insertions proposed, the entire text of each section of a statute that is proposed to be repealed; and a comparative print of each amendment to the entire text of a section of a statute that the bill or joint resolution proposes to make. If the Joint Committee reports a bill or joint resolution proposing to repeal or amend a statute or part thereof with a recommendation that the bill or joint resolution be amended, such comparative print shall also reflect the changes in existing law proposed to be made by the bill or joint resolution as proposed to be amended.²

RULE VI—PUBLIC ACCESS AND TRANSPARENCY

1. (a) Any report or legislative language approved by the Joint Committee, the result of each record vote taken by the Joint Committee, and any Committee Print published by the Joint Committee shall be made available to the public in electronic form.

(b) Not later than 24 hours after the adoption of any amendment to the report or legislative language, the Co-Chairs shall make the text of each such amendment publicly available in electronic form.

(c) Not later than 48 hours after a record vote is completed, the information described in clause 2(b) of rule IV shall be made publicly available in electronic form.

2. To the maximum extent practicable, the Joint Committee shall—

(a) provide audio and video coverage of each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business in a manner that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings; and

(b) maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public.

¹ The “five-minute rule” has been used in debate in Congress since the mid-nineteenth century and allows any Member of Congress to speak for five minutes on proposition, and formally a Member in opposition for five minutes. As a formality, a Member may make a motion to “strike the last word” or “strike requisite number of words” which serves as technical formal offering of an amendment (though no real amendment has been so offered), triggering the authority to speak for five minutes.

² A “comparative print” is the same thing as a “Ramseyer” that shows changes in law made legislation and is included in the report of any bill or joint resolution reported from a committee. Under such a document, the text of the existing law is shown in bolded brackets, and the text proposed to be added is shown in italics, while text that is to remain unchanged is shown as regular text. Extraneous text in current law is indicated by seven asterisks.