

**SUMMARY OF HOUSE RULES PACKAGE
OPENING DAY OF THE 110TH CONGRESS**

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TITLE I – ADOPTION OF 109TH RULES PACKAGE

This title adopts the standing rules that were in effect in the 109th Congress. The subsequent adoption of the amendments contained in Titles II-V will then make certain changes to these rules.

TITLE II – ETHICS REFORMS

Ending the K Street Project

(Rule XXIII – Code of Official Conduct) Prohibits Members from threatening official retaliation against private firms that hire employees who do not share the Member's partisan political affiliation.

Lobbyist Gift Ban

(Rule XXV, cl. 5(a)) Prohibits Members and employees from accepting gifts from a registered lobbyist, from an agent of a foreign principal, or an entity that employs or retains these lobbyists and agents. Under the current gift rule, Members and employees may accept gifts valued less than \$50 (and a total of \$100 per calendar year) from these lobbyists and agents. The current gift ban exemptions in cl. 5(a)(3) still apply.

(Rule XXV, cl. 5(a)) Adds language clarifying that for the purposes of the gift rule, a ticket to a sporting event is valued either at the face value of a ticket, or at the cost of the ticket to the general public when 1) the ticket does not have a face value or 2) when the face value of the ticket does not reflect its economic value.

Lobbyist Travel Restrictions/One-Day Trips

(Rule XXV, cl. 5(b)) Prohibits Members and employees from accepting travel reimbursements from a registered lobbyist, from an agent of a foreign country, or from an

entity that employs or retains these lobbyists or agents. (Current rules already prohibit lobbyists and agents of foreign principals from reimbursing travel).

A new subsection to this rule clarifies that colleges and universities are not subject to this prohibition. Another subsection allows entities that employ lobbyists to reimburse Member and employee travel to one-day events (e.g. conventions, meetings). In general, travel to a one-day event includes an overnight stay, although the Ethics Committee may allow two-night stays in certain cases. These new restrictions take effect on March 1, 2007.

(Rule XXV, new cl. 5(c)) Adds new language stating that except in the case of trips sponsored by colleges and universities, lobbyists may only play a de minimis role in Member travel to one-day events that can be reimbursed by entities that employ lobbyists.

New Travel Authorization and Public Disclosure Requirements

(Rule XXV, new cl. 5(d)) Adds language stating that prior to accepting reimbursed travel, Members and employees will be required to obtain a certification from the entity paying for the trip declaring that, except as permitted for universities and one-day travel, lobbyists did not plan, organize, request, arrange, or finance the travel. Members and employees will be required to submit this certification to the Ethics Committee and receive approval from the Ethics Committee before taking the trip. These new requirements take effect on March 1, 2007.

In connection with this new prior authorization requirement, this new rule requires Members and employees to submit their certifications, advance authorizations, and other travel disclosure materials to the Clerk of the House within 15 days after the travel is completed. The Clerk of the House must make this information available to the public as soon as possible. (Current rules allow 30 days for the submission of travel disclosures).

(Rule XXV, new cl. 5(i)) Requires the Ethics Committee to develop new standards for what constitutes a reasonable expense by a private group for Member travel. The Ethics Committee must also develop a new standard for determining that the travel has a valid connection to Members' official duties. In addition, it requires the Ethics Committee to develop a process for the submission and approval of the prior authorization requirements created in new cl. 5(d).

Corporate Jet Ban

(Rule XXIII – Code of Official Conduct) Prohibits Members from using official, personal, or campaign funds to pay for the use of privately owned airplanes. (Members will still be able to charter commercially available airplanes.)

Ethics Training

(Rule XI, cl. 3) Requires the Ethics Committee to offer annual ethics training to Members and appropriate employees. New employees must receive this training within 60 days of beginning work in the House and other employees must certify they take the course each year.

Committee Name Changes

(Rule X, cl. 1) Changes the names of the following House committees: 1) the Committee on Education and the Workforce becomes the “Committee on Education and Labor,” 2) the Committee on International Relations becomes the “Committee on Foreign Affairs,” 3) the Committee on Resources becomes the “Committee on Natural Resources,” 4) the Committee on Government Reform becomes the “Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,” and 5) the Committee on Science becomes the “Committee on Science and Technology.”

TITLE III – CIVILITY

Holding Votes Open

(Rule XX, cl. 2) Prohibits the Speaker from holding votes open for longer than the scheduled time for the sole purpose of changing the outcome of the vote.

Conference Procedure

(Rule XXII, new cl. 12) Requires House conferees to insist that conference committees operate in an open and fair manner and that House conferees sign the final conference papers at one time and in one place.

(Rule XXII, new cl. 13) Prohibits the consideration of a conference report that has been altered after the time it was signed by conferees.

TITLE IV – FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Fiscal Responsibility

(Rule XXI, new cl. 7) Prohibits the House from considering budget resolutions or amendments to budget resolutions that contain reconciliation instructions increasing the budget deficit.

(Rule XXI, new cl. 8) Applies Budget Act rules against bills that have not been reported by committees.

(Rule XXI, new cl. 10) Prohibits the consideration of any legislation proposing direct spending or revenue changes that would increase the budget deficit within a five-year or a ten-year time frame (“Pay-as-You-Go” point of order).

Earmark Reform

(Rule XXI, new cl. 9) Requires committees of jurisdiction and conference committees to publish lists of the earmarks, limited tax benefits, and limited tariff benefits contained in all reported bills, unreported bills, manager’s amendments, and conference reports that come to the House floor. These lists will be electronically available to the public either through committee prints or printing in the Congressional Record. In the case of a reported bill, the single list contemplated by the rule may cross-reference other parts of the report. If a measure does not contain any earmarks, committees must publish a statement to this effect. A Member may make a point of order (similar to the unfunded mandates point of order) against the consideration of any special rule that waives this requirement.

This new clause defines an earmark as any Member-requested project that is targeted to a specific place and falls outside a formula-driven or competitive award process. Limited tax and tariff benefits are revenue provisions that would benefit 10 or fewer persons.

(Rule XXIII – Code of Official Conduct) Prohibits trading earmarks for votes and requires Members to disclose their earmark requests and certify that they and their spouses have no personal financial interest in the request.

TITLE V – MISCELLANEOUS

(Rule X, cl. 4) Gives the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform authority to adopt a rule allowing Committee Members and staff to conduct depositions in the course of Committee investigations.

(Rule XIII, cl. 3) Shields Rules Committee reports from a point of order if they are filed without a complete list of record votes taken during the consideration of a special rule. This provision allows the Rules Committee to publish recorded votes taken during Committee hearings in committee reports and/or through other means such as the Internet.

Makes a number of technical changes to the standing House rules.

Allows for the consideration several pieces of legislation that are part of the “First 100 Hours” agenda if special rules for those provisions are not separately reported.

Continues the budget ``deeming" resolution from the 2nd Session of the 109th Congress until such time as a conference report establishing a budget for the fiscal year 2008 is adopted.

Renews the standing order approved during the 109th Congress that prohibits registered lobbyists from using the Members' exercise facilities.