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JOINT COMMITTEES

For creation of, by use of concurrent resolutions, *see* "Concurrent Resolutions, pp. 442–448. *See also* "References to Committees," pp. 1150–1169.

Joint committees of Congress are created by the enactment of law or the adoption of a concurrent resolution by both Houses. Once a joint committee is created, it has no legislative authority, as is the case with the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress or the Joint Committee on Printing, unless it is so given by the law or resolution of creation. Some of these committees are authorized to perform certain administrative functions as in the cases of the Joint Committee on Printing and the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation.

The memberships of such committees are composed of Senators and Representatives in equal numbers, usually with the committee being authorized to select its chairman; and, in practice, usually the chairmanship alternates back and forth between one of its members from the Senate and one of its members from the House.

Reference to:

Certain reports and legislative matters are referred to joint committees pursuant to law,[1] but it is not in order to refer a Senate bill to a special joint committee of the two Houses [2] unless that committee has been given such jurisdiction.[3] Pursuant to law, the President's annual Economic Report is referred to the Joint Economic Committee.[4]

JOINT RESOLUTIONS

See "Bills," pp. 225–250; "References to Committees," pp. 1150–1169; "Reports," pp. 1176–1201; "Resolutions," pp. 1202–1213.

[1] Jan. 8, 1947, 80–1, *Record*, p. 160; *see also* Apr. 12, 1948, 80–2, *Record*, p. 4305.
[2] *See* Mar. 30, 1943, 78–1, *Record*, p. 2731.
[3] May 27, 1921, 67–1, *Journal*, p. 117, *Record*, p. 1823.
[4] Jan. 8, 1947, 80–1, *Record*, p. 160; Pub. L. 591, 84th Cong., 2d Sess.