

BUSINESS MEETING

BUSINESS MEETING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION UNITED STATES SENATE ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS FIRST SESSION

FEBRUARY 25, 2025

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COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

FIRST SESSION

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BUSINESS MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025

UNITED STATES SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:05 p.m., in Room S-219, the Capitol, Hon. Mitch McConnell, Chairman of the Committee, presiding.

Present: Senators McConnell, Moore Capito, Wicker, Fischer, Hyde-Smith, Hagerty, Britt, Boozman, Padilla, Warner, Klobuchar, Merkley, and Bennet.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HONORABLE MITCH MCCONNELL, CHAIRMAN, A UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF KENTUCKY

CHAIRMAN MCCONNELL. The Committee will come to order. Before we begin, I might just say briefly, since we just went through a ceremony swearing in a new President, I had that job after the 2000 election. All of you remember how long that went on. We were not even sure who was going to be sworn in.

It was a nasty, rainy, not so much that we had to go indoors, but we were sitting outside. I sat down on my seat and the water went straight through my suit and my coat. George W. Bush is right here. I am sure he is having the same experience.

[Laughter.]

CHAIRMAN MCCONNELL. He looks over at me and he says, "Where's the podium?" I had no idea where the podium was. But I said, "Don't worry about it, Mr. President. Everything will be all right." Just then it came up, out of—the podium. They had put in an elevated way to get it out. I breathed easy, and we moved along.

Thank you all for showing up. As I just indicated, it has been a few years since I have chaired this Committee the last time. But not much has changed, and that is good. The integrity of our election system, the right to political speech and our elections, the strength of the Senate as an institution are just as essential to our democracy and just as dependent on our vigilance as we were 20 years ago. I look forward to working with Ranking Member Alex Padilla and each of our colleagues on the Committee's important business.

Today our work begins with the adoption of the Committee Rules of Procedure, the Omnibus Committee Funding Resolution in the 119th Congress, and an amendment to the resolution authorizing funding for the Rules

[audio interruption].

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HONORABLE ALEX PADILLA, A
UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Senator PADILLA. Thank you, Chairman McConnell. Good afternoon, everybody, and thank you for joining us.

First I want to share with Chairman McConnell that I look forward to working with you in the spirit that I think has driven this Committee for many, many years, working on a bipartisan and productive basis.

I do want to take a moment to thank both Senators Klobuchar and Fisher for not just their leadership but their partnership in the prior sessions of Congress, leading the Committee, and among the other accomplishments that are notable, implementing a lot of the reforms, the changes to improve the security of the Capitol complex. As I understand, this Committee has a long, rich history of working across party lines, and I hope we can continue that spirit in the work that we do—a lot administrative, some policy.

On the policy front I would be remiss if I did not remind my friends here that prior to joining the Senate I served as California's Secretary of State. Whatever we can do to bolster election administration and security, not federalize elections—nobody wants to go there—but work in partnership with states to ensure that our democracy is strengthened going forward. I look forward to those opportunities.

Last but not least, I want to welcome back to this Committee a prior Member, my friend, Senator Boozman. Welcome back.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN MCCONNELL. Thank you, Alex.

The Committee will now proceed to consideration of the Committee Rules for this Congress, which have only minor technical changes for consistency purposes.

Is there any further discussion of the proposed Committee Rules?

Senator PADILLA. Mr. Chair, I would just call attention to our amendment to the item before us, which authorizes expenditure of funds for the Rules Committee itself. You will have numbers for all the other committees. We have got to make sure we take care of the Rules Committee and our staff budget. With that addition, I look forward to its adoption.

CHAIRMAN MCCONNELL. All in favor, say aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

CHAIRMAN MCCONNELL. All opposed, nay.

[No response.]

CHAIRMAN MCCONNELL. The ayes have it.

The Committee will now proceed to consideration of the Omnibus Committee Funding Resolution, which is the result of the strong bipartisan process.

I now recognize Senator Padilla to offer an amendment.

Senator PADILLA. What I just said. Rules Committee numbers. Exact numbers have been distributed, but increase of about seven percent. Not as much as other committees, but we will continue the good work.

CHAIRMAN MCCONNELL. Are there any objections?

[No response.]

CHAIRMAN MCCONNELL. All in favor, say aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

CHAIRMAN McCONNELL. All opposed, nay.

[No response.]

CHAIRMAN McCONNELL. The ayes have it. Any further amendments?

[No response.]

CHAIRMAN McCONNELL. Hearing none, the question is on ordering the resolution, as amended, be favorably reported.

All in favor, say aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

CHAIRMAN McCONNELL. All opposed, nay.

[No response.]

CHAIRMAN McCONNELL. In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it. The Omnibus Committee Funding Resolution is favorably reported, as amended.

Thank you, everyone.

[Whereupon, at 2:11 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]