

Summary of Proposed Changes to the Rules Committee on Ways and Means – 115th Congress

Except as specified below, the draft Committee Rules for the 115th Congress are identical to those of the 114th Congress:

1. Rule 2: Change the regular meeting day of the Committee from the second Wednesday of each month to “each Wednesday” while the House is in session.
2. Rule 7: Add communicating information about the Committee’s activities to “the public” to the existing purposes of the official Committee website.
3. Rule 8: In (2), strike the requirement that the Subcommittee on Oversight’s jurisdiction “shall be limited to existing law.” In (5), consistent with current jurisdiction strike “low-income energy assistance” and add “home visiting” and “title V of the Social Security Act”. In (5), change the overall number of seats on the Subcommittee on Tax Policy from 14 to 15, as a result of changing the number of Democrat seats on the Subcommittee on Tax Policy from 5 to 6 in order to be more consistent with the overall ratio of seats on the Full Committee.
4. Rule 11: Strike the outdated requirement that subcommittees acknowledge referrals to the full Committee within three days. Strike the unnecessary procedure allowing the full Committee Chairman to request that a subcommittee be discharged from a measure.
5. Rule 21: Strike the requirement that official transcripts not be removed from the Committee or Subcommittee offices. Add a provision allowing for Members to request access to electronic versions of unofficial markup transcripts, with a requirement that if provided such electronic unofficial transcripts not be published or made publically available. Strike an outdated reference to “the drafting of a Committee or Subcommittee decision” and add “executing technical and conforming changes” as the purpose for which the Office of Legislative Counsel may request a transcript.
6. Rule 22: Strike the outdated Rule 22 related to the publication of information surrounding tentative or final decisions on legislation made by the Committee or subcommittees.
7. Rule 23: Re-designate as Rule 22.