

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. J. RES. 112

Establishing the Joint Committee on Social Security Reform.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 1998

Mr. KOLBE (for himself, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. MINGE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BOYD, Mr. TANNER, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. JOHN, Mr. DOOLEY of California, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. RIVERS, Ms. DANNER, Mr. CONDIT, Mr. BERRY, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. SAWYER, Mr. PORTER, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. CAMPBELL, and Mr. GREENWOOD) introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

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## JOINT RESOLUTION

Establishing the Joint Committee on Social Security Reform.

1        *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*

2        *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3        **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT.**

4        There is hereby established in the legislative branch

5        the Joint Committee on Social Security Reform (hereafter

6        in this joint resolution referred to as the “Joint Commit-

7        tee”).

1 **SEC. 2. DUTIES.**

2 (a) **STUDY OF RETIREMENT FINANCING.**—The Joint  
3 Committee shall conduct a thorough study of retirement  
4 financing issues, concentrating primarily on the problems  
5 related to the long-term financing of the old-age, sur-  
6 vivors, and disability insurance program under title II of  
7 the Social Security Act, with a goal of restoring the long-  
8 term solvency of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insur-  
9 ance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance  
10 Trust Fund and improving financial security for retirees.

11 (b) **REPORTS.**—

12 (1) **INTERIM.**—The Joint Committee shall sub-  
13 mit an interim report to Congress on its activities  
14 and findings at any time prior to December 31,  
15 1998, that the Joint Committee considers appro-  
16 priate.

17 (2) **FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**—

18 The Joint Committee shall submit a final report to  
19 Congress on its activities and findings not later than  
20 March 31, 1999, and shall include in the report such  
21 recommendations for changes to the programs de-  
22 scribed in subsection (a), including legislative lan-  
23 guage to carry out such changes, as the Joint Com-  
24 mittee considers appropriate, except that the Joint  
25 Committee may not include a recommendation in the  
26 report unless the recommendation is approved by a

1 majority of the Senators and a majority of the mem-  
2 bers of the House who serve on the Joint Commit-  
3 tee.

4 (c) CONSIDERATION OF WORK OF ADVISORY COM-  
5 MISSION ON SOCIAL SECURITY.—In carrying out its duties  
6 under this section, the Joint Committee shall take into  
7 consideration the findings and recommendations of the  
8 1994–1996 Advisory Council on Social Security and the  
9 Bipartisan Commission on Entitlement and Tax Reform.

10 **SEC. 3. MEMBERSHIP.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Joint Committee shall consist  
12 of 32 members appointed in accordance with this section.

13 (b) SENATORS.—16 members of the Joint Committee  
14 shall be Senators, who shall be appointed as follows:

15 (1) The Majority Leader shall appoint a co-  
16 chair of the Joint Committee and 7 other members,  
17 of whom—

18 (A) at least 2 shall be members of the  
19 Committee on Finance;

20 (B) at least 1 shall be a member of the  
21 Committee on the Budget; and

22 (C) at least 1 shall be a member of the  
23 Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban  
24 Affairs.

1           (2) The Minority Leader shall appoint a co-vice  
2 chair of the Joint Committee and 7 other members,  
3 of whom—

4           (A) at least 2 shall be members of the  
5 Committee on Finance;

6           (B) at least 1 shall be a member of the  
7 Committee on the Budget; and

8           (C) at least 1 shall be a member of the  
9 Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban  
10 Affairs.

11       (c) MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE.—16 members of the  
12 Joint Committee shall be members of the House of Rep-  
13 resentatives (who may include a Delegate or Resident  
14 Commissioner to the Congress), who shall be appointed  
15 as follows:

16           (1) The Speaker shall appoint a co-chair of the  
17 Joint Committee and 7 other members, of whom—

18           (A) at least 2 shall be members of the  
19 Committee on Ways and Means;

20           (B) at least 1 shall be a member of the  
21 Committee on the Budget;

22           (C) at least 1 shall be a member of the  
23 Committee on Commerce; and

24           (D) at least 1 shall be a member of the  
25 Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

1           (2) The Minority Leader shall appoint a co-vice  
2 chair of the Joint Committee and 5 other members,  
3 of whom—

4           (A) at least 2 shall be members of the  
5 Committee on Ways and Means;

6           (B) at least 1 shall be a member of the  
7 Committee on the Budget;

8           (C) at least 1 shall be a member of the  
9 Committee on Commerce; and

10           (D) at least 1 shall be a member of the  
11 Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

12       (d) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the membership of the  
13 Joint Committee shall not affect the power of the remain-  
14 ing members to execute the functions of the Joint Com-  
15 mittee, and shall be filled in the same manner as in the  
16 case of the original appointment.

17 **SEC. 4. STAFF.**

18       (a) APPOINTMENT OF STAFF.—The co-chairs of the  
19 Joint Committee may appoint and fix the pay of such per-  
20 sonnel as the co-chairs consider appropriate to assist the  
21 Joint Committee in carrying out its duties.

22       (b) DETAIL OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—Upon the  
23 request of the Joint Committee, the head of any Federal  
24 agency or of any office in the legislative branch is author-  
25 ized to detail, without reimbursement, any of the person-

1 nel of such agency or office to the Joint Committee to  
2 assist the Joint Committee in carrying out its duties.

3 **SEC. 5. POWERS.**

4 (a) HEARINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.—For the  
5 purpose of carrying out its duties, the Joint Committee  
6 may hold such hearings and undertake such other activi-  
7 ties as the Joint Committee determines to be necessary  
8 to carry out its duties.

9 (b) ACCESS TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SERVICES.—  
10 The Joint Committee shall have access to the services of  
11 the General Accounting Office, the Congressional Budget  
12 Office, and the Congressional Research Service in the  
13 same manner and under the same terms and conditions  
14 as any standing committee of the House of Representa-  
15 tives or Senate.

16 (c) OBTAINING INFORMATION.—The Joint Commit-  
17 tee may secure directly from any Federal agency informa-  
18 tion necessary to enable it to carry out its duties, if the  
19 information may be disclosed under section 552 of title  
20 5, United States Code. Upon request of the co-chairs of  
21 the Joint Committee, the head of such agency shall fur-  
22 nish such information to the Joint Committee.

1 **SEC. 6. SPECIAL RULES REGARDING CONSIDERATION OF**  
2 **LEGISLATION TO CARRY OUT RECOMMENDA-**  
3 **TIONS.**

4 (a) **TERMS OF THE LEGISLATION.**—For purposes of  
5 this section, legislation described in this subsection is any  
6 bill or joint resolution the substance of which implements  
7 a recommendation of the Joint Committee submitted  
8 under section 2(b)(2).

9 (b) **DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEES.**—If any committee  
10 to which legislation described in subsection (a) (or any  
11 portion thereof) is referred has not reported such legisla-  
12 tion (or an identical resolution) by the end of the 60-cal-  
13 endar day period beginning on the date on which the rec-  
14 ommendation involved is submitted under section 2(b)(2),  
15 such committee shall be, at the end of such period, dis-  
16 charged from further consideration of such legislation, and  
17 such legislation shall be placed on the appropriate cal-  
18 endar of the House involved.

19 (c) **CONSIDERATION.**—(1) On or after the third day  
20 after the date on which the committee to which such legis-  
21 lation is referred has reported, or has been discharged  
22 (under subsection (b)) from further consideration of, such  
23 legislation, it is in order (even though a previous motion  
24 to the same effect has been disagreed to) for any Member  
25 of the respective House to move to proceed to the consider-  
26 ation of the legislation. A Member may make the motion

1 only on the day after the calendar day on which the Mem-  
2 ber announces to the House concerned the Member's in-  
3 tention to make the motion, except that, in the case of  
4 the House of Representatives, the motion may be made  
5 without such prior announcement if the motion is made  
6 by direction of the committee to which the legislation was  
7 referred. All points of order against the legislation (and  
8 against consideration of the legislation) are waived. The  
9 motion is highly privileged in the House of Representatives  
10 and is privileged in the Senate and is not debatable. The  
11 motion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion to  
12 postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration  
13 of other business. A motion to reconsider the vote by  
14 which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not  
15 be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration  
16 of the legislation is agreed to, the respective House shall  
17 immediately proceed to consideration of the legislation  
18 without intervening motion, order, or other business, and  
19 the legislation shall remain the unfinished business of the  
20 respective House until disposed of.

21 (2) Immediately following the conclusion of the de-  
22 bate on legislation described in subsection (a) and a single  
23 quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested  
24 in accordance with the rules of the appropriate House, the  
25 vote on final passage of the legislation shall occur.

1           (3) Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating  
2 to the application of the rules of the Senate or the House  
3 of Representatives, as the case may be, to the procedure  
4 relating to legislation described in subsection (a) shall be  
5 decided without debate.

6           (d) CONSIDERATION BY OTHER HOUSE.—(1) If, be-  
7 fore the passage by one House of legislation of that House  
8 described in subsection (a), that House receives from the  
9 other House legislation described in subsection (a), then  
10 the following procedures shall apply:

11           (A) The legislation of the other House shall not  
12 be referred to a committee and may not be consid-  
13 ered in the House receiving it except in the case of  
14 final passage as provided in subparagraph (B)(ii).

15           (B) With respect to legislation described in sub-  
16 section (a) of the House receiving the legislation—

17           (i) the procedure in that House shall be  
18 the same as if no legislation had been received  
19 from the other House; but

20           (ii) the vote on final passage shall be on  
21 the legislation of the other House.

22           (2) Upon disposition of the legislation received from  
23 the other House, it shall no longer be in order to consider  
24 the legislation that originated in the receiving House.

1 (e) EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.—This  
2 section is enacted by Congress—

3 (1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of  
4 the Senate and the House of Representatives, re-  
5 spectively, and as such it is deemed a part of the  
6 rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only  
7 with respect to the procedure to be followed in that  
8 House in the case of legislation described by this  
9 section, and it supersedes other rules only to the ex-  
10 tent that it is inconsistent with such rules; and

11 (2) with full recognition of the constitutional  
12 right of either House to change the rules (so far as  
13 relating to the procedure of that House) at any time,  
14 in the same manner, and to the same extent as in  
15 the case of any other rule of that House.

16 **SEC. 7. VOUCHERS.**

17 Payments for expenses of the Joint Committee shall  
18 be made using vouchers authorized by the Joint Commit-  
19 tee, signed by the co-chairs of the Joint Committee, and  
20 approved in a manner directed by the Committee on Rules  
21 and Administration of the Senate and the Committee on  
22 House Oversight of the House of Representatives.

1 **SEC. 8. TERMINATION.**

2       The Commission shall terminate on December 31,  
3 1999.

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