

CLAUSE 5 OF RULE X

ELECTION AND MEMBERSHIP OF STANDING COMMITTEES

*[Clause 5(a)(2) of Rule X]*

§ 758. Composition of the Budget Committee.

5. (2)**[(A)]** The Committee on the Budget shall be composed of members as follows:

(A) **[(i)]** Members, Delegates, or the Resident Commissioner who are members of other standing committees, including five from the Committee on Appropriations, five from the Committee on Ways and Means, and one from the Committee on Rules;

(B) **[(ii)]** one Member designated by the elected leadership of the majority party; and

(C) **[(iii)]** one Member designated by the elected leadership of the minority party.

**[(B) Except as permitted by subdivision (C), a member of the Committee on the Budget other than one described in subdivision (A)(ii) or (A)(iii) may not serve on the committee during more than four Congresses in a period of six successive Congresses (disregarding for this purpose any service for less than a full session in a Congress).**

**[(C) A Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner may exceed the limitation of subdivision (B) if elected to serve a second consecutive Congress as the chair or a second consecutive Congress as the ranking minority member.]**

COUNSEL NOTES

Prior to the 116th Congress, clause 5 of rule X contained term limits for the House Budget Committee. A Member of the Committee could “not serve on the committee during more than four Congresses in a period of six successive Congresses (disregarding for this purpose any service for less than a full session in a Congress).” This limitation did not apply to the Members designated by the elected leadership of the majority and minority parties, and the Chairman and Ranking Member was allowed to serve an extra term if it was as a “second consecutive Congress” in that position.

These term limits were first put in place by section 101 (CBA) when the House Budget Committee was first established, they were originally intended to keep the Committee weak out of concern it might become more influential than other committees deemed desirable. When this concern faded, leadership staff, particular under Republican Majorities, found it useful to have Budget Committee slots to mete out to Members, and so the forced turnover was preserved despite attempts to overturn the policy.

Forcing Members to “rotate off” the Committee was damaging to the House insofar as the expertise gained by Members after serving for just four terms (originally it was three) was lost. With the complexities of budget law, this loss of experience harmed the ability of the Committee to perform its responsibilities.



