

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY JURISDICTION*

- (1) The judiciary and judicial proceedings, civil and criminal.
- (2) Administrative practice and procedure.
- (3) Apportionment of Representatives.
- (4) Bankruptcy, mutiny, espionage, and counterfeiting.
- (5) Civil liberties.
- (6) Constitutional amendments.
- (7) Federal courts and judges, and local courts in the Territories and possessions.
- (8) Immigration and naturalization.
- (9) Interstate compacts, generally.
- (10) Measures relating to claims against the United States.
- (11) Meetings of Congress, attendance of Members and their acceptance of incompatible offices.
- (12) National penitentiaries.
- (13) Patents, the Patent Office, copyrights, and trademarks.
- (14) Presidential succession.
- (15) Protection of trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies.
- (16) Revision and codification of the Statutes of the United States.
- (17) State and Territorial boundaries.
- (18) Subversive activities affecting the internal security of the United States.

This Committee dates from 1813 (IV, 4054). The essential jurisdiction defined in the rule was made effective January 2, 1947, as a part of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 812), and combined the Committees on Revision of Laws (created in 1868, IV, 4293), Patents (created in 1837, IV, 4254), Immigration and Naturalization (created in 1893, IV, 4309), Claims (created in 1794, IV, 4262), and War Claims (created in 1883, IV, 4269). By the Committee Reform Amendments of 1974, effective January 3, 1975, the Committee's jurisdiction over holidays and celebrations was transferred to the former Committee on Post Office and Civil Service (now under the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight) (H.Res. 988, 93d Cong., Oct. 8, 1974, p. 34470). In the 94th Congress the Committee on Internal Security was abolished and jurisdiction over communist and other subversive activities affecting the internal security of the United States was transferred to this Committee (subpara. (18)) (H.Res. 5, Jan. 14, 1975, p. 20), though an accompanying provision for the transfer of records and staff of the Internal Security Committee to the Judiciary Committee was deleted as obsolete in the 95th Congress (H.Res. 5, Jan. 4, 1977, pp. 53-70), and the specific reference to communism was deleted as unnecessary in the 104th Congress (sec. 202(a), H.Res. 6, Jan. 4, 1995, p. —). The 104th Congress also inserted "the judiciary" in subparagraph (1); added subparagraph (2) for clarification; combined former subparagraphs (6) and (9) in a new subparagraph (7); and combined former subparagraphs (13) and (14) in a new subparagraph (13) (sec. 202(a), H.Res. 6, Jan. 4, 1995, p. —).

Under subparagraph 14, the Committee has jurisdiction over Presidential nominations to fill vacancies in the office of Vice President, submitted pursuant to the 25th amendment to the Constitution (Oct. 13, 1973, p. 34032; Aug. 20, 1974, p. 29366). The Committee has reported Articles of Impeachment of the President (Aug. 20, 1974, pp. 29219-81). Where the House has voted impeachment, members of the Committee have been appointed as managers on the part of the House in presenting the charges to the Senate for trial (H.Res. 501, 99th Cong., July 22, 1986, p. 17306; H.Res. 511, 100th Cong., Aug. 3, 1988, p. 20223; H.Res. 12, 101st Cong., Jan. 3, 1989, p. 84).

*Rule X, clause 1(m), Rules of the House of Representatives

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The Committee on the Judiciary considers charges against judges of the Federal courts (IV, 4062), legislative propositions relating to the service of the Department of Justice (IV, 4067), bills relating to local courts in the District of Columbia, Alaska, and the Territories (IV, 4068), the establishment of a court of patent appeals (IV, 4075), relations of labor to courts and corporations (IV, 4072), crimes, penalties, extradition (IV, 4069; VII, 1747), construction and management of national penitentiaries (IV, 4070), matters relating to trusts and corporations (IV, 4057, 4059, 4060; VII, 1764), claims of States against the United States (IV, 4080), general legislation relating to international and other claims (IV, 4078, 4079, 4081), including measures extending the terms of members of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission (Nov. 14, 1991, p.—), bills relating to the office of President (IV, 4077), to the flag (IV, 4055), bankruptcy (IV, 4065), removal of political disabilities (IV, 4058), prohibition of traffic in intoxicating liquors (IV, 4061; VII, 1773), mutiny and willful destruction of vessels (IV, 4145), counterfeiting (IV, 4071; VII, 1753), settlement of State and Territorial boundary lines (IV, 4060; VII, 1768), meeting of Congress and attendance of Members and their acceptance of incompatible offices (IV, 4077; VI, 65).

The Committee also has jurisdiction over joint resolutions proposing amendments to the Constitution (IV, 4056; VII, 1779). It also reports on important questions of law relating to subjects naturally within the jurisdiction of other committees (IV, 4063).

The Committee also has jurisdiction over bills regulating the authority of States to impose taxes on interstate commerce (June 18, 1959, p. 11317), imposing conflict of interest standards and civil and criminal penalties relating thereto on government employees (Feb. 25, 1960, p. 3484), establishing an Academy of Criminal Justice (Apr. 5, 1965, p. 6822), to eliminate racketeering in the interstate sale of cigarettes (Feb. 9, 1972, p. 3429), providing workmen's compensation for non-Federal firemen killed during civil disorder (May 6, 1968, p. 11798), authorizing the Attorney General to consent to a modification of a certain trust on behalf of the Library of Congress (Aug. 17, 1959, p. 16051), amending an omnibus pension act to increase the amount of pension granted a certain class of persons (Feb. 15, 1960, p. 2523), and imposing criminal sanctions under the Controlled Substances Act (Nov. 14, 1983, p. 32457). The Committee has exclusive jurisdiction over the Legal Services Corporation (Nov. 19, 1975, p. 37288) and over the extension of workmen's benefits to non-Federal policemen and firemen (Dec. 12, 1975, p. 40204). The Committee has exercised jurisdiction, with the Committee on Education and Labor (now Economic and Educational Opportunities), over bills to amend the Walsh-Healey Act regarding hours of work under government contracts (May 15, 1985, p. 11946). This Committee, and not the Committee on Public Works and Transportation (now Transportation and Infrastructure), exercised jurisdiction over a bill extending the authority for the Marshal of the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court Police to protect the Chief Justice, Associate Justices, and employees beyond its building and grounds (Nov. 22, 1993, p. —).

The Committee has the general oversight responsibility as set forth in cl. 2(b), Rule X.

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