

Rules of Procedure

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON SOLVENCY OF
MULTIEMPLOYER PENSION PLANS

United States Congress



Prepared for the Use of the Joint Select Committee on
Solvency of Multiemployer Pension Plans

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON SOLVENCY OF
MULTIEMPLOYER PENSION PLANS

115TH CONGRESS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Rules of Procedure	1
Rule 1. Committee Meetings	1
Rule 2. Presiding Officers	1
Rule 3. Quorums	1
Rule 4. Reporting of Measures or Recommendations.	1
Rule 5. Order of Motions	2
Rule 6. Bringing a Matter to a Vote	2
Rule 7. Public Announcement of Committee Votes.	2
Rule 8. Announcement of Hearings	2
Rule 9. Witnesses at Hearings	2
Rule 10. Audiences	4
Rule 11. Broadcasting of Hearings	4
Rule 12. Transcripts of Committee Meetings ...	5
Rule 13. Amendment of Rules	5

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON SOLVENCY OF
MULTIEMPLOYER PENSION FUNDS

RULES OF PROCEDURE

(Adopted March 14, 2018)

Rule 1. *Committee Meetings*.—The Joint Select Committee shall regularly meet for the transaction of business at times and dates determined jointly by the co-chairmen. Members will be notified of committee meetings at least 48 hours in advance, unless the co-chairmen determine that an emergency situation requires a meeting on shorter notice. The notification will include a written agenda together with materials prepared by the staff relating to that agenda. After the agenda for a committee meeting is published and distributed, no nongermane items may be brought up during that meeting.

Rule 2. *Presiding Officers*.—The co-chairmen shall preside at all meetings and hearings of the committee except that in their absence the senior present member of the same party as the absent co-chair shall preside in the place of the absent co-chair.

Rule 3. *Quorums*.—Nine members shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of voting and meeting. Five members shall constitute a quorum for holding hearings.

Rule 4. *Reporting of Measures or Recommendations*.—No measure or recommendation shall be reported from the committee un-

less the requirements of Sec. 30422(b)(2) (B)(ii) of Public Law 115–123 are met.

Rule 5. *Order of Motions*.—When several motions are before the committee dealing with related or overlapping matters, the co-chairmen will consult with one another and may specify the order in which the motions shall be voted upon.

Rule 6. *Bringing a Matter to a Vote*.—If the co-chairmen jointly determine that a motion or amendment has been adequately debated, they may call for a vote on such motion or amendment, and the vote shall then be taken, unless the committee votes to continue debate on such motion or amendment, as the case may be. The vote on a motion to continue debate on any motion or amendment shall be taken without debate.

Rule 7. *Public Announcement of Committee Votes*.—Pursuant to paragraph 7(b) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate (relating to public announcement of votes), the results of rollcall votes taken by the committee on any measure (or amendment thereto) or matter shall be announced publicly not later than the day on which such measure or matter is ordered reported from the committee.

Rule 8. *Announcement of Hearings*.—The co-chairs of the joint committee shall make a public announcement of the date, place, time, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted, not less than seven days in advance of such a hearing, unless the co-chairs determine that there is good cause to begin such hearing at an earlier date.

Rule 9. *Witnesses at Hearings*.—(a) Each witness who is scheduled to testify at any hearing must submit his written testimony to the co-staff directors two calendar days before the appearance of the witness, unless the re-

quirement is waived by the co-chairs, following their determination that there is a good cause for failure to comply with such requirement. Such written testimony shall be accompanied by a brief summary of the principal points covered in the written testimony. Having submitted the written testimony, the witness shall be allowed not more than five minutes for oral presentation of their statement.

(b) Public witnesses must meet the requirements of clause 2(g)(5) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House regarding public witnesses. All witnesses shall provide sufficient copies of their written statement to the co-staff directors for distribution to members, staff, and news media. All witnesses may not read their entire written testimony, but must confine their oral presentation to a summarization of their arguments. A witness appearing at a public hearing, or submitting a statement for the record of a public hearing, or submitting written comments in response to a published request for comments by the committee must include in their statement or submission, a list of all clients, persons, or organizations on whose behalf the witness appears. Committee members may question witnesses only when recognized by the co-chairmen for that purpose. All members shall be limited to five minutes on the initial round of questioning. In questioning witnesses under the five-minute rule, the co-chairmen shall be recognized first, after which members who are in attendance at the beginning of a hearing will be recognized in the order of their seniority on the committee. Other members shall be recognized in the order of their appearance at the hearing.

(c) Witnesses shall observe proper standards of dignity, decorum, and propriety while

presenting their views to the committee. Any witness who violates this rule shall be dismissed, and their testimony (both oral and written) shall not appear in the record of the hearing.

(d) In scheduling witnesses for hearings, each co-chair shall be entitled to select an equal number of witnesses for each hearing held by the joint committee.

Rule 10. *Audiences*.—Persons admitted into the audience for open hearings of the committee shall conduct themselves with the dignity, decorum, courtesy, and propriety traditionally observed by the Congress. Demonstrations of approval or disapproval of any statement or act by any member or witness are not allowed. Persons creating confusion or distractions or otherwise disrupting the orderly proceeding of the hearing shall be expelled from the hearing.

Rule 11. *Broadcasting of Hearings*.—(a) Broadcasting of open hearings by television or radio coverage shall be allowed upon approval by the co-chairmen of a request filed with the co-staff directors not later than noon of the day before the day on which such coverage is desired.

(b) If such approval is granted, broadcasting coverage of the hearing shall be conducted unobtrusively and in accordance with the standards of dignity, propriety, courtesy, and decorum traditionally observed by the Congress.

(c) Equipment necessary for coverage by television and radio media shall not be installed in, or removed from, the hearing room while the committee is in session.

(d) Additional lighting may be installed in the hearing room by the media in order to raise the ambient lighting level to the lowest level necessary to provide adequate television

coverage of the hearing at the then current state of the art of television coverage.

(e) The additional lighting authorized by subsection (d) of this rule shall not be directed into the eyes of any members of the committee or of any witness, and at the request of any such member or witness, offending lighting shall be extinguished.

Rule 12. *Transcripts of Committee Meetings*.—An accurate record shall be kept of all markups of the committee, whether they be open or closed to the public. A transcript, marked as “uncorrected,” shall be available for inspection by members of the Congress, or members of the committee together with their staffs, at any time. Not later than 21 business days after the meeting occurs, the committee shall make publicly available through the Internet—

- (a) a video recording;
- (b) an audio recording; or
- (c) after all members of the committee have had a reasonable opportunity to correct their remarks for grammatical errors or to accurately reflect statements, a corrected transcript.

Notwithstanding the above, in the case of the record of an executive session of the committee that is closed to the public, the record shall not be published or made public in any way except if the voting requirements of Sec. 30422(b)(2)(B)(ii) of Public Law 115–123 are met after all members of the committee have had a reasonable opportunity to correct their remarks for grammatical errors or to accurately reflect statements made.

Rule 13. *Amendment of Rules*.—The foregoing rules may be added to, modified, amended, or suspended at any time after consultation and agreement of the co-chairs.