

Select Committees—Continued

COMMITTEE	JURISDICTION—INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITY	REPORTING AUTHORITY
White County Bridge Commission Established May 25, 1955; 84-1, H. Res. 244 Terminated Apr. 25, 1956	Financial position of the White County Bridge Commission; monies received and expenditures made; anticipated toll-free use	To report to the House with recommendations (see H. Rept. 84-2052); no legislative authority
World War II Veterans Established Aug. 28, 1950; 81-2, H. Res. 474 Terminated Feb. 2, 1951	Abuses in education, training and loan guarantee programs of World War II veterans	To report on the results of its investigation (see H. Rept. 2501); no legislative authority

§ 14. Joint Committees**Generally**

Joint committees are composed of Members from both Houses. Jefferson noted that joint committees were used by the two Houses of the English Parliament. *Manual* § 325. Since the First Congress, a joint committee has been used to make arrangements for the inauguration of the President and Vice President. *Manual* § 1112; 3 Hinds § 1986. The early congresses formed joint standing committees on the Library and Printing, which exist to this day. *Manual* §§ 1110, 1111; 4 Hinds §§ 4337, 4347. For a current list of joint committees, see *Manual* §§ 1108-1112.

Joint committees, or committees of the House and Senate acting jointly, have been used to investigate problems relating to immigration (4 Hinds § 4415), to resolve a dispute relating to the electoral count (3 Hinds § 1953), and to investigate the revision and codification of the laws (4 Hinds § 4410).

Jurisdiction, Functions, and Duties

Joint committees are used for study and investigation, supervision and oversight, and sometimes for purely ceremonial activities. Joint committees generally function in areas beyond the jurisdiction of any particular committee of either House. Deschler Ch 17 § 7. Joint committees may report to both Houses if so directed (4 Hinds §§ 4421, 4422), or to either House (4 Hinds § 4432; 7 Cannon § 2167).

A joint committee created by concurrent resolution may be instructed by the two Houses acting concurrently or, if so authorized, by either House acting independently. 4 Hinds § 4421. However, a joint committee created by statute is not susceptible to control by one House; and its duties may not be enlarged or diminished by either House acting independently. 7 Cannon § 2164. A joint committee created by concurrent resolution must be re-established by a subsequent Congress.

Composition; Voting

Recent joint committees have featured an equal number of Members from both Houses, with the chair alternating between the House and Senate, and with each member having one vote. Deschler Ch 17 § 7.

The table below shows the major joint committees that were established during the post-1946 era, their composition, and their jurisdiction and functions:

Joint Committees	
Committees	Jurisdiction and Functions
Atomic Energy Established 1946; 42 USC § 2251 House members: 9 Senate members: 9 Terminated Jan. 4, 1977	Development, use, and control of atomic energy; to report legislation and make recommendations within its jurisdiction; legislative jurisdiction abolished 1977; 95-1, H. Res. 5
Congressional Operations Established 1970; 2 USC §§ 411-417 House members: 5 Senate members: 5 Inactive since 94th Cong.; Select Committee on Congressional Operations created, 95-1, H. Res. 420	Identification of court proceedings affecting Congress; organization and operation of the Congress; supervision of the Office of Placement and Management; no legislative jurisdiction
Defense Production Established 1950; 50 USC App § 2161 House members: 5 Senate members: 5 Terminated Mar. 1, 1992; no appointments after Sept. 30, 1978	Review of programs established by the Defense Production Act of 1950; Federal emergency preparedness and mobilization policy; integrity of defense contracts and the procurement process; to report to the House and Senate on its studies, with recommendations

Joint Committees—Continued

Committees	Jurisdiction and Functions
Deficit Reduction Established 2011; Pub. L. No. 112-25 House members: 6 Senate members: 6 Terminated Jan. 31, 2012	Report recommendations to Congress to reduce the deficit by at least \$1.5 trillion over the period of fiscal years 2012 to 2021
Economic Established 1946; 15 USC § 1021 House members: 10 Senate members: 10 (<i>Manual</i> § 1108)	Economic Report by the President; means of promoting national policy on employment; short-term and medium-term economic goals; to report to the House and Senate (by March 1) and to each Budget Committee (by March 15)
Housing Established 1947; H. Con. Res. 104 House members: 7 Senate members: 7 Terminated 80th Cong.	Housing needs in U.S.; building material shortages; building costs; building codes and zoning laws; housing loans and insurance; veterans' preferences; findings to be reported to the House and Senate
Inaugural Ceremonies Established 1789; reestablished every other Congress by concurrent resolution House members: 3 Senate members: 3	The necessary arrangements for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect
Library Established 1806; 2 USC § 132b House members: 5 Senate members: 5 (<i>Manual</i> § 1110)	Management and expansion of the Library of Congress; rules and regulations for the government of the Library; development of Botanic Garden; gifts for the benefit of the Library; statues and other works of art in the Capitol
Organization of Congress Two separate joint committees Established 1965; S. Con. Res. 2 Terminated Dec. 31, 1967 Established 1992; H. Con. Res. 192; (Reestablished Pub. L. No. 102-392) Terminated Dec. 31, 1993 House members: 12 Senate members: 12	Organization and operation of Congress; relationship between the two Houses and between the Congress and other branches of government; committees; to report to the House and Senate

Joint Committees—Continued

Committees	Jurisdiction and Functions
Printing Established 1846; 44 USC § 901 House members: 5 Senate members: 5 (<i>Manual</i> § 1111)	Inefficiencies or waste in the printing, binding, and distribution of government publications; arrangement and style of the <i>Congressional Record</i> ; printing of the legislative program for each day; listing of committee meetings and hearings
Taxation Established 1926; 26 USC § 8002 House members: 5 Senate members: 5 (<i>Manual</i> § 1109)	Operation and effects of Federal system of internal revenue taxation; to report to the Committee on Ways and Means, and, in its discretion, directly to the House
Washington Metropolitan Problems Established 1957; H. Con. Res. 172 House members: 3 Senate members: 3 Terminated 86th Cong.	Growth and expansion of the District of Columbia and its metropolitan area; effectiveness of agencies and instrumentalities concerned therewith; to report to the House and Senate

D. Procedure in Committees**§ 15. Committee Rules; Applicable House Rules****Generally**

House committees are required to follow the procedures prescribed by the rules of the House “so far as applicable.” Clause 1(a) of rule XI; *Manual* § 787. They are also bound by those provisions of *Jefferson’s Manual* that are consistent with the rules of the House. *Manual* §§ 792, 1105. Finally, they are bound by their written rules which are adopted by each standing committee under clause 2(a) of rule XI. *Manual* § 791. Committee rules must be published in the *Congressional Record* and made publicly available in electronic form within 30 days after the chair of the committee is elected and are compiled by the Committee on Rules each Congress as a committee print. *Manual* § 791. If a committee meets pursuant to a rule which has not been published, the proceedings may be held insufficient to support a perjury conviction for alleged false testimony given to that committee. *United States v. Reinecke*, 524 F.2d 435 (D.C. Cir. 1975).

Clause 1(a)(2) of rule XI states that each subcommittee of a committee is a part of that committee and subject to its authority, direction, and rules.