

# Comparative Prints

# A New House Rule

- The House Rules call for greater transparency and accessibility to legislative documents.
- Clause 12 to House Rule XXI
  - currently being called the Comparative Print rules.

# Excerpt from HRes 5, adding Clause 12 to House Rule XXI

(s) COMPARATIVE PRINTS FOR BILLS OR JOINT RESOLUTIONS CONSIDERED ON FLOOR. —Effective **December 31, 2017**, in rule XXI, add at the end the following new clause:

“12. (a)(1) Before a bill or joint resolution proposing to repeal or amend a statute or part thereof may be considered, there shall be made available on a publicly available website of the House an easily searchable electronic comparative print that shows how the bill or joint resolution proposes to change current law, showing **(to the greatest extent practicable)** by appropriate typographical devices the omissions and insertions proposed.

“(2) Before an amendment in the nature of a substitute may be considered if the amendment proposes to repeal or amend a statute or part thereof, there shall be made available on a publicly available website of the House an easily searchable electronic comparative print that shows **(to the greatest extent practicable)** how the amendment proposes to change current law, showing by appropriate typographical devices the omissions and insertions proposed.

“(b) If a committee reports a bill or joint resolution, before the bill or joint resolution may be considered with text different from the text reported, there shall be made available on a publicly available website of the House a document **that shows, by appropriate typographical devices**, the differences between the text of the bill or joint resolution as proposed to be considered and the text of the bill or joint resolution as reported.”.

# Posey Comparative Print rules

Clause 12(a) calls for a document that illustrates changes a bill is making to current law.

- *How does H.R. 123 change the Social Security Act (non-positive law) and 38 USC 321 (positive law)?*

Clause 12(b) calls for a document-to-document comparison between different versions of bill language.

- *How does the Rules Committee Print differ from the bill reported from committee?*

# Project Overview

- December 31, 2017 deadline -- which was met
- Output is posted in PDF and HTML formats on [rules.house.gov](http://rules.house.gov) and [docs.house.gov](http://docs.house.gov) websites
- 2018 and beyond: Improvements will be made to the solutions.

# Sample screen shot

"(5) shall have no effect on the authority of the Secretary to conduct an inspection or otherwise determine whether the requestor ~~has conformance~~plied with the applicable requirements of this Act; and

"(6) ~~shall be considered to~~may be revoked ~~if~~by the Secretary ~~provides written notification upon a determination to~~hat the ~~certified~~ requestor ~~that its~~ quality system ~~does not satisfy the certification criteria~~no longer meets the criteria specified in the guidance issued under subsection (a)(5) with respect to the in-scope devices at issue, ~~such that the applicable submission requirements specified in subsection (a)(1)(C) must be met for changes made after receipt of such written notifi.~~

"(d) NOTICE OF REVOCATION.— The Secretary shall provide written notification to the requestor of a revocation pursuant to subsection (c)(6) not later than 10 business days after the determination described in such subsection. Upon receipt of the written notification, the requestor shall satisfy the applicable submission requirements specified in subsection (a)(1)(C) for any device-related changes effectuated after the date of such determination. After such revocation, ~~wi~~such respect to such devices. ~~questor is eligible to seek re-certification under this section of its quality system.~~

# Links to production work

- <http://docs.house.gov/floor/Default.aspx?date=2018-01-15>
  - <http://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20180115/CP-115RCP115-55-COMPARED-CurrentLaw.pdf>
- <http://docs.house.gov/floor/Default.aspx?date=2018-01-08>
  - <http://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20180108/CP-115S140rh-COMPARED-RCP115-54.pdf>
  - <http://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20180108/CP115S140rhCOMPAREDRCP11554.html>