KEVIN F. MCCUMBER
ACTING CLERK

LISA P. GRANT
DEPUTY CLERK

Office of the Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–6601

October 13, 2023

The Honorable Bryan Steil
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Morelle
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration
1216 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Steil and Ranking Member Morelle,

Pursuant to Section 504 of House Resolution 756 from the 116th Congress, I am submitting this quarterly report about establishing and maintaining a database of votes taken in Committees. This report also discusses other Committee operations matters, including the Deconflict Committee Scheduler (deconflict.house.gov).

Committee Votes as Data

As the Committee is aware, there is a need for a comprehensive, holistic approach that addresses all systems used to manage Committee work in conjunction with other modernization efforts, such as the redesign of the Legislative Information Management System (LIMS). To that end, we have recommended the creation of a Committee portal system that would serve as a next-generation platform to manage Committee work.

During the September 13, 2023, meeting with members of the Subcommittee on Modernization, Clerk staff reiterated our March 2023 request to use funds from the fiscal year 2023 Modernization Initiatives Account to work with vendor partners to build the initial infrastructure for a Committee portal and develop the Committee voting module, a tool to allow for the management of Committee votes as data. The Committee voting module will help Committee staff collect votes electronically and publish votes as data. Outsourcing this work will reduce the impact on existing Clerk projects and we will ensure that all deliverables conform to House standards and our longer-term goals of creating a modern platform for streamlined Committee workflows.

A Committee portal solution would also address the following recommendations made by the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress during the 116th and 117th Congresses.[1]

---

[1] The Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress passed a recommendation to provide "one-click access to see how Members of Congress vote in committees." For more information, see House Report 116-562 at https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/GPO-CRPT-116hrpt562/pdf/GPO-CRPT-116hrpt562.pdf#page=82.

- "The House should establish a system for bill referral to Committees that automates and tracks the bill's progress through the legislative process."[2]

- "Committees should develop bipartisan plans on how technology and innovative platforms can be best incorporated into daily work."[3]

- "The House should make permanent the option to electronically submit Committee reports."[4] (Of note, we provided the means for Committee staff to submit reports electronically in April 2020. There are improvements we could make, including folding submissions into a Committee portal.)

We look forward to working with the Committee on our funding request.

The Committee Repository and the Deconflict Committee Scheduler

As the Committee is aware, Chief Administrative Officer Catherine L. Szpindor and her office maintain the Deconflict Committee Scheduler released to House Committees on April 6. Clerk staff supported this work by providing access to published and draft Committee Repository data, collaborating on strategies for outreach to Committees, and participating in meetings to update Committee on House Administration staff. Our current work includes creating a data exchange method between the Deconflict Committee Scheduler and the Committee Repository that allows Committees to create a draft meeting in the Committee Repository while using a Deconflict input screen. Committee staff would need to log into the Committee Repository (docs.house.gov/committee) to add documents and publish the meetings publicly.

Additionally, we have added a section on the Deconflict Committee Scheduler to the last four offerings of our instructor-led virtual Committee Repository workshops. We have held seven workshops this year and plan to hold three more by year's end.

Finally, unless otherwise directed, we will submit the next report on Committee votes and related Committee functions on or before April 15, 2024. If you or others on the Committee have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kevin F. McCumber
Acting Clerk of the House

cc: The Honorable Mark Amodei, Chairman, Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee
        The Honorable Adriano Espaillat, Ranking Member, Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee
        Chief Administrative Officer Catherine L. Szpindor

---

[2] https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CRPT-117hrpt646/pdf/CRPT-117hrpt646.pdf#page=148.

[3] https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/GPO-CRPT-116hrpt562/pdf/GPO-CRPT-116hrpt562.pdf#page=216.

[4] https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/GPO-CRPT-116hrpt562/pdf/GPO-CRPT-116hrpt562.pdf#page=215.