

CHAPTER 24

Bills, Resolutions, Petitions, and Memorials

A. Introductory; Various Types of Bills, Resolutions, and Other Mechanisms for Action

- § 1. In General
- § 2. Bills
- § 3. Private Bills
- § 4. Joint Resolutions
- § 5. Concurrent Resolutions
- § 6. Simple Resolutions
- § 7. Resolutions of Approval or Disapproval of Executive Plans; the “Legislative Veto”
- § 8. Resolutions of Inquiry
- § 9. Titles and Preambles
- § 10. Petitions and Memorials

B. General Procedures Associated With Passage of Legislation

- § 11. Readings
- § 12. Engrossment
- § 13. Transmission of Legislative Messages Between House and Senate
- § 14. Enrollment; Correcting Bills in Enrollment
- § 15. Signing
- § 16. Recalling Bills From the President

C. Veto Powers

- § 17. In General

Commentary and editing by David Paul Bird, J.D.

- § 18. Effect of Adjournment; the Pocket Veto
- § 19. Proposals for Item Veto
- § 20. Return of Vetoed Bills
- § 21. Motions Relating to Vetoes
- § 22. Consideration and Passage of Vetoed Bills; Voting
- § 23. Disposition of Vetoed Bills After Reconsideration

D. Vacating Legislative Actions

- § 24. Procedure

INDEX TO PRECEDENTS

Adjournment

- bills signed during, §§ 15.9–15.11
- day certain, signing bill during adjournment to, §§ 15.3, 15.7
- rescinding by concurrent resolution, § 5.15
- sine die, authorization to sign, following, §§ 15.1, 15.4
- three days, by concurrent resolution, when more than, § 5.10

Aggression, joint resolution authorizing response to enemy's, § 4.17

Amendment

- enrollment, omission in, amendment to correct, § 14.18
- titles, amendment of, §§ 9.3, 9.4

Appropriation and revenue measures, House prerogatives as to, § 13.3

Committee jurisdiction of resolutions of inquiry, § 8.1

Committee of the Whole

- preamble consideration in, §§ 9.6, 9.7
- suspension of proceedings in, to permit signing of bill, § 15.18

Concurrent resolution

- attendance at foreign meeting, authorizing Members', § 5.27

Concurrent resolution—Cont.

- conference managers authorized by, § 5.16
- conference report amended by, § 5.17
- engrossment of bill changed by, § 12.6
- enrolled bill, correction in authorized by, § 14.7
- enrollment of bill changed by, Sec. 14.9
- enrollment of bill, making technical corrections in, §§ 14.5, 14.7, 14.14–14.18
- form, recalling bill from President, § 16.1
- funds, providing for additional committee, § 5.7
- greeting English royalty, § 5.34
- hearings authorized by, § 5.6
- honoring foreign governments, §§ 5.32, 5.33
- honoring former Presidents, §§ 5.28, 5.29
- honoring military figures, §§ 5.30, 5.31
- joint committee established by, §§ 5.2–5.5
- joint session, providing for, §§ 5.19–5.24

Concurrent resolution—Cont.

legislative budget for fiscal year established by, § 5.25
 prayer room for Members established by, § 5.26
 preamble of, motion to strike, § 9.10
 rescinding adjournment, § 5.15
 rescinding conference committee, § 5.18
 rescinding enrollment of bill, §§ 14.9–14.12
 rescinding passage of bill, § 5.14
 return of enrolled bill to Senate, requested by, § 14.8
 sine die adjournment, authorizing, §§ 5.8, 5.9
 text of bill changed by, §§ 5.12, 5.13
 use of, § 5.1

Conference committee, rescinding by concurrent resolution, § 5.18**Conference report, amending by concurrent resolution, § 5.17****Consideration**

resolution of disapproval agreed to without debate, § 7.21
 resolution of disapproval, precedence of, §§ 7.14, 7.15
 resolution of disapproval, procedure for, consideration of, § 7.12
 resolution of inquiry, considered by unanimous consent, § 8.14

Convening Congress, joint resolution setting date for, § 4.5**Declaration of war, joint resolution authorizing, § 4.16****Discharge**

resolution of disapproval, committee discharged from consideration by unanimous consent, § 7.6
 resolution of disapproval, limitation as to debate on, §§ 7.8–7.10
 resolution of disapproval, qualification of Member moving to discharge, § 7.7
 resolution of inquiry, debate after discharge of, § 8.9

Discharge—Cont.

resolution of inquiry, filed without written report, considered as discharged, § 8.12

Electoral votes, joint resolution changing date for counting of, § 4.6**Engrossment**

changing by concurrent resolution, §§ 12.6, 12.7
 changing by unanimous consent, §§ 12.8–12.13
 changing by unanimous consent, timeliness of, § 12.2
 Committee of the Whole, corrections not in order in, § 12.2
 Senate amendment, engrossed copy of bill corrected before action on, § 12.7
 simple resolution, effecting changes in, §§ 12.3, 12.5
 star print, § 12.1

Enrollment

concurrent resolution rescinding, §§ 14.9–14.12
 duty placed on Secretary of Senate, § 14.4
 enrolled House bill returned to the Senate, § 14.8
 House Administration, Committee on, responsibility of, § 14.2
 omission in, amendment to correct, § 14.19
 re-enrollment with a change, § 14.15
 technical corrections made by concurrent resolution, §§ 14.5, 14.7, 14.14–14.18

Germaneness of titles, § 9.2**Gulf of Tonkin resolution authorizing military force, § 4.17****Hearings, concurrent resolution authorizing, § 5.6****House-Senate conference, simple resolution requesting, § 6.10****Interpretation of bills, §§ 2.1, 2.2**

Joint committee

concurrent resolution establishing, §§ 5.2–5.5

joint resolution establishing, § 4.10

Joint resolutions

authorizing a publication, §§ 4.8, 4.9

constitutional amendment, §§ 4.1, 4.2

continuing appropriations, § 4.3

date for convening Congress, § 4.5

date for counting electoral votes, § 4.6

date for Presidential budget, § 4.7

date for reorganization plan, § 4.4

declaration of war, § 4.16

establishing a joint committee, § 4.10

granting subpoena power, § 4.11

honoring President Lincoln, §§ 4.14, 4.15

honoring President Truman, § 4.13

military action, resolution authorizing, § 4.17

preamble, amendment of, § 9.11

travel appropriations, § 4.12

Joint session

concurrent resolution providing for, honoring George Washington, § 5.20

concurrent resolution providing for, to count electoral votes, § 5.23

concurrent resolution providing for, to hear foreign dignitary, § 5.24

concurrent resolution providing for, to hear Presidential communication, §§ 5.19, 5.21, 5.22

Legislative budget, concurrent resolution establishing, § 5.25**Message from House to Senate regarding enrolled bills, § 13.1****Message from Senate to House regarding bill passage, § 13.2****Motion to lay resolution of inquiry on the table, § 8.8****Motion to recommit, timeliness of, §§ 11.3, 11.4****Petitions and memorials introduced by request, § 10.1****Petitions, presentation of, by petitioners, § 10.2****Preamble**

generally, § 9.5

amendment to, time for consideration, §§ 9.8, 9.9, 9.11

Committee of the Whole, considered in, §§ 9.6, 9.7

House concurrent resolution, motion to strike out, § 9.10

strike out, motion to, § 9.10

Prerogatives of the House regarding revenue bills and appropriation

measures, § 13.3

Presidential budget, joint resolution setting date for submitting, § 4.7**Presidents, concurrent resolutions honoring former, §§ 5.28, 5.29****Presidents, joint resolutions honoring, §§ 4.13–4.15****Private bills**

authorizing acceptance of foreign honor, § 3.1

calendar, private, criteria for placing bill on, § 3.4

public bills distinguished, §§ 3.1–3.3

Reading of bill

full reading in Committee of the Whole, § 11.1

point of no quorum interrupting, § 11.2
Senate practice, §§ 11.5, 11.6

Recalling bill from President

concurrent resolution requesting President to return bill, §§ 16.1, 16.6

message from President returning bill, §§ 16.8, 16.9

postponing bill indefinitely after, § 16.5
re-enrollment, for purpose of, §§ 16.2–16.4

transmittal of returned bill to the Senate, § 16.7

Recommit, timeliness of motion to, §§ 11.3, 11.4

Referral of vetoed bill messaged from Senate, § 20.7**Reorganization plan, joint resolution setting date for, § 4.4****Resolution of approval or disapproval**

affirmative majority vote for adoption of, § 7.25

amendment prohibition, § 7.23

Committee of the Whole, report by, House consideration of, § 7.24

consideration and debate, allotment of time to opposition for, § 7.22

consideration without debate, § 7.21

debate on, limited by unanimous consent, §§ 7.17–7.19

discharge by unanimous consent, § 7.6

discharge, limitation of debate on motion to, §§ 7.8–7.10

House as in Committee of the Whole, considered in, § 7.19

House disapproval of reorganization plan, Senate action relating to, §§ 7.26, 7.27

precedence of consideration, §§ 7.14, 7.15

privileged motion for consideration of, § 7.11

procedure for consideration of, § 7.12

reorganization plan, effective date, §§ 7.3, 7.4

Senate joint resolution passed, in lieu of House version, § 7.2

termination of authority, provision for, in resolution of approval, § 7.1

time limits on debate in Senate, § 7.16

Resolution of inquiry

committee action, § 8.10

committee jurisdiction, §§ 8.1, 8.11

consideration by unanimous consent, § 8.14

debate after discharge, § 8.9

discharge by committee motion, § 8.12

Resolution of inquiry—Cont.

motion to lay on the table, § 8.8

nonprivileged resolution soliciting opinions, § 8.2

privileged status, § 8.5

referred to House Calendar, § 8.6

reply to, referred to committee, § 8.11

reporting date, extension of, § 8.4

time for reporting, § 8.3

waiver of three-day availability requirement for report, § 8.13

written report, resolution filed without, § 8.12

yields to Private Calendar, § 8.7

Revenue and appropriation measures, House prerogatives as to, § 13.3**Rules of the House**

simple resolution adopting, § 6.2

simple resolution amending, § 6.4

simple resolution waiving, § 6.3

Signing of bills and resolutions

adjournment, announcements as to bills signed during, §§ 15.9–15.11

adjournment, authorizing signing during, by resolution, §§ 15.1–15.3

adjournment, unanimous consent authorizing for signing during, §§ 15.4–15.8

duplicate copies of bills, §§ 15.16, 15.17
“during any adjournment,” §§ 15.3, 15.7

interrupting proceedings in Committee of the Whole, § 15.18

President pro tempore signing bills, §§ 15.2, 15.19

remainder of session, signing authorized for, §§ 15.2, 15.7

sine die adjournment, during, §§ 15.1, 15.4

Speaker pro tempore signing bills, §§ 15.14, 15.15

vacated, §§ 15.12, 15.13

Simple resolution

- committee investigation authorized by, §§ 6.5–6.7
- conference with Senate requested by, § 6.10
- effect of, § 6.1
- engrossment of bill changed by, §§ 12.3, 12.5
- expressing sympathy, § 6.18
- preamble amendable after adoption of, § 9.9
- providing a standing order of business, § 6.11
- rescinding resolution previously adopted, § 6.9
- response to subpoena, resolution authorizing, §§ 6.13–6.17
- rules of the House adopted by, § 6.2
- rules of the House amended by, § 6.4
- rules of the House waived by, § 6.3
- Senate film report, providing for, § 6.12
- special rules, use of simple resolution for, § 6.8
- subpena, authorizing response to, §§ 6.13–6.17
- use of, § 6.1

Sine die adjournment

- concurrent resolution providing for, §§ 5.8, 5.9
- signing bills or resolutions during, §§ 15.1, 15.4

Special rules, simple resolutions used for, § 6.8**Subpena, joint resolution granting power to, § 4.11****Subpena, simple resolution authorizing response to, §§ 6.13–6.17****Table, motion to lay resolution of inquiry on, § 8.8****Titles**

- amendment of, §§ 9.3, 9.4
- germaneness of amendment to bill not determined by, § 9.2

Titles—Cont.

- purpose of, § 9.1

Unanimous consent

- engrossment of bill changed by, §§ 12.8–12.13

Unanimous-consent request, timeliness of request to change engrossment of bill, § 12.2**Vacating particular proceedings**

- adoption of amendments, § 24.7
- agreement to concurrent resolution, § 24.10
- agreement to simple resolutions, §§ 24.8, 24.9
- passage of bills, §§ 24.1–24.4
- passage of joint resolution, § 24.11
- postponement, indefinite, of joint resolution, vacated, § 24.12
- reporting of bill by committee order, § 24.6
- “tabling” of bills, § 24.5

Veto

- error in veto message, § 20.8
- item veto §§ 19.1, 19.2
- message, personal delivery of, § 20.5
- pocket veto, notification of, §§ 18.1–18.3
- presentation of bill to President delayed, legal question arising from, § 17.3
- receipt of veto message announced, § 20.2
- signing resolution similar to one previously vetoed, § 17.7
- ten-day period, commencement of, §§ 17.1–17.5
- timeliness of, §§ 17.1–17.5
- veto message laid before the House, § 20.1
- veto message received by the Clerk, §§ 20.3, 20.4
- veto message returned to President, § 20.9

Vetoed bill

Calendar Wednesday, consideration of veto message on, § 22.4
 consideration of veto message, effect of rejection of motion to postpone, § 21.2
 consideration of veto message, motion to postpone, § 21.9
 consideration of veto message, motion to postpone, as privileged, § 21.10
 debate on motion to refer, § 21.12
 debate on passing over President's veto, §§ 22.7, 22.8
 discharge, motion to, as privileged, § 21.8
 failure to override, bill and veto message referred to committee after, § 23.1
 motion to refer defeated, effect of, § 21.3
 notification of House action on, § 23.2
 notification of Senate action on, § 20.6
 pairs on question of override, § 22.12
 postpone consideration, motion to, generally, § 21.9

Vetoed bill—Cont.

postpone consideration, motion to, as privileged, § 21.10
 postpone, rejection of motion to, effect of, § 21.2
 precedence of motion to refer, § 21.1
 previous question, demand for as precluding debate, § 22.9
 recapitulation of vote, § 22.11,
 reference to committee, objection to, § 21.6
 refer, precedence of motion to, § 21.1
 referred to committee by motion, § 21.4
 referred to committee by unanimous consent, § 21.5
 reported from committee, § 22.5
 report from committee as privileged, § 22.6
 unfinished business, §§ 22.1–22.3
 yeas and nays, requirement on override of, voting by, § 22.10

