

G. Disposition of Committee Records.—At the conclusion of the 109th Congress, the records of the Committee shall be delivered to the Archivist of the United States in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House.

H. Archived Records.—The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House. The Chairman shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3 (b)(3) or clause 4 (b) of the Rule, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on the written request of any member of the Committee. The Chairman shall consult with the Ranking Minority Member on any communication from the Archivist of the United States or the Clerk of the House concerning the disposition of noncurrent records pursuant to clause 3(b) of the Rule.

VIII. CLASSIFIED AND OTHER CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

A. Security Precautions.—Committee staff offices, including majority and minority offices, shall operate under strict security precautions administered by the Security Officer of the Committee. A security officer shall be on duty at all times during normal office hours. Sensitive or classified documents may be examined only in an appropriately secure manner. Removal from the secure area of the Committee's offices of such documents and other materials is prohibited except with leave of the Chairman for use in furtherance of Committee business, in accordance with applicable security procedures.

B. Temporary Custody of Executive Branch Material.—Executive branch documents or other materials containing classified information in any form that were not made part of the record of a Committee hearing, did not originate in the Committee or the House, and are not otherwise records of the Committee shall, while in the custody of the Committee, be segregated and maintained by the Committee in the same manner as Committee records that are classified. Such documents and other materials shall be returned to the Executive branch agency from which they were obtained at the earliest practicable time.

C. Access by Committee Staff.—Access to classified information supplied to the Committee shall be limited to Committee staff members with appropriate security clearance and a need-to-know, as determined by the Committee, and under the Committee's direction, the Majority and Minority Staff Directors.

D. Maintaining Confidentiality.—No Member of the Committee or Committee staff shall disclose, in whole or in part or by way of summary, to any person who is not a Member of the Committee or an authorized member of Committee staff for any purpose or in connection with any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, any testimony given before the Committee in executive session. Classified information shall be handled in accordance with all applicable provisions of law and consistent with the provisions of these rules.

E. Oath.—Before a Member or Committee staff member may have access to classified information, the following oath (or affirmation) shall be executed: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will not disclose any classified information received in the course of my service on the Committee on Homeland Security, except as authorized by the Com-

mittee or the House of Representatives or in accordance with the Rules of such Committee or the Rules of the House."

Copies of the executed oath (or affirmation) shall be retained by the Clerk as part of the records of the Committee.

F. Disciplinary Action.—The Chairman shall immediately consider disciplinary action in the event any member of the Committee staff fails to conform to the provisions of these rules governing the disclosure of classified or unclassified information. Such disciplinary action may include, but shall not be limited to, immediate dismissal from the Committee staff, criminal referral to the Justice Department, and notification of the Speaker of the House. With respect to minority party staff, the Chairman shall consider such disciplinary action in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

IX. CHANGES TO COMMITTEE RULES

These rules may be modified, amended, or repealed by the Committee provided that a notice in writing of the proposed change has been given to each Member at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at which action thereon is to be taken.

BLUE DOG'S 12-STEP PLAN TO COMMON SENSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to address our Nation's fiscal crisis. The Blue Dog Coalition, of which I am a proud member, has been a leading voice in Congress on fiscal responsibility for over a decade now.

We are dedicated to fighting our Nation's ballooning national debt with every last breath we take, and we will continue to lead the fight for fiscal sanity until the Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle and the White House realize that we cannot continue to run our Nation deeper and deeper into the deficit hole.

What comes as common sense to American families and the business owners across this country does not come that easily to Members of this Congress and especially to members of the administration.

The Blue Dog Coalition 12-step budget reform plan that we introduce today injects just a little bit of common sense into the way that Congress and the White House does business. Our 12-step plan is the most comprehensive reform program to date and makes the attempted reforms in the President's budget look like child's play.

Here is our plan: Number 1. Require a balanced budget. The Blue Dogs believe a balanced budget amendment is the only way to ensure fiscal discipline in Congress.

□ 1530

Number two, do not let Congress buy on credit. The Blue Dogs want to restore the budget rules that Congress once lived by, including pay-as-you-go budgeting. Restoring PAYGO will put

our Nation back on track to fiscal responsibility. We did it once before; we can do it again.

Number three, put a lid on spending. The Blue Dogs want strict spending caps to slow the growth of runaway government programs.

Number four, require agencies to put their fiscal houses in order. Sixteen of 23 major Federal agencies cannot complete a simple audit of their books. These agencies should be doing a better job of tracking the taxpayer dollars. The Blue Dogs propose a budget freeze for any agency who cannot balance its own books like Americans do their checkbooks.

Number five, make Congress tell taxpayers how they are spending the money. Many spending bills slide through Congress on a voice vote with no debate. The Blue Dogs propose that any bill calling for \$50 million in new spending must be put to a roll call vote right here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Number six, set aside a rainy-day fund. Forty-five States already do this. If the Federal Government had done it when we had surpluses as the Blue Dogs suggested then, we would be a lot better off right now.

Number seven, do not hide votes to raise the debt limit. The current House rules allow for automatic increases in the debt limit. The Blue Dogs believe that increases in the public debt limit should not be hidden from public view. We want to make every increase in the debt limit subject to a rollcall vote.

Number eight, justify the spending for pork barrel projects. Since 1991 Congress has spent \$185 billion on pet projects for Members. While many of these projects are worthy of taxpayer support, some are not. The Blue Dogs propose that Members of Congress provide written justifications for any earmarked spending for their pet projects.

Number nine, ensure that Congress reads bills that are voted on. What a novel concept. Over the past few years, some of the largest spending bills in history have been voted on only after a few hours of consideration. The Blue Dogs propose that Members of Congress be given 3 full days minimum to have the final text of legislation before there is a vote.

Number 10, require honest cost estimates for every bill that Congress comes to vote on. There are no requirements that the bills come with an honest estimate of their fiscal impact. The Blue Dogs propose that every bill that comes to the floor of the House be accompanied by a cost estimate from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

Number 11, make sure new bills fit the budget. The new legislation needs to live within the rules agreed upon by the annual budget resolution. The Blue Dogs propose that the Committee on the Budget strengthen its oversight

rule by preparing budget-compliant statements for every bill that is considered by the full House.

Finally, number 12, make Congress do a better job of keeping tabs on government programs. Blue Dogs believe that Congress needs to carry out its oversight responsibilities. We propose that each committee submit at least two reports a year that provide an update on how each committee is fulfilling its oversight duties.

Our 12 steps are commonsense ideas that should transcend partisan differences. I hope that this Congress will adopt these measures as we attempt to restore fiscal responsibility for our Nation.

—————

PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF
THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
109TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2 of rule XI I submit for printing in the RECORD the Rules and Practices of the Committee on Appropriations as follows:

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE RULES

EFFECTIVE FOR ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS
APPROVED FEBRUARY 15, 2005

Resolved, That the rules and practices of the Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, in the One Hundred Eighth Congress, except as otherwise provided hereinafter, shall be and are hereby adopted as the rules and practices of the Committee on Appropriations in the One Hundred Ninth Congress.

The foregoing resolution adopts the following rules:

Sec. 1: Power to Sit and Act

For the purpose of carrying out any of its functions and duties under Rules X and XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee or any of its subcommittees is authorized:

(a) To sit and act at such times and places within the United States whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned, and to hold such hearings; and

(b) To require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, reports, correspondence, memorandums, papers, and documents as it deems necessary. The Chairman, or any Member designated by the Chairman, may administer oaths to any witness.

(c) A subpoena may be authorized and issued by the Committee or its subcommittees under subsection 1(b) in the conduct of any investigation or activity or series of investigations or activities, only when authorized by a majority of the Members of the Committee voting, a majority being present. The power to authorize and issue subpoenas under subsection 1(b) may be delegated to the Chairman pursuant to such rules and under such limitations as the Committee may prescribe. Authorized subpoenas shall be signed by the Chairman or by any Member designated by the Committee.

(d) Compliance with any subpoena issued by the Committee or its subcommittees may be enforced only as authorized or directed by the House.

Sec. 2: Subcommittees

(a) The Majority Caucus of the Committee shall establish the number of subcommittees and shall determine the jurisdiction of each subcommittee.

(b) Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the Committee all matters referred to it.

(c) All legislation and other matters referred to the Committee shall be referred to the subcommittee of appropriate jurisdiction within two weeks unless, by majority vote of the Majority Members of the full Committee, consideration is to be by the full Committee.

(d) The Majority Caucus of the Committee shall determine an appropriate ratio of Majority to Minority Members for each subcommittee. The Chairman is authorized to negotiate that ratio with the Minority; Provided, however, That party representation in each subcommittee, including ex-officio members, shall be no less favorable to the Majority than the ratio for the full Committee.

(e) The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee are authorized to sit as a member of all subcommittees and to participate, including voting, in all its work.

Sec. 3: Staffing

(a) Committee Staff—The Chairman is authorized to appoint the staff of the Committee, and make adjustments in the job titles and compensation thereof subject to the maximum rates and conditions established in Clause 9(c) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives. In addition, he is authorized, in his discretion, to arrange for their specialized training. The Chairman is also authorized to employ additional personnel as necessary.

(b) Assistants to Members—Each of the top twenty-one senior majority and minority Members of the full Committee may select and designate one staff member who shall serve at the pleasure of that Member. Such staff members shall be compensated at a rate, determined by the Member, not to exceed 75 per centum of the maximum established in Clause 9(c) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives; Provided, That Members designating staff members under this subsection must specifically certify by letter to the Chairman that the employees are needed and will be utilized for Committee work.

Sec. 4: Committee Meetings

(a) Regular Meeting Day—The regular meeting day of the Committee shall be the first Wednesday of each month while the House is in session, unless the Committee has met within the past 30 days or the Chairman considers a specific meeting unnecessary in the light of the requirements of the Committee business schedule.

(b) Additional and Special Meetings:

(1) The Chairman may call and convene, as he considers necessary, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other Committee business. The Committee shall meet for such purpose pursuant to that call of the Chairman.

(2) If at least three Committee Members desire that a special meeting of the Committee be called by the Chairman, those Members may file in the Committee Offices

a written request to the Chairman for that special meeting. Such request shall specify the measure or matter to be considered. Upon the filing of the request, the Committee Clerk shall notify the Chairman.

(3) If within three calendar days after the filing of the request, the Chairman does not call the requested special meeting to be held within seven calendar days after the filing of the request, a majority of the Committee Members may file in the Committee Offices their written notice that a special meeting will be held, specifying the date and hour of such meeting, and the measure or matter to be considered. The Committee shall meet on that date and hour.

(4) Immediately upon the filing of the notice, the Committee Clerk shall notify all Committee Members that such special meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour and the measure or matter to be considered. Only the measure or matter specified in that notice may be considered at the special meeting.

(c) Vice Chairman To Preside in Absence of Chairman—A member of the majority party on the Committee or subcommittee thereof designated by the Chairman of the full Committee shall be vice chairman of the Committee or subcommittee, as the case may be, and shall preside at any meeting during the temporary absence of the chairman. If the chairman and vice chairman of the Committee or subcommittee are not present at any meeting of the Committee or subcommittee, the ranking member of the majority party who is present shall preside at that meeting.

(d) Business Meetings:

(1) Each meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, of the Committee and its subcommittees shall be open to the public except when the Committee or its subcommittees, in open session and with a majority present, determines by roll call vote that all or part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be closed.

(2) No person other than Committee Members and such congressional staff and departmental representatives as they may authorize shall be present at any business or markup session which has been closed.

(e) Committee Records:

(1) The Committee shall keep a complete record of all Committee action, including a record of the votes on any question on which a roll call is demanded. The result of each roll call vote shall be available for inspection by the public during regular business hours in the Committee Offices. The information made available for public inspection shall include a description of the amendment, motion, or other proposition, and the name of each Member voting for and each Member voting against, and the names of those Members present but not voting.

(2) All hearings, records, data, charts, and files of the Committee shall be kept separate and distinct from the congressional office records of the Chairman of the Committee. Such records shall be the property of the House, and all Members of the House shall have access thereto.

(3) The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House, except that the Committee authorizes use of any record to which Clause 3(b)(4) of Rule VII of the Rules of the House would otherwise apply after such record has been in existence for 20 years. The Chairman shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any