

## **BOX 4.1** Reading a Special Rule

**H.Res. 289**

**[Report No. 106-317]**

### **ORIGINAL TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION**

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of the rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1655) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 for the civilian energy and scientific research, development, and demonstration and related commercial application of energy technology programs, projects, and activities of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

**EXPLANATION:** *Authorizes the Speaker to transform (“resolve”) the House into the Committee of the Whole House to consider the measure after adoption of the special rule.*

The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science.

**EXPLANATION:** *Dispenses with the first reading of the bill. (Bills must be read three times before being passed.) Sets the amount of general debate time—one hour—and specifies which members control that time—in this instance, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science. Specifies that debate should be relevant to the bill.*

After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule.

**EXPLANATION:** *Sets reading for amendment one section at a time (or one paragraph at a time for appropriations bills), and provides that each member can speak for five minutes on each amendment. Because this special rule sets no limitations on amendments that can be offered, it is an open rule. Nonetheless, amendments still must comply with the House’s standing rules, such as germaneness.*

It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for purposes of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science now printed in the bill. Each section of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.