

PROPOSED CHANGES TO RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM , 116th CONGRESS

Rule 1(a): Committee Name Changed to “Committee on Oversight and Reform”

This change follows House Resolution 6, which changed the Committee name from the “Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (OGR)” to the “Committee on Oversight and Reform (COR).” The name change better reflects the Committee’s true jurisdiction, which covers oversight of both government and the private sector, and the new acronym reflects the fact that oversight is one of Congress’ core responsibilities under the Constitution.

Rule 2(g): Availability of Text

The Chair has established a process under which priority in consideration may be given to amendments submitted 24 hours in advance of a business meeting. The process will be made available to all Members and is designed to improve efficiency and help ensure that all Members have access to amendment text in advance of business meetings.

Rule 6: Subcommittees

This change establishes five subcommittees instead of six, with jurisdictions set forth in the rule. Jurisdiction over the District of Columbia, federal records, and public access to government information will be kept with the full Committee.

Rule 12: Duties of the Chair of Committee

This change makes this rule consistent with the House Rules for the 116th Congress, which make explicit the Committee’s jurisdiction over the Executive Office of the President and the fact that the Committee’s jurisdiction has never been limited to only issues related to economy and efficiency.

Rule 15: Deposition Authority

These changes conform to the House Rules and House Rules Committee’s Regulation on Depositions. The House Rules returned to the practice of the 110th Congress of not requiring a Member to be present at depositions. While Members are welcome to attend all or part of Committee depositions, this change relieves the burden of scheduling to ensure that a member will be present for the entire length of every deposition. The rule also clarifies the meaning of “business days” consistent with the House rules and adds the ability for the Chair to rule on an objection during the deposition proceeding, consistent with House Rules Regulations. Finally, the changes clarify the rules regarding the release of deposition testimony, transcripts, and recordings, consistent with the House Rules Regulations.

Rule 16: Witness and Privilege Procedure

The addition to Rule 16 sets forth the timing and process for the Chair to consider a privilege assertion. This change establishes a clear and transparent process for witnesses to follow in order to have privilege claims evaluated by the Chair and to avoid witnesses waiting to formally assert a privilege until the day of a contempt vote.