

BOX 1.1 Major Sources of House and Senate Rules

U.S. Constitution. Article I, Section 5, states: “Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings.” In addition, other procedures of Congress are addressed, such as quorums, adjournments, and roll call votes.

Standing Rules. The formal rules of the House are contained in the Constitution, *Jefferson’s Manual*, and *Rules of the House of Representatives*, commonly called the *House Manual*. The Senate’s rules are in the *Senate Manual Containing the Standing Rules, Orders, Laws, and Resolutions Affecting the Business of the United States Senate*. The House prints its rulebook biennially as a separate document, and periodically the Senate does the same.

Precedents. Each chamber has many precedents—applications of the rules to specific parliamentary circumstances—based on past rulings of the presiding officer. The modern precedents of the Senate are compiled in one volume prepared by the Senate parliamentarian. It is revised and updated periodically, printed as a Senate document, and entitled *Riddick’s Senate Procedure: Precedents and Practices*. House precedents are contained in several sources. Precedents from 1789 to 1936 are found in 11 volumes: *Hinds’ Precedents of the House of Representatives* (from 1789 through 1907) and *Cannon’s Precedents of the House of Representatives* (from 1908 through 1936). Precedents from 1936 on can be found in the 18 volumes that make up *Deschler’s Precedents of the United States House of Representatives* and *Deschler-Brown-Johnson Precedents of the United States House of Representatives*. A summary of important precedents through 1984 is found in *Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives*. In addition, *House Practice: A Guide to the Rules, Precedents, and Procedures of the House* (2011) by William Holmes Brown, Charles W. Johnson, and John V. Sullivan examines selected contemporary precedents as of the 112th Congress. Asher C. Hinds, Clarence A. Cannon, Lewis Deschler, William Holmes Brown, Charles Johnson, and John Sullivan all served as parliamentarians of the House. Floyd M. Riddick was a former parliamentarian of the Senate.

Statutory Rules. Provisions of many public laws have the force of congressional rules. These rulemaking statutes include, for example, the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (P.L. 79-601), the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-510), the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-344), and the Congressional Review Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-121). At times Congress has also created expedited (or “fast track”) legislative procedures for considering international trade agreements negotiated by the president. Those expedited procedures have not been in effect since 2002, but there are efforts in the 114th Congress to resurrect them.