

*Jefferson's Manual.* When Thomas Jefferson was vice president (1797–1801), he prepared a manual of parliamentary procedure for the Senate. Ironically, in 1837 the House made it a formal part of its rules but the Senate did not grant it such status. The provisions of his manual, according to the *House Manual*, “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.”

*Party Rules.* Each of the two major political parties in each chamber has its own set of party rules. Some of these party regulations directly affect legislative procedure. The House Republican Conference, for example, has a provision that affects the Speaker's use of the suspension of the rules procedure.

*Informal Practices and Customs.* Each chamber develops its own informal traditions and customs. They can be uncovered by examining sources such as the *Congressional Record* (the substantially verbatim account of House and Senate floor debate), scholarly accounts, and other studies of Congress. Committees and party groups may also prepare manuals of legislative procedure and practice.