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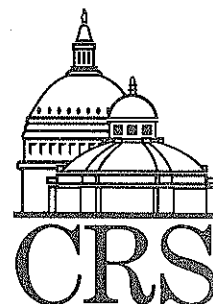
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The Congressional Standing Committee System

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September 14, 1992

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October 15, 1993



THE CONGRESSIONAL STANDING COMMITTEE SYSTEM

SUMMARY

This report presents an overview of the congressional standing committee system. The first section discusses aspects of the committee system including its historical development, reorganization and reform, decentralization, the process of assigning Members to committees, jurisdictions as contained in House and Senate rules, authorization and appropriation roles of committees, staff, the relationship between committees and party leaders, committee consideration of legislation, and subsequent committee roles.

The second section presents information on each House or Senate standing committee. For each committee this information includes a jurisdictional summary, a list of subcommittees, the number of members of each party on the committee, and brief historical notations.

The final section provides a selected bibliography on the congressional committee system.

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| THE CONGRESSIONAL STANDING COMMITTEE SYSTEM | 1 |
| HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT | 2 |
| Reorganization and Reform | 3 |
| THE CURRENT COMMITTEE SYSTEM | 7 |
| DECENTRALIZATION | 7 |
| COMMITTEE SIZE | 9 |
| COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT PROCESS | 9 |
| JURISDICTION | 10 |
| AUTHORIZATIONS AND APPROPRIATIONS | 11 |
| STAFFING AND SUPPORT AGENCIES | 11 |
| COMMITTEES AND THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS | 13 |
| COMMITTEES AND THE LEADERSHIP | 13 |
| REFERRAL OF MEASURES TO COMMITTEES | 13 |
| EXECUTIVE AGENCY COMMENT | 14 |
| HEARINGS | 15 |
| MARKUP | 15 |
| REPORT | 16 |
| COMMITTEES AND FLOOR ACTION | 17 |
| COMMITTEES AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES | 17 |
| STANDING COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS | 19 |
| STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | 21 |
| STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE | 51 |
| CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE SYSTEM: A BRIEF BIBLIOGRAPHY | 75 |

This report was originally prepared in 1983 by Judy Schneider and most recently updated by Carol Hardy Vincent in 1992, both of whom are of the Government Division. Also, the authors thank Daphne Bigger, Randall Andrews and Robert Amorosi for assistance with the secretarial production of this report.

THE CONGRESSIONAL STANDING COMMITTEE SYSTEM

There is more to the work of Congress than what can be seen on the floor of the House and of the Senate. As Woodrow Wilson once noted, "it is not far from the truth to say that Congress in session is Congress on public exhibition, whilst Congress in its committee-rooms is Congress at work." For the most part the committees and subcommittees provide the foundation on which are based the deliberations and decisions of "Congress on public exhibition."

The life and operation of American representative government can be seen in congressional committees. They have been described as the "nerve ends of Congress—the gatherers of information, the sifters of alternatives, the refiners of legislation."¹ They evaluate legislative proposals from individual Members, from the executive branch, and from other sources as well. On behalf of their parent chambers, the committees, with rare exception, determine what reaches the floor. In the process they modify—sometimes extensively—proposals referred to them. They also identify public problems overlooked or ignored by others and develop proposals for dealing with them.

In addition, committees serve as congressional watchdogs of the executive branch. They are responsible for oversight of the organization and operations of the executive branch agencies—for finding out how efficiently and effectively the agencies perform their duties, and for finding out whether and how they are carrying out the intent of the laws passed by Congress and enacted into law.

There are three principal classes of committees in Congress: standing, select or special, and joint. Standing committees are in effect permanent and are authorized to consider and to report legislation. Select or special committees sometimes are temporary, in that they are authorized to operate for a specific period of time or until the project for which they have been created has been completed. Also, they usually conduct studies and reviews of problems and issues rather than consider and report legislative measures. Joint committees have a membership drawn from both chambers and usually conduct studies or perform housekeeping tasks. (Conference committees, a special variety of joint committee, serve only on an ad hoc basis to resolve differences in Senate and House versions of a particular measure.) This report focuses only on standing committees.

¹ Kravitz, Walter. The U.S. Committee System. The Parliamentarian. July 1979. Vol. LX. No. 3. p. 123.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

The role of committees was well understood by the First Congress. The British Parliament used committees, as did colonial legislatures, particularly in the South. The Continental Congress went so far as to assign executive functions of Government to large committees.

Congress used committees from its first meeting, and committees quickly became the major organizational units in the Congress. The committees achieved this role not by constitutional design, but by evolution. In the early days of the Republic, legislative proposals were initially considered on the House or Senate floor. After a consensus was determined, an ad hoc committee was appointed for a specific task, such as drafting a bill or a report. An ad hoc committee considered legislation only after it was debated by the parent chamber, was closely supervised by that chamber, and was disbanded upon completion of designated tasks. Once a committee reported, for example, in general it was dissolved. In its initial years, Congress had little need for a permanent, specialized division of labor. The role of Government was more circumscribed, Congress was smaller, and its workload was lighter.

The system of ad hoc committees was flexible and responsive to the legislative preferences of the entire House or Senate. But as the workload of Congress increased, the system became inadequate. Ad hoc committees often were duplicative, and they encouraged reliance on the executive branch for leadership. Experienced Members often were overlooked in committee assignments, and junior Members were underutilized and did not develop policy specialties.

Gradually, the ad hoc committees evolved into permanent standing committees, and proposed legislation came to be referred directly to committee without initial consideration on the floor of the parent chamber. This procedure gave the committees initial power over legislation, each in its specialized area, subject to final action by the parent chamber.

The House was first to create standing committees. In 1789, it created the Committee on Elections; in 1794, the Committee on Claims; and in 1795, the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures and the Committee on Revisal and Unfinished Business. The number rose to ten by 1810 and more than doubled that by the early 1820s.

In its first quarter century, the Senate established only four permanent committees: the Committee on Enrolled Bills in 1789; the Committee on the Library and the Committee on Engrossed Bills in 1806; and the Committee on Audit and Control of the Contingent Expenses of the Senate in 1807. These committees were more administrative than legislative, and those on Enrolled Bills and the Library operated as joint committees. Finally, in 1816, the Senate created twelve legislative standing committees. Although the creation of standing committees generated little attention, their development radically

changed the structure of the Congress, its method of policymaking, and its internal authority.

During the 19th century the standing committee system expanded rapidly and committees acquired important present day powers, such as the power to pigeonhole legislation they did not favor. During this period, each committee's area of responsibility essentially was defined by its title, and earlier bill referral decisions were used as precedents for later ones. By the end of the century, standing committees had become quite independent of chamber and party control, and their chairs had assumed considerable powers over legislative action. House committee chairs became even more powerful following the so-called "revolution of 1910," which curtailed the powers of the Speaker, decentralized House leadership, and established seniority as the predominant criterion for "promoting" committee members and for determining their chairs.

Reorganization and Reform

As new committees were created during the 19th century, few old ones were abolished. In 1913, the number of standing committees peaked at 61 in the House and 74 in the Senate. Committees were too numerous and too decentralized to facilitate systematic, comprehensive, and coordinated policymaking.

Some committees had neither held a business meeting nor reported a bill for many years, and were considered sinecures. Many were maintained principally to provide their chairs with perquisites of office, including additional staff and office space. Some were perpetuated out of deference to the minority party whose members often chaired them.

Efforts to consolidate House committees were undertaken in 1909, when six minor committees were dropped. In 1911, when the Democrats obtained a majority in the House, they abolished six more committees as well as the Speaker's authority to appoint committee members and chairs. A new House rule provided for election of standing committees by the House.

In 1921, the Senate eliminated 40 minor, superfluous, or moribund standing committees, leaving 34. In 1927, the House further reduced the number of its committees by merging several existing panels.

The struggle to coordinate war policy during World War II indicated a need for further reform. Thus, the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 was enacted, which eliminated minor committees and merged those with related functions. The act created a smaller number of integrated panels with broad jurisdictions, leaving 15 standing committees in the Senate and 19 in the House. (Currently there are 16 standing committees in the Senate and 22 in the House.) The act also comprehensively defined in writing the jurisdictions of each panel and set forth uniform procedures for the conduct of committee business,

including the hiring of permanent staff. These jurisdictions and procedures, as modified since 1946, are contained in House and Senate Rules.

By 1970, however, the range and complexity of issues that Congress was asked to address had greatly increased, and the existing committee system was not well adapted to the task. The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 was an attempt to adjust to the more demanding policy environment. It significantly altered committee procedures, but only slightly revised the committee structure.

Following enactment of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, the congressional committee system entered a new phase. The number and importance of subcommittees grew substantially, as did the number of committee staff; the seniority system was challenged, in part because of the influx of scores of new, younger Members; and scheduling conflicts increased, because of the relatively large number of committee and subcommittee assignments as well as other responsibilities of each Member. Moreover, there was a growing perception that the committee system still was not fully or correctly organized to handle the new, more complex issues of the day.

In response, during the 1970s, both chambers reorganized incrementally. The revisions adopted were directed largely toward the way Congress and its committees conduct their business. The changes in the two chambers, particularly in the House, dispersed power among many Members. They did not entirely divest senior Members of their power, but increased the relative influence of junior Members as they succeeded to subcommittee chairmanships and other leadership posts earlier in their careers. These changes diluted the control of chairs over their committees; shifted control over committees from the chair to the Members of the committee, in particular to those of the majority party and to the congressional party organizations; relaxed the seniority rule with respect to chairmanship selection; and strove to make committees more accountable by opening work sessions to the public and the press.

On November 15, 1992, H.Con.Res. 192 created the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress to analyze the overall organization and operation of the Congress, including an indepth study of the committee system. During its five months of hearings the Committee dedicated eight hearings exclusively to the committee system, during which 48 witnesses testified. Most of these witnesses were the chairs and ranking minority members of committees, especially from the House.

Many witnesses urged reductions in the number of Members' committee and subcommittee assignments, as well as the sizes of panels. A frequent object of discussion was committee jurisdictions, but witnesses differed significantly as to whether and how much jurisdiction restructuring was necessary. Relatedly, a number of witnesses found the House practice of multiple referrals problematic, and called for an end to the procedure or presented modifications to facilitate cross-committee consideration of measures. Committee procedural issues were addressed relatively little, with proxy voting, quorums, and ways to

increase participation in committee business probably receiving the most attention. Finally, some witnesses suggested reducing the number of committee and subcommittee staff.

The Joint Committee is charged with issuing a report containing its reform recommendations prior to its scheduled termination on December 31, 1993. Because the Committee lacks legislative jurisdiction, its recommendations could be referred to the House and Senate committees with jurisdiction over the subject of the proposed recommendations.

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THE CURRENT COMMITTEE SYSTEM

DECENTRALIZATION

Decentralization is the most distinctive characteristic of today's standing committee system. Structurally, 22 House and 16 Senate standing committees have created 115 and 86 subcommittees respectively. The specialization in designated policy areas that characterizes these committees and subcommittees reinforces structural decentralization. Committee power, once wielded at the discretion of full committee chairs, has been decentralized by recent reforms.

Specialization occurs in both chambers of Congress, but is less pronounced in the Senate for several reasons including the following: 1) 100 Senators must cover the same range of issues handled by 435 Representatives, 2) Senators often represent larger and more diverse constituencies that are interested in more policy areas than those of their House counterparts, and 3) Senators more than Representatives are expected to have opinions on national as well as local issues.

The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (1946 Act) had centralizing effects on the committee system. Since then decentralizing changes have countered these effects. Many of these changes occurred in three areas: the number and role of subcommittees, the power of committee chairs, and the number and role of committee aides. Many of the reforms took place in the 1970s, with some contained in the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970.

The centralizing effect of the 1946 Act on the structure of the system has been countered by a proliferation of subcommittees. From a low in 1950 of 125 subcommittees of House and Senate standing committees, the number increased to a high of 271 in 1975. Since then the chambers have made significant reductions, but the 1993 total of 201 subcommittees remains large. Today's sizeable numbers result from Government expansion into new policy areas, the wide range of subject matter before each committee, efforts to disperse committee leadership authority, and efforts to foster specialization.

In the Senate, notable reductions in subcommittees were achieved as a result of the 1977 "Stevenson Committee" and the 1984 "Quayle Committee" reforms, which imposed stricter assignment limitations on Senators. The Senate does not have an overt cap on number of subcommittees per committee, but restrictions on subcommittee assignments and leadership positions create de facto limits.

By contrast, the number of House subcommittees declined largely due to actions by the Democratic Caucus. In 1981, Caucus Rules began limiting the number of subcommittees each committee could establish, resulting in the first

actual reduction in House subcommittees in three decades. In 1993, the Caucus further limited the number of subcommittees per committee, effecting another significant decline in total subcommittees. Under the new Caucus Rule, today most House committees are capped at either five or six subcommittees, although committees sometimes create additional subunits, such as task forces, for temporary periods.

Although large numbers of subcommittees were being created during the 1950s and 1960s, committee power did not immediately reside there. Until the 1970s, the full committee chair often assumed all a committee's powers, and exercised them at discretion. Although most committees had subcommittees, these subunits often were not autonomous.

Especially in the House, committee power was decentralized and the role played by subcommittees changed considerably during the 1970s. In 1973, House Democrats adopted a so-called Subcommittee Bill of Rights; it transferred powers exercised by chairs, such as choosing subcommittee heads, to majority party members on each committee. House subcommittees were authorized independent staff and budgets and to hold hearings and set meeting times. With independent authority and resources, some subcommittee chairs emerged as new loci of power. Scores of these subcommittees have become nearly autonomous, especially in the House. House subcommittees are guaranteed written jurisdictions and the near absolute right to consider legislation in accordance with them.

A key factor in dispersing the power of full committee chairs was decisions in both chambers during the 1970s to elect them by party caucus. Previously, chairs were chosen by an unwritten "seniority rule," whereby the majority party member of longest uninterrupted committee service became chair. Election by caucus required chairs to be responsive to party colleagues or risk being ousted.

Other 1970s changes further curbed the influence of chairs, and of other senior Members, by limiting the number of committees and subcommittees that a Member could serve on and chair. Further, they mandated a more equitable assignment of Members to the most desirable committees. As a result, subcommittee chairmanships and choice committee seats became available to more junior Members.

The number of committee and subcommittee aides in both chambers increased in the post-World War II period, partly in response to the decentralization of the system. In turn, the staff increases further promoted decentralization. For example, in 1947 there were approximately 400 House and Senate standing committee staff, and today there are approximately 3,000. Further, in general today's staff are better educated, trained, and paid, and are involved more heavily in all aspects of the legislative process, than their colleagues of 40 or 50 years ago. The decentralization of committee power extended to the minority party in both chambers. In the 1970s, separate staff and funds were authorized for each committee's minority members.

The committee system encourages Members to specialize in particular subject matters. Members tend to remain on the committees to which they were originally assigned, in part because of the benefits that accrue with seniority. The relative stability of committee memberships and jurisdictions enables Members to become expert in specific policy areas. Tenure on a committee not only encourages specialization, but is considered important both to the effective operation of the committee system and to the legislative careers of individual Members. One result of specialization is that Members come to depend on their colleagues and staff for informed analyses of subjects outside their own legislative specialties.

COMMITTEE SIZE

For each new Congress, party leaders in both chambers establish the size of committees and the ratio of majority to minority party members on each, in accordance with chamber and party conference rules. It is a custom of each chamber to give the minority party representation on every committee in rough proportion to its number in the chamber as a whole. Senate Rules, which unlike House ones identify the size of each committee, often are amended at the outset of a Congress to reflect new committee sizes approved by the Senate. In some instances committee sizes are adjusted to accommodate Members' requests for positions on them.

House standing committees typically have roughly twice as many Members as those of the Senate. The different sizes of the two Houses and the needs of the individual Members largely account for differences in the sizes of committees. In the Senate, standing committee size ranges from 12 for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs to 29 for the Committee on Appropriations, but most Senate committees have between 16 and 20 members. In the House, standing committee size ranges from 11 for the Committee on the District of Columbia to 61 for the Committee on Public Works and Transportation, but most House committees have between 42 and 48 members.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT PROCESS

The assignment of Members to standing committees is a party function and is essentially a three-step process, in which the first step is the most decisive. First, after the size of and party ratio on each committee are determined, party organizations in each chamber begin assigning their members to the committees. The House party organizations—the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee and the Republican Committee on Committees—are headed by the Speaker and Minority Leader respectively. The top Senate leaders serve on but do not chair their party organizations, the Democratic Steering Committee and the Republican Committee on Committees. Party leaders often have leverage over Members through the committee assignment process, because of the importance of committee assignments to individual Members.

Each of these panels surveys Members of its party in the chamber to ascertain their preferences for committee assignments. Incumbents usually seek reassignment to the same committees, in part because these committees offer good opportunities to help constituents and because certain benefits accrue with seniority, which results in the specialization described above. The panels then assign their party colleagues to committees, taking into account many factors including each Member's preference; the party's overall needs; and the ideological, geographical, and attitudinal balance of each committee. They also apply rules aimed at treating Members equitably and fairly, by limiting the number and type of committees each Member may serve on. For example, each party prohibits Members from serving on more than one of what it regards as the most prestigious or desirable committees. Each party panel draws up a slate of Members for each standing committee, identifying the chair and assigning other Members their rankings. Committee members tend to move up in rank as those above them leave the committee.

At the second step, the recommendations of each panel are sent to the pertinent full party conference. The Senate Democratic Steering Committee, for example, sends its recommendations to the Senate Democratic Conference. Each conference examines, then votes on approving the recommendations, and ordinarily they are accepted without much controversy. In the past, however, some nominees for committee chair were rejected by their conferences, and others were chosen.

At the third step, the lists approved by the party conferences are presented to the pertinent chamber as resolutions. Each chamber votes on the resolutions, and ordinarily they are approved by voice vote without debate.

Every Member of the House serves on at least one standing committee, except the Speaker and Minority Leader, who traditionally serve on none. Senators serve on at least two standing committees.

JURISDICTION

Although each chamber distributes subject jurisdiction among its committees differently and uses different names for its committees, the two committee systems are somewhat parallel. Each chamber has standing committees on agriculture; appropriations; taxes; armed services; budget; judiciary; foreign relations; banking, housing and urban affairs; education and labor; energy; veterans' affairs; government operations; the environment; public works; commerce; small business; transportation; science and technology; insular affairs, and chamber ethics, rules, administration, and housekeeping. Some committees have broad jurisdictions encompassing diverse issues, while others have narrower responsibilities. Most standing committees have a system of subcommittees which further divides this subject matter. Bills are referred to committees in accordance with their jurisdictions set forth in chamber rules, Rule X in the House and Rule XXV in the Senate. These rules were first

codified by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, and many have changed little since. Bills are referred by a full committee to one or more of its subcommittees in accordance with rules of the individual committee and, in the House, also of the party conferences.

AUTHORIZATIONS AND APPROPRIATIONS

Parallels also exist between the chambers in the grouping of committees by function. The rules of both Houses recognize two types of committees: one to authorize a government activity or program, the other to appropriate funds for such programs. The Appropriations Committee in each House is vested with the right to report general appropriations bills; to the other committees, except the Budget Committee, falls the task of reporting authorization bills for the programs and activities within their respective jurisdictions. A primary responsibility of the Budget Committee in each chamber is to recommend a budget plan in the form of a concurrent resolution setting forth appropriate levels of Federal revenues, spending, surplus or deficit, and debt limit. Some committees, however, are more noted for special functions than for authorizing responsibilities. For example, the House Administration, House Rules, and Senate Rules and Administration Committees each deal with aspects of internal chamber operations.

The distinction between authorizing and appropriating committees takes on added significance in relation to the role of each in overseeing the activities of the executive branch. Oversight within the authorizing committees usually accompanies committee consideration of new legislation or the revision of existing laws and programs. Also, the House Committee on Government Operations and the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs have the special function of overseeing all Government operations and activities. Oversight of the implementation of governmental programs frequently occurs as part of the appropriations process as well. The subcommittees of the Appropriations Committees roughly parallel the committee system of the whole chambers, and their members develop expertise to match that of the comparable authorizing committee. There is, in addition, a close parallel among the Appropriations subcommittees and the executive agencies.

STAFFING AND SUPPORT AGENCIES

Within this structure, and largely because of the need for extensive consideration of contemporary policy complexities, Congress has built up a large professional, administrative, and clerical staff to support its committees. At the present time, House and Senate committees employ approximately 3,000 aides. Most staff are controlled by the majority members of a committee, but chamber rules require each committee to share a portion of its staff and resources with its minority members. Full committees share their staff and resources with subcommittees, and House and Democratic Caucus Rules guarantee House

subcommittees some degree of independent staffing. Many Senate committees also have independently staffed subcommittees, although on some committees most or all aides work for the full committee and might be detailed to specific subcommittees as needed.

In addition, Congress has created several staff agencies to provide additional support to committees. The Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress provides to committees and individual Members, information, research, and analysis on a wide range of subjects. The General Accounting Office assists committees in fulfilling their oversight and program evaluation responsibilities. The Office of Technology Assessment analyzes for committees the impact of technology on public policy. The Congressional Budget Office provides committees—especially the Budget, Appropriations and tax committees—with fiscal and budgetary analyses and cost estimates. Each House also has an Office of Legislative Counsel to assist Members and committees in drafting legislation. Finally, each House has offices charged with providing data processing and other automated systems services to committees.

COMMITTEES AND THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Under the rules of both Houses, each committee practically has an absolute right to have referred to it all introduced measures within its subject jurisdiction. Furthermore, each committee has almost absolute power to dispose of those measures as it pleases. Committees are seldom required to report any of the measures referred to them back to their parent bodies; they may, and on the overwhelming majority of bills do, decline to act, and thereby kill those measures. To discharge a House committee from considering a bill is extraordinarily difficult; 218 House Members' signatures are required on a petition before a discharge attempt may be made. Attempts to do so are rare, and successful attempts even rarer. Discharge of committees is possible in the Senate but rarely invoked.

COMMITTEES AND THE LEADERSHIP

Congressional party leaders exercise about as much influence over the way their colleagues vote in committee as they do over the way their colleagues vote on the floor of the parent chamber. That is, a committee member tends to follow leadership suggestions to the extent that those suggestions do not run counter to the individual's convictions and perceptions of his or her constituency's views and interests. Committee members are not obligated to follow leadership suggestions, and leaders have few resources to punish those that do not. The practice of continuity in committee membership effectively prohibits party leaders from removing maverick committee members from their assignments except in extraordinary circumstances. In addition, each committee has its own staff and resources. As a result, committees are fairly independent of the chamber's party leadership.

REFERRAL OF MEASURES TO COMMITTEES

Measures introduced in Congress are referred to committee in accordance with written committee jurisdictions in House Rule X and Senate Rule XXV and related precedents and agreements among committees. Each chamber also applies its own jurisdictional rules when it receives a measure passed by the other, if it refers that measure to committee. Very few measures are considered by the full House or Senate without prior committee scrutiny.

Responsibility for referring measures technically belongs to the Speaker in the House and the Presiding Officer in the Senate, but these individuals rely on the expert referral advice of the House and Senate Parliamentarians. The majority of measures get referred to one committee only. However, because committee jurisdictions are fragmented and overlap, some measures fall within

the purview of more than one committee. Consequently, both the House and Senate allow multiple referrals, whereby two or more committees consider the same measure.

Multiple referrals are much more frequent in the House than the Senate, which prefers to refer a measure to only one committee based on the subject matter that predominates. In the 101st Congress, for example, about 18.5 percent of measures in the House, but only two percent of measures in the Senate, were multiply referred. Moreover, over the past decade the trend in the House has been towards increasing use of the multiple referral procedure, whereas in the Senate the opposite trend has been in evidence.

Most measures referred to a House or Senate committee are in turn referred to one or more of its subcommittees. In the House, the rules of the Democratic Caucus require measures to be referred to subcommittees, in accordance with written subcommittee jurisdictions, unless the full committee majority members vote to keep a measure for the full committee. Senate committees are not required by party or chamber rules to refer measures to subcommittees, which on several committees do not have written jurisdictions.

From the tens or hundreds of measures each committee receives, it selects a relative few to address. Those not selected for consideration generally "die" in committee; thus committees have been called "legislative graveyards." When a committee seriously considers a measure, generally it takes four principal actions: requests executive agency comment, holds hearings, conducts a markup, and makes a report. These actions are not required, and a committee might not take all of them before declining further action on a measure or before reporting a measure to the chamber. The following discussion assumes a committee is interested in taking all four actions. Also, each of these actions may be taken by the full committee, by its subcommittees, or by both a subcommittee and the full committee. The main difference between actions by the full committee and by a subcommittee is that only full committees can report to the full chamber. Subcommittees must report to their parent committees.

EXECUTIVE AGENCY COMMENT

As a matter of practice and interbranch comity, usually a committee will ask pertinent executive branch agencies for comment on legislation it is considering. For example, if legislation to increase security at U.S. embassies is before the House Foreign Affairs or the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the committee may ask the State Department for its comments on the legislation. Any such comments are sent in writing to the committee. Executive agencies in turn generally send measures they receive to the Office of Management and Budget, for a determination as to consistency with the President's program. Committees need not solicit executive agency comments, agencies need not comment to committees, and committees need not seriously

consider any agency comments. However, the two branches generally cooperate in this respect, out of comity and necessity.

HEARINGS

Committees and subcommittees hold hearings on measures and issues for a variety of reasons; principal among them are to gather information, to assess the level of support, to build a public record of committee actions, and to generate publicity. A variety of informed and interested witnesses may appear before the committee, including Federal officials, interest group representatives, academic experts, private citizens, and Members of Congress not on the committee holding the hearing. For many hearings more individuals than can be accommodated desire to testify, but only invited individuals may testify. Most witnesses are invited by the chairman of a committee, although the minority party is entitled to call witnesses on at least one day of hearings.

A committee may exercise its power to demand the presence of an individual, by issuing a subpoena. However, usually a simple invitation is sufficient for requesting an individual's attendance. Similarly, a committee may subpoena books, correspondence, papers, or other documents it deems necessary for a hearing.

In advance of testifying before a committee, witnesses are required to submit written copies of their testimony, which may then be reviewed by interested committee members and staff. Then, when a witness appears before a committee, usually he or she summarizes these written remarks, and takes questions from members of the committee. The format for questioning witnesses varies between the chambers and among committees, but often majority and minority members alternate questioning.

Hearings and other committee meetings, such as markups, must be open to the public except under extraordinary circumstances. Meetings that are open to the public may be broadcast by radio or television.

MARKUP

Following hearings, to decide what a measure's actual language will be, a committee holds a business meeting called a markup. This meeting gets its name from the literal process of marking a legislative proposal to add or to delete language. For this purpose, the committee must choose a single measure as a vehicle. A committee may choose not to change the measure, or to change it little or very much. Usually it changes some provisions, under the assumption that no measure is "born perfect." If a committee radically alters a measure, it may lay it aside and introduce another reflecting the changes it made in the one laid aside.

Markup procedure also varies between the chambers, and may vary among committees. Often a chair works for the support of all committee members for a measure, which sometimes means accepting numerous amendments proposed by the members. By achieving unity at the committee stage, a chair may reduce the likelihood that disgruntled committee members and others will attempt to change the measure during full chamber consideration.

On a highly controversial measure, a series of formal votes may occur on each amendment. Otherwise markups are less formal, with changes often made to a measure by common assent. However, not only the entire measure, but each change recommended by the committee, must be agreed to by the full chamber.

REPORT

When the markup is concluded, a committee will report the measure back to the full chamber in which it originated. This is accomplished by a full committee vote in favor of reporting. A committee has several reporting options. It may report the measure it has been considering with no changes, which is unlikely; with a series of changes to multiple provisions, called cut and bite amendments; or with new text entirely replacing the original one, called an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Or, the committee may report a new measure reflecting the changes to the one it marked up, called a clean bill in the House and an original bill in the Senate. A committee also may report a measure with a favorable or unfavorable recommendation, or with no recommendation at all, but the overwhelming majority of reports have favorable recommendations. A favorable report signifies that the committee wishes the chamber to take further action on the measure.

When a measure is reported by a House committee, in general it must be accompanied by an explanatory document, also called a report. Senate committees are not required to prepare explanatory reports for measures reported, although they often do. A report describes the purposes and provisions of the measure it accompanies and usually seeks to persuade Members of the full chamber to vote for the measure as reported. Various items may be included, such as the measure's legislative intent; comments of pertinent executive agencies; results of votes taken in committee; estimates of costs incurred in carrying out the measure; a comparison of the measure's provisions with those of laws proposed for change; and minority, supplemental, or additional views of committee members. A report generally is prepared by committee staff and is representative of the views of the majority of the committee.

The measure and any accompanying report are referred to a calendar of business to await action by the full chamber. In the House, there are several possible calendars, whereas the Senate has only one calendar for legislative business. Both chambers require the measure and any report to remain on the

calendar for a certain period of time before consideration by the relevant chamber. However, these so-called layover requirements sometimes are waived.

COMMITTEES AND FLOOR ACTION

The influence of standing committees extends beyond initial control over the fate of legislative proposals. A committee that considers legislation may manage it on the floor, and floor procedures in both Houses give special rights and privileges to the committee managing a measure. The House Rules Committee, which operates as an agent of the House leadership in setting the chamber agenda, usually complies with the requests of committee chairs and ranking minority members for establishing the conditions that govern floor debate, i.e., amount and division of time, extent to which a measure or parts thereof are open to amendment, and waiving of House Rules. A House committee's members enjoy priority of recognition in debate and in offering amendments to bills which the committee has considered. The Senate does not employ these means to regulate the consideration of measures, but frequently operates instead under negotiated unanimous consent time agreements, which typically provide corresponding control of time, and perhaps of amendments, by the managers representing the committee.

COMMITTEES AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Further, if differences between the two Houses exist on a measure, an ad hoc conference committee made up of Members from both Houses may be convened to reconcile the disparities. The committees of jurisdiction dominate the membership on conference committees. Through this mechanism, a committee of jurisdiction may regain in the conference agreement on the legislation what it may have lost in its own chamber. Again, the committees enjoy procedural advantages, for the rules in each chamber favor the acceptance of the conference's compromise position rather than continuation of the disagreement between the two Houses. Finally, after policies are enacted, it is the committee of jurisdiction that exercises oversight of their implementation. The committees thereby wield considerable influence with the responsible executive agencies.

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STANDING COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS

The remainder of this report presents selected information for each standing committee of Congress—information on its jurisdiction, subcommittees, current membership, and history. For House committees, the lists of topics of legislative jurisdiction are taken from House Rule X, clause 1, and the statements of general and special oversight are derived respectively from Rule X, Clause 2 and Clause 3. Additional functions of committees contained in Rule X, Clause 4, are not reflected in this report. For Senate committees, the list of topics of jurisdiction and the oversight statements—identified herein as areas for "comprehensive study and review"—are taken from Senate Rule XXV, Paragraph 1. These House and Senate Rules, not this report, are the authorities for statements of committee legislative and oversight jurisdiction.

The names of subcommittees are drawn from the *Congressional Yellow Book*² and the *Congressional Directory, 1993-1994*.³ For the House committees, current membership figures reflect the official Majority/Minority party ratios. Slots occupied by Delegates or the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico are referenced in footnotes. In general, the history section for each committee notes its date of creation. This section also may include the names of other panels that were merged with the committee and the dates of the mergers, and may list selected issues acquired (principally from other committees) after the codification of jurisdictions by the 1946 Act. Finally, in cases where a committee is known to have prepared a published history of itself, a bibliographic citation is provided.

² Combs, Brian J. ed. *Congressional Yellow Book*. Washington, D.C., Monitor Publishing Co., 1993, quarterly editions.

³ U.S. Congress. Joint Committee on Printing. *Congressional Directory, 1993-1994*. Washington, G.P.O., 1993. 1352p. (At head of title: S.Pub. 103-8).


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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**JURISDICTION:**

Adulteration of seeds, insect pests, and protection of birds and animals in forest reserves; agriculture generally; agricultural and industrial chemistry; agricultural colleges and experiment stations; agricultural economics and research; agricultural education extension services; agricultural production and marketing and stabilization of prices of agricultural products, and commodities (not including distribution outside of the United States); animal industry and diseases of animals; crop insurance and soil conservation; dairy industry; entomology and plant quarantine; extension of farm credit and farm security; forestry in general, and forest reserves other than those created from the public domain; human nutrition and home economics; inspection of livestock and meat products; plant industry, soils, and agricultural engineering; rural electrification; commodities exchanges; and rural development.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Department Operations and Nutrition
2. Environment, Credit, and Rural Development
3. Foreign Agriculture and Hunger
4. General Farm Commodities
5. Livestock
6. Specialty Crops and Natural Resources

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 29
Minority: 19
Total: 48

HISTORY:

Created 1820
Added jurisdiction over agricultural commodities, including the Commodity Credit Corporation, effective 1975

PRINTED HISTORY:

U.S. Congress. House of Representatives. Committee on Agriculture. Committee on Agriculture, 150th anniversary. Washington, G.P.O., 1970. 32 p. (Document, House, 91st Congress, 2nd session, no. 91-350.)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**JURISDICTION:**

Appropriation of the revenue for the support of the Government; rescissions of appropriations contained in appropriations acts; transfers of unexpended balances; the amount of new spending authority (as described in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974) which is to be effective for a fiscal year, including bills and resolutions (reported by other committees) which provide new spending authority and are referred to the committee under House Rule X, clause 4(a).

General oversight responsibility with respect to the organization and operation of executive departments and other executive agencies (including any agency the majority of the stock of which is owned by the Government of the United States) as it deems necessary to assist it in determining matters within its jurisdiction.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
2. Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary
3. Defense
4. District of Columbia
5. Energy and Water Development
6. Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs
7. Interior
8. Labor — Health and Human Services — Education
9. Legislative
10. Military Construction
11. Transportation
12. Treasury — Postal Service — General Government
13. VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies

MEMBERSHIP:

| | |
|-----------|----|
| Majority: | 37 |
| Minority: | 23 |
| Total: | 60 |

HISTORY:

Created 1865

Added jurisdiction over certain special Presidential messages on rescissions and deferrals of budget authority and certain rescission bills and impoundment resolutions under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, in 1974

Added jurisdiction over rescissions of appropriations, transfers of unexpended balances, and the amount of new spending authority effective for a fiscal year, effective 1975

PRINTED HISTORY:

U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Appropriations. A history of the Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives. Washington, G.P.O., 1941. 88p. (Document, House, 77th Congress, 1st session, no. 299.)



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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

JURISDICTION:

Common defense generally; the Department of Defense, generally, including the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force generally; ammunition depots; forts; arsenals; Army, Navy, and Air Force reservations and establishments; conservation, development, and use of naval petroleum and oil shale reserves; pay, promotion, retirement, and other benefits and privileges of members of the armed forces; scientific research and development in support of the armed services; selective service; size and composition of the Army, Navy, and Air Force; soldiers' and sailors' homes; strategic and critical materials necessary for the common defense; and military applications of nuclear energy.

Special oversight responsibility with respect to international arms control and disarmament, and to the education of military dependents in schools.

SUBCOMMITTEES:⁴

1. Military Acquisition
2. Military Forces and Personnel
3. Military Installations and Facilities
4. Oversight and Investigations
5. Readiness
6. Research and Technology

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 33
 Minority: 22
 Total: 55 ⁵

HISTORY:

Created January 2, 1947, by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, merging Committees on Military Affairs and on Naval Affairs (both created 1822)
 Committee on Militia dissolved in 1911 and militia matters transferred to Committee on Military Affairs
 Gained formal responsibility over Department of Defense in 1953
 Added jurisdiction over military application of nuclear energy in 1977

⁴ In addition, the Committee has three panels, on: North Atlantic Assembly; Military Application of Nuclear Energy; and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation.

⁵ Membership also includes 1 Delegate (D).

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON BANKING, FINANCE, AND URBAN AFFAIRS**JURISDICTION:**

Banks and banking, including deposit insurance and Federal monetary policy; money and credit, including currency and the issuance of notes and redemption thereof; gold and silver, including the coinage thereof; valuation and revaluation of the dollar; urban development; public and private housing; economic stabilization, defense production, renegotiation, and control of the price of commodities, rents, and services; international finance; financial aid to commerce and industry (other than transportation); international financial and monetary organizations.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Consumer Credit and Insurance
2. Economic Growth and Credit Formation
3. Financial Institutions Supervision, Regulation and Deposit Insurance
4. General Oversight and Investigations, & Resolution of Failed Financial Institutions
5. Housing and Community Development
6. International Development, Finance, Trade, and Monetary Policy

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 30
Minority: 20
Independ: 1
Total: 51

HISTORY:

Created 1865, as the Committee on Banking and Currency
Jurisdiction of the Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures (created 1864) absorbed in 1946 (except for standardization of weights and measures and metric system)

Renamed Banking, Currency, and Housing effective 1975, and given present name in 1977

Added jurisdiction over international financial and monetary organizations, and over renegotiation, effective 1975

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

JURISDICTION:

All concurrent resolutions on the budget (as defined in section 3 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974), and other matters required to be referred to the committee under titles III and IV of that act.⁶

In addition, the committee is to (1) report the required matters under titles III and IV of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974,⁷ and (2) review, on a continuing basis, the conduct by the Congressional Budget Office of its functions and duties.

Special oversight responsibility (1) to make continuing studies of the effect on budget outlays of relevant existing and proposed legislation, and to report the results of such studies to the House on a recurring basis, and (2) to request and evaluate continuing studies of tax expenditures, to devise methods of coordinating tax expenditures, policies, and programs with direct budget outlays, and to report the results of such studies to the House on a recurring basis.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

None

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 26
Minority: 17
Total: 43

HISTORY:

Created 1974 pursuant to the Congressional Budget Act of 1974

⁶ Such matters include reconciliation and other enforcement measures as described.

⁷ Section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act prohibits bills, resolutions, amendments, motions, and conference reports dealing with matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Budget from being considered in the House unless reported by (or discharged from) the Committee on the Budget.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

JURISDICTION:

All measures relating to the municipal affairs of the District of Columbia in general, other than appropriations therefor, including—adulteration of foods and drugs; incorporation and organization of societies; insurance, executors, administrators, wills, and divorce; municipal code and amendments to the criminal and corporation laws; municipal and juvenile courts; public health and safety, sanitation, and quarantine regulations; regulation of sale of intoxicating liquors; taxes and tax sales; and St. Elizabeths Hospital.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Fiscal Affairs and Health
2. Government Operations and Metropolitan Affairs
3. Judiciary and Education

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 7
Minority: 4
Total: 11⁸

HISTORY:

Created 1808
Added jurisdiction over St. Elizabeths Hospital effective 1975

⁸ Membership also includes 1 Delegate (D).

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

JURISDICTION:

Measures relating to education or labor generally; child labor; Columbia Institution for the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind; Howard University; Freedmen's Hospital; convict labor and the entry of goods made by convicts into interstate commerce; labor standards; labor statistics; mediation and arbitration of labor disputes; regulation or prevention of importation of foreign laborers under contract; food programs for children in schools; United States Employees' Compensation Commission; vocational rehabilitation; wages and hours of labor; welfare of miners; and work incentive programs.

Special oversight responsibility with respect to domestic educational programs and institutions, and programs of student assistance, which are within the jurisdiction of other committees.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Elementary, Secondary, and Vocational Education
2. Human Resources
3. Labor-Management Relations
4. Labor Standards, Occupational Health and Safety
5. Post Secondary Education and Training
6. Select Education and Civil Rights

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 24
 Minority: 15
 Total: 39⁹

HISTORY:

Created January 2, 1947, by Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, merging the Committee on Education (created 1867) and the Committee on Labor (created 1883)
 Added jurisdiction over Indian education and work incentive programs effective 1975

⁹ Membership also includes Resident Commissioner (D) and 3 Delegates (D).

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE**JURISDICTION:**

Interstate and foreign commerce generally; national energy policy generally; the exploration, production, storage, supply, marketing, pricing, and regulation of energy resources, including all fossil fuels, solar energy, and other unconventional or renewable energy resources; the conservation of energy resources; the commercial application of energy technology; energy information generally; the generation and marketing of power (except by federally chartered or Federal regional power marketing authorities), the reliability and interstate transmission of, and ratemaking for, all power, and the siting of generation facilities, except the installation of interconnections between Government waterpower projects; interstate energy compacts; general management of the Department of Energy, and the management and all functions of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; inland waterways; railroads, including railroad labor, railroad retirement and unemployment, except revenue measures related thereto; regulation of interstate and foreign communications; securities and exchanges; consumer affairs and consumer protection; travel and tourism; public health and quarantine; health and health facilities, except health care supported by payroll deductions; and biomedical research and development.

The Committee has the same jurisdiction with respect to regulation of nuclear facilities and of use of nuclear energy as it has with respect to regulation of nonnuclear facilities and of use of nonnuclear energy.

Special oversight responsibility with respect to nuclear and other energy.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Competitiveness
2. Energy and Power
3. Health and the Environment
4. Oversight and Investigations
5. Telecommunications and Finance
6. Transportation and Hazardous Materials

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 27
 Minority: 17
 Total: 44

HISTORY:

Created 1795 as Committee on Commerce and Manufactures
Separate Committees on Commerce and on Manufactures
established in 1819

Commerce Committee changed name to Interstate and
Foreign Commerce in 1892

Added jurisdiction over health and health facilities (except
health care supported by payroll deductions) effective
1975

Added jurisdiction over use of nuclear energy and regulation
facilities in 1977

Acquired current name and enhanced energy jurisdiction
effective 1981

PRINTED HISTORY:

U.S. Congress. House of Representatives. Committee on
Interstate and Foreign Commerce. 180 years of service:
a brief history of the Committee on Interstate and
Foreign Commerce. Washington, G.P.O., 1975. 102 p.
(At head of title: committee print.)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

JURISDICTION:

Relations of the United States with foreign nations generally; acquisition of land and buildings for embassies and legations in foreign countries; establishment of boundary lines between the United States and foreign nations; foreign loans; international conferences and congresses; intervention abroad and declarations of war; the diplomatic service; fostering commercial intercourse with foreign nations and safeguarding American business interests abroad; neutrality; protection of American citizens abroad and expatriation; American National Red Cross; United Nations Organizations; trading with the enemy; international economic policy; export controls, including nonproliferation of nuclear technology and nuclear hardware; international commodity agreements (except sugar), including for cooperation in the export of nuclear technology and nuclear hardware; and international education.

Special oversight responsibility with respect to customs administration, intelligence activities relating to foreign policy, international financial and monetary organizations, and international fishing agreements.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Africa
2. Asia and the Pacific
3. Economic Policy, Trade, and Environment
4. Europe and the Middle East
5. International Operations
6. International Security, International Organizations and Human Rights
7. Western Hemisphere Affairs

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 26
Minority: 18
Total: 44¹⁰

HISTORY:

Created 1822 as Committee on Foreign Affairs

Added jurisdiction over export controls, international commodity agreements (except sugar), international economic policy, trading with the enemy, and international education effective 1975

Changed name to International Relations in 1975 and back to Foreign Affairs in 1979

¹⁰ Membership also includes 1 Delegate (D).

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

JURISDICTION:

Budget and accounting measures, other than appropriations; the overall economy and efficiency of Government operations and activities, including Federal procurement; reorganizations in the Executive Branch of the Government; intergovernmental relationships between the United States and the States and municipalities, and general revenue sharing; national archives; measures providing for off-budget treatment of Federal agencies or programs; measures providing exemption from reduction under any order issued under part C of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 [Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act].

General oversight responsibility with respect to the operation of Government activities at all levels, to determine their economy and efficiency.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Commerce, Consumer, and Monetary Affairs
2. Employment, Housing, and Aviation
3. Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources
4. Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations
5. Information, Justice, Transportation, and Agriculture
6. Legislation and National Security

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 25
 Minority: 17
 Independ.: 1
 Total: 43

HISTORY:

Created 1927 as Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments, when 11 separate Expenditure Committees were combined

Acquired current name in 1952

Added jurisdiction over general revenue sharing and over the National Archives, effective 1975

Added jurisdiction over measures providing for off-budget treatment of Federal agencies or programs in 1985

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

JURISDICTION:

Appropriations from the contingent fund; auditing and settling of all accounts which may be charged to the contingent fund; employment of persons by the House, including clerks for Members and committees, and reporters of debates; the Library of Congress (including its management), the Smithsonian Institution and the incorporation of similar institutions, and the Botanic Gardens, except measures relating to the construction or reconstruction, maintenance, and care of the buildings and grounds of the Botanic Gardens, the Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian Institution; the House Library; statuary and pictures; acceptance or purchase of works of art for the Capitol; purchase of books and manuscripts; erection of monuments to the memory of individuals; expenditure of contingent fund of the House; printing and correction of the Congressional Record; accounts of the House generally; assignment of office space for Members and committees; the disposition of useless executive papers; the election of the President, Vice President, or Members of Congress; corrupt practices; contested elections; credentials and qualifications; and Federal elections generally; services to the House, including the House Restaurant, parking facilities and administration of the House Office Buildings and of the House wing of the Capitol; the travel of Members of the House; the raising, reporting, and use of campaign contributions for candidates for office of Representative in the House of Representatives and of Resident Commissioner to the United States from Puerto Rico; the compensation, retirement, and other benefits of the Members, officers, and employees of the Congress.

SUBCOMMITTEES:¹¹

1. Accounts
2. Administrative Oversight
3. Elections
4. Libraries and Memorials
5. Office Systems
6. Personnel and Police

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 12
 Minority: 7
 Total: 19

¹¹ In addition, the Committee has a Task Force on Campaign Finance Reform.

HISTORY:

Created January 2, 1947, by Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, merging Committee on Enrolled Bills (created 1789 as Joint Committee), Committee on Elections (created 1794), Committee on Accounts (created 1803), Committee on Printing (created 1846), Committee on Disposition of Executive Papers (created 1889), Committee on Memorials (created 1929), and some functions of the Joint Committee on Library (created 1806 as Joint Committee)

Added jurisdiction over parking facilities of the House and over campaign contributions to House candidates effective 1975

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

| | |
|------------------|--|
| JURISDICTION: | Judicial proceedings, civil and criminal generally; apportionment of Representatives; bankruptcy, mutiny, espionage, and counterfeiting; civil liberties; constitutional amendments; Federal courts and judges; immigration and naturalization; interstate compacts generally; local courts in the Territories and possessions; claims against the United States; meetings of Congress, attendance of Members and their acceptance of incompatible offices; national penitentiaries; Patent Office; patents, copyrights, and trademarks; presidential succession; protection of trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies; revision and codification of the Statutes of the United States; state and territorial boundary lines; and communist and other subversive activities affecting the internal security of the United States. |
| SUBCOMMITTEES: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administrative Law and Governmental Relations 2. Civil and Constitutional Rights 3. Crime and Criminal Justice 4. Economic and Commercial Law 5. Intellectual Property and Judicial Administration 6. International Law, Immigration, and Refugees |
| MEMBERSHIP: | <p>Majority: 21</p> <p>Minority: 14</p> <p>Total: 35</p> |
| HISTORY: | <p>Created 1813</p> <p>Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 merged Committee on Claims (created 1794), Committee on Patents (created 1837), Committee on Revision of the Laws (created 1868), Committee on War Claims (created 1883), and Committee on Immigration and Naturalization (created 1893)</p> <p>Added jurisdiction over communist and other subversive activities affecting the internal security of the United States in 1975, upon the abolition of the Committee on Internal Security</p> |
| PRINTED HISTORY: | U.S. Congress. House. Committee on the Judiciary. History of the Committee on the Judiciary. Washington, G.P.O., 1982. 235 p. (At head of title: committee print, no. 15.) |

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES**JURISDICTION:**

Merchant marine generally; oceanography and marine affairs, including coastal zone management; Coast Guard, including lifesaving service, lighthouses, lightships, and ocean derelicts; fisheries and wildlife, including research, restoration, refuges, and conservation; the regulation of common carriers by water (except matters subject to the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission) and the inspection of merchant marine vessels, lights and signals, lifesaving equipment, and fire protection on such vessels; merchant marine officers and seamen; navigation and laws relating thereto, including pilotage; Panama Canal and the maintenance and operation of the Panama Canal, including the administration, sanitation, and government of the Canal Zone; interoceanic canals generally; registering and licensing of vessels and small boats; rules and international arrangements to prevent collisions at sea; United States Coast Guard and Merchant Marine Academies, and State Maritime Academies; and international fishing agreements.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Coast Guard and Navigation
2. Environment and Natural Resources
3. Fisheries Management
4. Merchant Marine
5. Oceanography, Gulf of Mexico, and the Outer Continental Shelf

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 28
Minority: 18
Total: 46

HISTORY:

Created 1887, absorbed jurisdiction of Select Committee on American Shipbuilding and Shipowning
Added jurisdiction over international fishing agreements, and jurisdiction over coast and geodetic survey enhanced to oceanography and marine affairs, including coastal zone management, effective 1975

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

JURISDICTION:

Forest reserves and national parks created from the public domain; forfeiture of land grants and alien ownership, including alien ownership of mineral lands; Geological Survey; interstate compacts relating to apportionment of waters for irrigation purposes; irrigation and reclamation, including water supply for reclamation projects, and easements of public lands for irrigation projects, and acquisition of private lands when necessary to complete irrigation projects; the care and management of Indians, including the care and allotment of Indian lands and general and special measures relating to claims which are paid out of Indian funds; the insular possessions of the United States, except those affecting the revenue and appropriations; military parks and battlefields; national cemeteries administered by the Secretary of the Interior, and parks within the District of Columbia; mineral land laws and claims and entries thereunder; mineral resources of the public lands; mining interests generally; mining schools and experimental stations; petroleum conservation on the public lands and conservation of the radium supply in the United States; preservation of prehistoric ruins and objects of interest on the public domain; public lands, generally, including entry, easements, and grazing thereon; relations of the United States with the Indians and the Indian tribes; and regulation of the domestic nuclear energy industry, including regulation of research and development reactors and nuclear regulatory research.

Special oversight responsibility with respect to Indians and to nonmilitary nuclear energy and research and development including the disposal of nuclear waste.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Energy and Mineral Resources
2. Insular and International Affairs
3. National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands
4. Native American Affairs
5. Oversight and Investigations

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 24
 Minority: 15
 Total: 39 ¹²

¹² Total membership also includes 4 more (1 Resident Commissioner (D) and 3 Delegates (D)).

HISTORY:

Created January 2, 1947, as Committee on Public Lands, by Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, merging Committee on Public Lands (created 1805); Committee on Indian Affairs (created 1821); Committee on Territories (created 1825); Committee on Mines and Mining (created 1865) (except welfare of mine workers); Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation (created 1893); Committee on Insular Affairs (created 1899); and certain responsibilities of Committee on Military Affairs (created 1822), including military parks, battlefields, and the national cemeteries.

Changed name to Interior and Insular Affairs in 1951

Added jurisdiction over parks within the District of Columbia effective 1975

Added jurisdiction over regulation of the domestic nuclear energy industry in 1977

Adopted current name in 1993

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| JURISDICTION: | Census and the collection of statistics generally; all Federal Civil Service, including intergovernmental personnel; postal-savings banks; postal service generally, including the railway mail service and ocean mail and pneumatic-tube service, but excluding post roads; status of officers and employees of the United States, including their compensation, classification, and retirement; Hatch Act; holidays and celebrations; and population and demography. |
| SUBCOMMITTEES: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Census, Statistics and Postal Personnel 2. Civil Service 3. Compensation and Employee Benefits 4. Oversight and Investigations 5. Postal Operations and Services |
| MEMBERSHIP: | <p>Majority: 14</p> <p>Minority: 9</p> <p>Total: 23 ¹⁸</p> |
| HISTORY: | <p>Created January 2, 1947, by Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, merging Committee on Post Office and Post Roads (created 1808), Committee on Civil Service (created 1893), and Committee on Census (created 1901)</p> <p>Added jurisdiction over holidays and celebrations and over political activity prohibitions on Federal employees effective 1975</p> |

¹⁸ Membership also includes 1 Delegate (D).

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION

JURISDICTION:

Flood control and improvement of rivers and harbors; the Capitol Building and the Senate and House Office Buildings; the construction or maintenance of roads and post roads, other than appropriations therefor, but no bill providing general legislation in relation to roads may contain any provision for any specific road, and no bill relating to a specific road may embrace a provision relating to any other specific road; the construction or reconstruction, maintenance, and care of the buildings and grounds of the Botanic Gardens, the Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian Institution; the purchase of sites and construction of post offices, customhouses, Federal courthouses, and Government buildings within the District of Columbia; oil and other pollution of navigable waters; public buildings and occupied or improved grounds of the United States generally; public works for the benefit of navigation, including bridges and dams (other than international bridges and dams); water power; transportation, including civil aviation, except railroads, railroad labor, and pensions; roads and the safety thereof; water transportation subject to the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission; and related transportation regulatory agencies, except the Interstate Commerce Commission as it relates to railroads, the Federal Railroad Administration, and Amtrak.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Aviation
2. Economic Development
3. Investigations and Oversight
4. Public Buildings and Grounds
5. Surface Transportation
6. Water Resources and Environment

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 37
 Minority: 24
 Total: 61 ¹⁴

¹⁴ Membership also includes 2 Delegates (D).

HISTORY:

Created January 2, 1947 as Committee on Public Works, by Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, merging Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds (created 1837), Committee on Rivers and Harbors (created 1883), Committee on Roads (created 1913), and Committee on Flood Control (created 1916)

Acquired current name and added jurisdiction over most aspects of transportation effective 1975



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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES

JURISDICTION:

The rules and joint rules (other than those relating to the Code of Official Conduct), and order of business of the House; and recesses and final adjournments of Congress.

Special oversight responsibility with respect to the congressional budget process.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Legislative Process
2. Rules of the House

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 9
Minority: 4
Total: 13

HISTORY:

Created 1880

Predecessor Select Committee on Rules (created 1789)

Added jurisdiction over emergency waivers of the required reporting date for measures authorizing new budget authority in 1974

Added jurisdiction over rules relating to financial disclosure in 1977

PRINTED HISTORY:

U.S. Congress. House Committee on Rules. A history of the Committee on Rules. Washington, G.P.O., 1983. 298 p. (At head of title: committee print.)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

JURISDICTION:

Astronautical research and development, including resources, personnel, equipment, and facilities; Bureau of Standards, standardization of weights and measures and the metric system; National Aeronautics and Space Administration; National Aeronautics and Space Council; National Science Foundation; outer space, including exploration and control thereof; science scholarships; scientific research, development, and demonstration, and projects therefore; civil aviation research and development; environmental research and development; all energy research, development, and demonstration, and projects therefor, and all federally owned or operated nonmilitary energy laboratories; and National Weather Service.

Special oversight responsibility with respect to nonmilitary research and development.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Energy
2. Investigations and Oversight
3. Science
4. Space
5. Technology, Environment and Aviation

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 33
 Minority: 22
 Total: 55

HISTORY:

Created 1958, as Committee on Science and Astronautics
 Enhanced jurisdiction over research and development issues, and added jurisdiction over the National Weather Service, effective 1975
 Added jurisdiction over nuclear research and development in 1977
 Renamed Science and Technology effective 1975, and acquired current name in 1987

PRINTED HISTORY:

U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Science and Technology. Toward the endless frontier: history of the Committee on Science and Technology, 1959-1979. Washington, G.P.O., 1980. 1073 p. (At head of title: committee print.)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| JURISDICTION: | Assistance to and protection of small business, including financial aid; and participation of small-business enterprises in Federal procurement and Government contracts. |
| | Special oversight responsibility with respect to the problems of all types of small business. |
| SUBCOMMITTEES: | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Minority Enterprise, Finance, and Urban Development2. Procurement, Taxation and Tourism3. Regulation, Business Opportunities, and Technology4. Rural Enterprises, Exports, and the Environment5. SBA [Small Business Administration] Legislation and the General Economy |
| MEMBERSHIP: | Majority: 27 Minority: 18 Total: 45 |
| HISTORY: | Created as Standing Committee in 1975 Predecessor Select Committee on Small Business (created 1941) |
| PRINTED HISTORY: | U.S. Congress. House. Permanent Select Committee on Small Business. A history and accomplishments of the Permanent Select Committee on Small Business, House of Representatives of the United States: 77th to 92d Congress, 1941-1972. Washington, G.P.O., 1974. 231 p. (Document, House, 93d Congress, 2d session, no. 93-197.) |

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

JURISDICTION: Measures relating to the Code of Official Conduct.

SUBCOMMITTEES: None

MEMBERSHIP: Majority: 7
Minority: 7
Total: 14

HISTORY: Created 1967
Predecessor Select Committee on Standards (created October 19, 1966)
Designated committee to perform functions described in Title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, effective 1979

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS**JURISDICTION:**

Veterans' measures generally; cemeteries of the United States in which veterans of any war or conflict are or may be buried, whether in the United States or abroad, except cemeteries administered by the Secretary of the Interior; compensation, vocational rehabilitation, and education of veterans; life insurance issued by the Government on account of service in the Armed Forces; pensions of all the wars of the United States, general and special; readjustment of servicemen to civil life; soldiers' and sailors' civil relief; and veterans' hospitals, medical care, and treatment of veterans.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Compensation, Pension, and Insurance
2. Education, Training, and Employment
3. Hospitals and Health Care
4. Housing and Memorial Affairs
5. Oversight and Investigations

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 21
Minority: 14
Total: 35

HISTORY:

Created January 2, 1947, by Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, merging Committee on Pensions (created 1825), Committee on Invalid Pensions (created 1831), and Committee on World War Veterans' Legislation (created 1924)

Added jurisdiction over veterans' cemeteries administered by the Department of Defense in 1967

PRINTED HISTORY:

U.S. Congress. House of Representatives. Committee on Veterans' Affairs. History of House committees considering veterans' legislation. Washington, G.P.O., 1990. 41 p. (At head of title: committee print.)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| JURISDICTION: | Customs, collection districts, and ports of entry and delivery; reciprocal trade agreements; revenue measures generally; revenue measures relating to the insular possessions; the bonded debt of the United States (subject to House Rule X, clause 4(g)) ¹⁵ ; the deposit of public moneys; transportation of dutiable goods; tax exempt foundations and charitable trusts; national social security, except both health care and facilities programs that are supported from general revenues as opposed to payroll deductions and work incentive programs. |
| SUBCOMMITTEES: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health 2. Human Resources 3. Oversight 4. Select Revenue Measures 5. Social Security 6. Trade |
| MEMBERSHIP: | Majority: 24 Minority: 14 Total: 38 |
| HISTORY: | Created 1802 Predecessor Select Committee on Ways and Means (created 1789) Added jurisdiction over tax exempt foundations and charitable trusts effective 1975 |
| PRINTED HISTORY: | U.S. Congress. House of Representatives. Committee on Ways and Means. The Committee on Ways and Means: a bicentennial history, 1789-1989. Washington, G.P.O., 1989. 526 p. |

¹⁵ Rule X, clause 4(g), in part requires each standing committee to submit annually its views and estimates on matters within its jurisdiction to be contained in the concurrent resolution on the budget. Those of the Committee on Ways and Means are to include a specific recommendation as to the level of public debt which should be set forth in the concurrent resolution on the budget, which level serves as the basis for an increase or decrease in the statutory debt limit.


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**STANDING COMMITTEES
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SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

JURISDICTION:

Agricultural economics and research; agricultural extension services and experiment stations; agricultural production, marketing, and stabilization of prices; agriculture and agricultural commodities; animal industry and diseases; crop insurance and soil conservation; farm credit and farm security; food from fresh waters; food stamp programs; forestry, and forest reserves and wilderness areas other than those created from the public domain; home economics; human nutrition; inspection of livestock, meat, and agricultural products; pests and pesticides; plant industry, soils, and agricultural engineering; rural development, rural electrification, and watersheds; and school nutrition programs.

Comprehensive study and review of matters relating to rural affairs, and to food, nutrition, and hunger, both in the United States and in foreign countries.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Agricultural Credit
2. Agricultural Production and Stabilization of Prices
3. Agricultural Research, Conservation, Forestry and General Legislation
4. Domestic and Foreign Marketing and Product Promotion
5. Nutrition and Investigations
6. Rural Development and Rural Electrification

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 10
 Minority: 8
 Total: 18

HISTORY:

Created as Agriculture Committee in 1825
 Abolished in 1857, and reestablished in 1863
 Name changed to Agriculture and Forestry Committee in 1884
 Acquired current name in 1977
 Added jurisdiction from Senate Nutrition Committee and jurisdiction over school lunch legislation in 1977

PRINTED HISTORY:

U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. A brief history of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, United States Senate, and landmark agricultural legislation, 1825-1986. Washington, G.P.O., 1986. 76 p.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

JURISDICTION:

Appropriation of the revenue for the support of the Government, (except as provided in Rule XXV, subparagraph 1(e) pertaining to the Committee on the Budget); rescission of appropriations contained in appropriation acts; the amount of new spending authority described in section 401(c)(2) (A) and (B) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 which is to be effective for a fiscal year; certain measures pertaining to new spending authority as specified in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies
2. Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary
3. Defense
4. District of Columbia
5. Energy and Water Development
6. Foreign Operations
7. Interior and Related Agencies
8. Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education
9. Legislative Branch
10. Military Construction
11. Transportation and Related Agencies
12. Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government
13. VA [Veterans' Administration], HUD [Housing and Urban Development], and Independent Agencies

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 16
 Minority: 13
 Total: 29

HISTORY:

Created 1867

Added jurisdiction over new spending authority as described in section 401(c)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act in 1974

PRINTED HISTORY:

U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Appropriations. Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate: 100th anniversary, 1867-1967. Washington, G.P.O., 1967. 121 p. (Document, Senate, 90th Congress, 1st session, no. 21.)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**JURISDICTION:**

Aeronautical and space activities peculiar to or primarily associated with the development of weapons systems or military operations; the common defense; the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, and the Department of the Air Force, generally; maintenance and operation of the Panama Canal, including administration, sanitation, and government of the Canal Zone; military research and development; national security aspects of nuclear energy; naval petroleum reserves, except those in Alaska; pay, promotion, retirement, and other benefits and privileges of members of the Armed Forces, including overseas education of civilian and military dependents; selective service system; and strategic and critical materials necessary for the common defense.

Comprehensive study and review of matters relating to the common defense policy of the United States.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Coalition Defense and Reinforcing Forces
2. Defense, Acquisition, and Industrial Base
3. Force Requirements and Personnel
4. Military Readiness and Defense Infrastructure
5. Nuclear Deterrence, Arms Control and Defense Intelligence
6. Regional Defense and Contingency Forces

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 11
 Minority: 9
 Total: 20

HISTORY:

Created January 2, 1947, by Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, merging Committee on Military Affairs (created 1816) and Committee on Naval Affairs (created 1816)
 Independent Committee on Militia from 1816 through 1857; from 1857 through 1869, a combined Committee on Military Affairs and the Militia; in 1869, Committee renamed Committee on Military Affairs
 Added jurisdiction over military aspects of atomic energy in 1977

SENATE COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

- JURISDICTION:** Banks, banking, and financial institutions; control of prices of commodities, rents, and services; deposit insurance; economic stabilization and defense production; export and foreign trade promotion; export controls; Federal monetary policy, including the Federal Reserve System; financial aid to commerce and industry; issuance and redemption of notes; money and credit, including currency and coinage; nursing home construction; public and private housing (including veterans' housing); renegotiation of Government contracts; and urban development and urban mass transit.
- Comprehensive study and review of matters relating to international economic policy as it affects United States monetary affairs, credit, and financial institutions; economic growth; urban affairs; and credit.
- SUBCOMMITTEES:**
1. Economic Stabilization and Rural Development
 2. Housing and Urban Affairs
 3. International Finance and Monetary Policy
 4. Securities
- MEMBERSHIP:**
- Majority: 11
Minority: 8
Total: 19
- HISTORY:**
- Created 1913 as Committee on Banking and Currency
Absorbed jurisdiction of Committee on National Banks in 1921
Acquired current name effective 1971
Added jurisdiction over foreign commerce and over veterans' housing in 1977
- PRINTED HISTORY:**
- U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Banking and Currency. Committee on Banking and Currency, United States Senate: 50th anniversary, 1913-1963. Washington, G.P.O., 1963. 100 p. (Document, Senate, 88th Congress, 1st session, no. 15.)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

JURISDICTION: All concurrent resolutions on the budget, as defined in section 3(a)(4) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and all other matters required under titles III and IV of the act.¹⁶

The Committee is to report the required matters under titles III and IV of the 1974 Act¹⁷; make continuing studies of the effect on budget outlays of relevant existing and proposed legislation and report the results of such studies to the Senate on a recurring basis; request and evaluate continuing studies of tax expenditures, devise methods of coordinating tax expenditures, policies, and programs with direct budget outlays, and report the results of such studies to the Senate on a recurring basis; review, on a continuing basis, the conduct by the Congressional Budget Office of its functions and duties.

SUBCOMMITTEES: None

MEMBERSHIP:

| | |
|-----------|----|
| Majority: | 12 |
| Minority: | 9 |
| Total: | 21 |

HISTORY: Created 1974 pursuant to the Congressional Budget Act of 1974

¹⁶ Such matters include reconciliation and other enforcement measures as described.

¹⁷ A second source of the Committee's jurisdiction is the standing order of August 4, 1977, on the referral of budget process legislation. The Senate requires joint referral to the Committees on Budget and Governmental Affairs of all legislation affecting the congressional budget process, as described in the standing order.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION**JURISDICTION:**

Coast Guard; coastal zone management; communications; highway safety; inland waterways, except construction; interstate commerce; marine and ocean navigation, safety, and transportation, including navigational aspects of deepwater ports; marine fisheries; merchant marine and navigation; nonmilitary aeronautical and space sciences; oceans, weather, and atmospheric activities; Panama Canal and interoceanic canals generally, except the maintenance and operation of the Panama Canal, including administration, sanitation and government of the Canal Zone; regulation of consumer products and services, including testing related to toxic substances, other than pesticides, and except for credit, financial services, and housing; regulation of interstate common carriers, including railroads, buses, trucks, vessels, pipelines, and civil aviation; science, engineering, and technology research and development and policy; sports; standards and measurement; transportation; and transportation and commerce aspects of Outer Continental Shelf lands.

Comprehensive study and review of all matters relating to science and technology, oceans policy, transportation, communications, and consumer affairs.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Aviation
2. Communications
3. Consumer
4. Foreign Commerce and Tourism
5. Merchant Marine
6. National Ocean Policy Study
7. Science, Technology, and Space
8. Surface Transportation

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 11
Minority: 9
Total: 20

HISTORY:

Created 1816 as Committee on Commerce and Manufactures
 Acquired jurisdiction of Committees on: Improvement of Mississippi River (created 1879); Fisheries (created 1884); Standards, Weights, and Measures (created 1909); Conservation of Natural Resources (created 1909); Coast and Insular Survey (created 1899) in 1921

By Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 absorbed the Committees on Pacific Railroads (created 1863), Railroads (created 1873), Transportation Routes to the Seaboard (created 1879), Transportation and Sale of Meat Products (created 1909), Interoceanic Canals (created 1899)

Absorbed jurisdiction of the Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences (created 1958) in 1977

Renamed Interstate and Foreign Commerce by Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, Committee on Commerce in 1961, and current name in 1977

PRINTED HISTORY:

U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. A brief history of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation and its activities since 1947. Washington, G.P.O., 1978. 138 p. (Document, Senate, 95th Congress, 2nd session, no. 95-93.)


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SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

JURISDICTION:

Coal production, distribution, and utilization; energy policy; energy regulation and conservation; energy related aspects of deepwater ports; energy research and development; extraction of minerals from oceans and Outer Continental Shelf lands; hydroelectric power, irrigation, and reclamation; mining education and research; mining, mineral lands, mining claims, and mineral conservation; national parks, recreation areas, wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, historical sites, military parks and battlefields, and on the public domain, preservation of prehistoric ruins and objects of interest; naval petroleum reserves in Alaska; nonmilitary development of nuclear energy; oil and gas production and distribution; public lands and forests, including farming and grazing thereon, and mineral extraction therefrom; solar energy systems; and territorial possessions of the United States, including trusteeships.

Comprehensive study and review of matters relating to energy and resources development.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Energy Research and Development
2. Mineral Resources Development and Production
3. Public Lands, National Parks and Forests
4. Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Competitiveness
5. Water and Power

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 11
 Minority: 9
 Total: 20

HISTORY:

Created 1816 as Committee on Public Lands

Acquired jurisdiction of the Committees on Geological Survey (created 1899), Indian Affairs (created 1820), Territories (created 1844), Mines and Mining (created 1865), Irrigation and Reclamation (created 1891) in 1921

Renamed Public Lands and Surveys in 1921, Public Lands effective 1947, Interior and Insular Affairs in 1948, and current name in 1977

Added jurisdiction, in particular over naval petroleum reserves and oil shale reserves in Alaska, and over water power, in 1977

PRINTED HISTORY:

U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. History of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate. Washington, G.P.O., 1989. 391 p. (Document, Senate, 100th Congress, 2nd session, no. 100-46.)



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SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

JURISDICTION:

Air pollution; construction and maintenance of highways; environmental aspects of Outer Continental Shelf lands; environmental effects of toxic substances, except pesticides; environmental policy; fisheries and wildlife; environmental research and development; flood control and improvements of rivers and harbors, including environmental aspects of deepwater ports; noise pollution; nonmilitary environmental regulation and control of nuclear energy; ocean dumping; public buildings and improved grounds of the United States generally, including Federal buildings in D.C.; public works, bridges, and dams; regional economic development; solid waste disposal and recycling; water pollution; and water resources.

Comprehensive study and review of matters relating to environmental protection and resource utilization and conservation.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Clean Air and Nuclear Regulation
2. Clean Water, Fisheries and Wildlife
3. Superfund, Recycling, and Solid Waste
4. Toxic Substances, Research and Development
5. Water Resources, Transportation, Public Buildings and Economic Development

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 10
 Minority: 7
 Total: 17

HISTORY:

Created as Committee on Public Buildings in 1838, renamed Public Buildings and Grounds in 1857

Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 changed name to Public Works, and enhanced jurisdiction to include roads, rivers, and harbors, effective January 2, 1947

Acquired current name in 1977

Enhanced environmental jurisdiction, and added jurisdiction over most aspects of atomic energy, and over wildlife and fisheries (except marine) in 1977

PRINTED HISTORY:

U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Environment and Public Works. History of the Committee on Environment and Public Works, United States Senate. Washington, G.P.O., 1988. 161 p. (Document, Senate, 100th Congress, 2nd session, no. 100-45.)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

JURISDICTION:

Both the bonded debt of the United States and revenue measures generally, except as provided in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; customs, collection districts, and ports of entry and delivery; deposit of public moneys; general revenue sharing; health programs under the Social Security Act and health programs financed by a specific tax or trust fund; national social security; reciprocal trade agreements; revenue measures relating to the insular possessions; tariffs and import quotas, and matters related thereto; and transportation of dutiable goods.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Deficits, Debt Management, and Long-Term Economic Growth
2. Energy and Agricultural Taxation
3. Health for Families and the Uninsured
4. International Trade
5. Medicare and Long-Term Care
6. Private Retirement Plans and Oversight of the Internal Revenue Service
7. Social Security and Family Policy
8. Taxation

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 11
Minority: 9
Total: 20

HISTORY:

Created 1816

PRINTED HISTORY:

U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Finance. History of the Committee on Finance. Washington, G.P.O., 1981. 138 p. (Document, Senate, 97th Congress, 1st session, no. 97-5.)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**JURISDICTION:**

Acquisition of land and buildings for embassies and legations in foreign countries; boundaries of the United States; diplomatic service; foreign economic, military, technical, and humanitarian assistance; foreign loans; international activities of the American National Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross; international aspects of nuclear energy, including nuclear transfer policy; international conferences and congresses; international law as it relates to foreign policy; International Monetary Fund and other international organizations established primarily for international monetary purposes (except that any proposed legislation relating to such subjects reported by the Committee on Foreign Relations is to be referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, at the latter's request); intervention abroad and declarations of war; measures to foster commercial intercourse with foreign nations and to safeguard American business interests abroad; national security and international aspects of trusteeships of the United States; oceans and international environmental and scientific affairs as they relate to foreign policy; protection of United States citizens abroad and expatriation; relations of the United States with foreign nations generally; treaties and executive agreements, except reciprocal trade agreements; United Nations and its affiliated organizations; and the World Bank group, the regional development banks, and other international organizations established primarily for development assistance purposes.

Comprehensive study and review of matters relating to national security policy, foreign policy, and international economic policy as it relates to foreign policy of the United States, and matters relating to food, hunger, and nutrition in foreign countries.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. African Affairs
2. East Asian and Pacific Affairs
3. European Affairs
4. International Economic Policy, Trade, Oceans, and Environment
5. Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs
6. Terrorism, Narcotics, and International Operations
7. Western Hemisphere and Peace Corps Affairs

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 11
Minority: 8
Total: 19

HISTORY:

Created 1816
Absorbed Committee on Relations with Canada (created 1892)
and Committee on Relations with Cuba (created 1899) in
1921

PRINTED HISTORY:

U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Foreign Relations.
Committee on Foreign Relations, 170th anniversary,
1816-1986. Washington, G.P.O., 1986. 91 p.
(Document, Senate, 99th Congress, 2nd session, no. 99-
21.)

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U.S. Congress
Senate
99th Congress
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SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

JURISDICTION:

Archives of the United States; budget and accounting measures, other than appropriations, except as provided in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; census and collection of statistics, including economic and social statistics; congressional organization, except for matter amending the Senate's rules or orders; Federal Civil Service; Government information; intergovernmental relations; municipal affairs of the District of Columbia, except appropriations therefor; organization and management of United States nuclear export policy; organization and reorganization of the executive branch of the Government; Postal Service; status of officers and employees of the United States, including their classification, compensation, and benefits.

The Committee also is to receive and examine reports of the Comptroller General of the United States and submit any desired or necessary recommendations to the Senate in connection with the subject matter of such reports; study the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of all agencies and departments of the Government; evaluate the effects of laws enacted to reorganize the legislative and executive branches of the Government; and study the intergovernmental relationships between the United States and the States and municipalities, and between the United States and international organizations of which it is a member.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Federal Services, Post Office, and Civil Service
2. General Services, Federalism, and the District of Columbia
3. Oversight of Government Management
4. Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
5. Regulation and Government Information

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 8
 Minority: 5
 Total: 13

HISTORY:

Created 1921 as Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments, replacing more than ten separate "Expenditure" Committees
 Name changed to Government Operations in 1952 and to current name in 1977
 Added jurisdiction, in particular over post office, civil service, and District of Columbia, in 1977

PRINTED HISTORY:

U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Government Operations. Committee on Government Operations, United States Senate, 50th anniversary history, 1921-1971. Washington, G.P.O., 1971. 194 p. (Document, Senate, 92nd Congress, 1st session, no. 31.)



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SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

JURISDICTION:

Apportionment of Representatives; bankruptcy, mutiny, espionage, and counterfeiting; civil liberties; constitutional amendments; Federal courts and judges; Government information; holidays and celebrations; immigration and naturalization; interstate compacts generally; judicial proceedings, civil and criminal, generally; local courts in the territories and possessions; claims against the United States; national penitentiaries; Patent Office; patents, copyrights, and trademarks; protection of trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies; revision and codification of the statutes of the United States; and state and territorial boundary lines.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Antitrust, Monopolies and Business Rights
2. Constitution
3. Courts and Administrative Practice
4. Immigration and Refugee Affairs
5. Juvenile Justice
6. Patents, Copyrights and Trademarks
7. Technology and the Law

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 10
 Minority: 8
 Total: 18

HISTORY:

Created 1816
 Pursuant to the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, absorbed Committee on Claims (created 1816), Committee on Patents (created 1837), and Committee on Immigration (created 1899)

PRINTED HISTORY:

U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on the Judiciary. History of the Committee on the Judiciary, 1816-1981. Washington, G.P.O., 1982. 215 p. (Document, Senate, 97th Congress, 1st session, no. 97-18.)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

JURISDICTION:

Education, labor, health, and public welfare; aging; agricultural colleges; arts and humanities; biomedical research and development; child labor; convict labor and the entry of goods made by convicts into interstate commerce; domestic activities of the American National Red Cross; equal employment opportunity; Gallaudet College, Howard University, and Saint Elizabeth's Hospital; handicapped individuals; labor standards and labor statistics; mediation and arbitration of labor disputes; occupational safety and health, including the welfare of miners; private pension plans; public health; railway labor and retirement; regulation of foreign laborers; student loans; and wages and hours of labor.

Comprehensive study and review of matters relating to health, education and training, and public welfare.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Aging
2. Children, Family, Drugs, and Alcoholism
3. Disability Policy
4. Education, Arts, and Humanities
5. Employment and Productivity
6. Labor

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 10
 Minority: 7
 Total: 17

HISTORY:

Created January 2, 1947, by Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, absorbing jurisdiction of Committee on Education (created 1869 and subsequently renamed Education and Labor)

Committee on Epidemic Diseases (created 1885) renamed Public Health and National Quarantine in 1897, absorbed in 1921

Name changed to Human Resources in 1977, and acquired current name in 1979

PRINTED HISTORY:

U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Labor and Human Resources. Senate History of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, United States Senate, 1869-1979. Washington, G.P.O., 1981. 531 p. (Document, Senate, 96th Congress, 2nd session, no. 96-71.)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

JURISDICTION:

Administration of the Senate Office Buildings and the Senate wing of the Capitol, including the assignment of office space; congressional organization relative to rules and procedures, and Senate rules and regulations including floor and gallery rules; corrupt practices; credentials and qualifications of Members of the Senate, contested elections, and acceptance of incompatible offices; Federal elections generally, including the election of President, Vice President, and Members of the Congress; Government Printing Office, and the printing and correction of the Congressional Record, as well as matters under Senate Rule XI;¹⁸ meetings of the Congress and attendance of Members; payment of money out of the contingent fund of the Senate or creating a charge upon the same (except that any resolution relating to substantive matter within the jurisdiction of any other Senate standing committee is to be first referred to such committee); presidential succession; purchase of books and manuscripts and erection of monuments to the memory of individuals; Senate Library and statuary, art, and pictures in the Capitol and Senate Office Buildings; services to the Senate, including the Senate restaurant; and the United States Capitol and congressional office buildings, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution (and the incorporation of similar institutions), and the Botanic Gardens.

The Committee also is to make a continuing study of, and recommend improvements regarding, the organization and operation of the Congress, with a view towards strengthening it, simplifying its operations, improving its relationships with other branches of Government, and enabling it to better meet its responsibilities under the Constitution; and is to identify, and call to the Senate's attention, any court proceeding or action which it feels is of vital interest to the Congress as a constitutionally established institution of the Federal Government.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

None

¹⁸ Senate Rule XI identifies items to be printed that are within the Committee's purview, including documents, reports, and other matter transmitted by the executive departments, memorials, petitions, accompanying documents, and other papers except bills, Senate resolutions, and communications from State legislatures and conventions. Requests for printing additional copies of items also are within the Committee's purview.

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 9
Minority: 7
Total: 16

HISTORY:

Created January 2, 1947, by Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, merging Committee on Enrolled Bills (created 1789 as joint committee), Committee on Library (created 1806 as joint committee), Committee on Audit and Control of the Contingent Expenses of the Senate (created 1819 as standing committee), Committee on Printing (created 1841 as standing committee), Committee on Privileges and Elections (created 1871 as standing committee), and Committee on Rules (created 1874 as standing committee)

PRINTED HISTORY:

U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Rules and Administration. History of the Committee on Rules and Administration. Washington, G.P.O., 1980. 153 p. (Document, Senate, 96th Congress, 1st session, no. 96-27.)

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS**JURISDICTION:**

Small Business Administration (SBA). Any legislation reported by the Committee which relates to matters other than the functions of the SBA, at the request of the chair of any standing committee having jurisdiction over the subject matter extraneous to the SBA's functions, is to be considered and reported by such standing committee prior to its consideration by the Senate. Likewise, measures reported by other committees directly relating to the SBA, at the request of the chair of the Committee on Small Business, are to be referred to the Committee for consideration of any portions of the measure dealing with the SBA, and are to be reported by the Committee prior to their consideration by the Senate.

Study and survey by means of research and investigation all problems of American small business enterprises.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Competitiveness, Capital Formation and Economic Opportunity
2. Export Expansion and Agricultural Development
3. Government Contracting and Paperwork Reduction
4. Innovation, Manufacturing and Technology
5. Rural Economy and Family Farming
6. Urban and Minority-Owned Business Development

MEMBERSHIP:

Majority: 12
 Minority: 9
 Total: 21

HISTORY:

Created as standing committee in 1981
 Predecessor Select Committee on Small Business
 (continuously since 1950)
 Acquired legislative jurisdiction in 1977

SENATE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

JURISDICTION: Compensation of veterans; life insurance issued by the Government on account of service in the Armed Forces; national cemeteries; pensions of all wars of the United States, general and special; readjustment of servicemen to civil life; soldiers' and sailors' civil relief; veterans' hospitals, medical care, and treatment of veterans; veterans' measures generally; and vocational rehabilitation and education of veterans.

SUBCOMMITTEES: None

MEMBERSHIP: Majority: 7
Minority: 5
Total: 12

HISTORY: Created by Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, effective 1971

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**CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE SYSTEM:
A BRIEF BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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