

The House Rules, Journal, and Record

A. HOUSE RULES AND MANUAL

§ 1. In General; Printing

The following sections discuss the *House Rules and Manual*, with emphasis on certain general principles relating to the adoption and application of the rules.⁽¹⁾

The *House Rules and Manual* is a House document.⁽²⁾ Included in it are the Constitution; Jefferson's Manual;⁽³⁾ the rules of the House; certain provisions of the Legislative Reorganization Acts of 1946 and 1970; pertinent forms, such as forms of putting questions, of petitions, resolutions, bills, reports from committees, and the like; a description of the introduction of a bill and its progress to final passage; a description of joint committees; materials relating to the franking privilege and the assignment of rooms in the House office buildings; and a comprehensive index. Also included at

1. See also the general discussion of the rules in 8 Cannon's Precedents §§ 3376–3396.
2. Thus, the *House Rules and Manual* used by the 92d Congress was H. Doc. No. 439, 91st Cong. 2d Sess. (1971).
3. See § 2, *infra*.

appropriate points throughout the *House Rules and Manual* are the commentary of the Parliamentary and pertinent references to the precedents of the House and to court cases and other materials.

A statute⁽⁴⁾ provides that each House may order printed as many copies as it desires, of the *Senate Manual* and of the *House Rules and Manual*.

Resolution Relating to House Rules and Manual

§ 1.1 At the end of a Congress, a resolution is customarily adopted providing for the printing and distribution of a revised edition of the House Rules and Manual for the succeeding Congress.

A typical resolution relating to the printing and distribution of the *House Rules and Manual* was that adopted in the 91st Congress:⁽⁵⁾

4. 44 USC § 720.
5. 116 CONG. REC. 44599, 91st Cong. 2d Sess., Jan. 2, 1971. Substantially the same form of resolution has been

H. RES. 1339

Resolved, That a revised edition of the Rules and Manual of the House of Representatives for the Ninety-second Congress be printed as a House document, and that 1,600 additional copies shall be printed and bound for the use of the House of Representatives, of which 700 copies shall be bound in leather with thumb index and delivered as may be directed by the Parliamentarian of the House for distribution to officers and Members of Congress.

§ 2. Jefferson's Manual

Jefferson's Manual was prepared by Thomas Jefferson for his own guidance as President of the Senate in the years of his Vice Presidency, from 1797 to 1801. In 1837, the House, by rule which still exists, provided that the provisions of the Manual should govern the proceedings of the House to the extent specified in the rule. The present rule⁽⁶⁾ states:

The rules of parliamentary practice comprised in Jefferson's Manual and the provisions of the Legislative Reor-

adopted in other Congresses. See, as examples, 114 CONG. REC. 31313, 90th Cong. 2d Sess., Oct. 14, 1968; 104 CONG. REC. 19699, 85th Cong. 2d Sess., Aug. 23, 1958; and 94 CONG. REC. 5746, 80th Cong. 2d Sess., May 12, 1948.

6. Rule XLII, *House Rules and Manual* §938 (1973).

ganization Act of 1946, as amended, shall govern the House in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the standing rules and orders of the House and joint rules of the Senate and House of Representatives.

The extent to which particular provisions of Jefferson's Manual are applicable to present-day procedures in the House is indicated in the notes thereto, including the citations of precedents, accompanying the text as printed in the *House Rules and Manual*.

In addition to being traditionally incorporated in some degree in the House rules, Jefferson's Manual serves as part of the basis of the general parliamentary law that governs the House prior to adoption of the rules.⁽⁷⁾

§ 3. Background Information—Power of New House to Adopt Rules

With respect to the importance of adopting rules of procedure in legislative bodies, Jefferson stated in his Manual:⁽⁸⁾

And whether these forms be in all cases the most rational or not is really not of so great importance. It is much more material that there should be a

7. See § 3, *infra*.

8. *House Rules and Manual* §285 (1973).