

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 5
OFFERED BY MR. GOODLATTE OF VIRGINIA

Amend subsection (c) of section 4 to read as follows:

1 (c) OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of House Resolu-
3 tion 895, One Hundred Tenth Congress, shall apply
4 in the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress in the same
5 manner as such provision applied in the One Hun-
6 dred Tenth Congress, except as follows:

7 (A) The Office of Congressional Ethics
8 (hereafter referred to as the “Office”) shall be
9 designated the “Office of Congressional Com-
10 plaint Review”, and each reference to the Office
11 of Congressional Ethics in such Resolution shall
12 be deemed to be a reference to the Office of
13 Congressional Complaint Review.

14 (B) The Office shall be subject to the au-
15 thority and direction of the Committee on Eth-
16 ics.

17 (C) The Office shall be treated as a stand-
18 ing committee of the House for purposes of sec-
19 tion 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization
20 Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i)).

1 (D) References to the Committee on
2 Standards of Official Conduct shall be con-
3 strued as references to the Committee on Eth-
4 ics.

5 (E) Any requirement for concurrence in
6 paragraph (1) of section 1(b) shall be construed
7 as a requirement for consultation.

8 (F) The second sentence of subparagraph
9 (A) of section 1(b)(6) shall not apply.

10 (G) Members subject to subparagraph (B)
11 of section 1(b)(6) may be reappointed for a
12 third additional term.

13 (H) The board of the Office may not take
14 any steps to undertake a preliminary review
15 under section subparagraph (A) of section
16 1(c)(1) with respect to an alleged violation, in-
17 cluding requesting information or other mate-
18 rials or interviewing witnesses (other than re-
19 viewing publicly available information), until the
20 board has received a joint written request de-
21 scribed in such section with respect to the al-
22 leged violation.

23 (I) Subparagraph (B) of section 1(c)(1)
24 shall apply as if the reference to “30 calendar
25 days” were a reference to “60 calendar days”.

1 (J) Subparagraph (C) of section 1(c)(1)
2 shall apply as if the last sentence read as fol-
3 lows: “If the board votes to terminate the pre-
4 liminary review, it shall send a termination re-
5 port to the Committee on Ethics and to the in-
6 dividual who was the subject of the review.”.

7 (K) Clause (i) of section 1(c)(2)(A) shall
8 apply as if the reference to “45 calendar days”
9 were a reference to “60 calendar days”, and
10 clause (ii) of section 1(c)(2)(A) shall not apply.

11 (L) If the board of the Office votes to
12 make a recommendation under subparagraph
13 (B) of section 1(c)(2) that a matter which is
14 the subject of a second-phase review requires
15 further review by the Committee on Ethics, the
16 board shall transmit its recommendation to the
17 Committee under such subparagraph not later
18 than 7 calendar days after the vote.

19 (M) Subclause (III) of section 1(c)(2)(C)(i)
20 shall apply as if the reference to “any sup-
21 porting documentation” were a reference to “all
22 materials related to any matter referred to the
23 Committee on Ethics by the Board in carrying
24 out the second-phase review, including, but not
25 limited to, requests for information, transcripts,

1 documentation and other materials, and any
2 other relevant material”.

3 (N) Pursuant to its authority under sec-
4 tion 1(c)(2)(F), the board of the Office shall
5 adopt a rule that prohibits the board from ac-
6 cepting or considering any anonymous allega-
7 tion.

8 (O) Paragraph (1) of section 1(d) shall
9 apply as if the first sentence read as follows:
10 “Notwithstanding any other provision of this
11 section, upon receipt of a written request from
12 the Committee on Standards of Official Con-
13 duct that the board cease its review of any mat-
14 ter and refer such matter to the Committee, the
15 board shall refer such matter immediately to
16 the Committee and cease its preliminary or sec-
17 ond-phase review, as applicable, of that matter,
18 and so notify any individual who is the subject
19 of the review.”.

20 (P) Paragraph (2) of section 1(d) shall
21 apply as if the reference to “the board shall im-
22 mediately begin or continue, as the case may
23 be, a second-phase review of the matter” were
24 a reference to “the board shall immediately
25 cease any investigation of the matter, and shall

1 notify the individual who is the subject of the
2 review accordingly”.

3 (Q) In addition to the limitations on review
4 described in section 1(e), the board of the Of-
5 fice may not undertake a review of any alleged
6 violation that occurred before the One Hundred
7 Twelfth Congress.

8 (R) Nothing in section 1(f) may be con-
9 strued to authorize the board of the Office to
10 make any public statement, or release any in-
11 formation or other material to the public or any
12 other entity, unless such statement or informa-
13 tion has already been released by the Com-
14 mittee on Ethics or the release of such state-
15 ment or information has been authorized by the
16 Committee on Ethics.

17 (S) The board of the Office is not author-
18 ized to employ any person for a position involv-
19 ing communications with the public, including a
20 communications director or press spokesperson.

21 (T) If at any time the board of the Office
22 discovers information indicating that a matter
23 which is the subject of a review by the board
24 may involve a violation of a criminal law, the
25 Board will immediately refer the matter to the

1 Committee on Ethics for further review or (if
2 determined appropriate by the Committee on
3 Ethics) referral to an appropriate law enforce-
4 ment agency. Nothing in the previous sentence
5 may be construed to authorize the Board to
6 refer any matter directly to any law enforce-
7 ment agency.

8 (U) The board of the Office shall include
9 in its rules provisions to protect the due process
10 rights of individuals who are the subject of a
11 preliminary review or second-phase review by
12 the board, and of witnesses, including informing
13 such individuals and witnesses of the right to be
14 represented by counsel and ensuring that the
15 invocation of that right will not be held nega-
16 tively against them.

17 (V) The Office may not take any action
18 that would deny any person any right or protec-
19 tion provided under the Constitution of the
20 United States.

21 (2) CONFORMING REFERENCES IN RULES.—
22 During the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, any
23 reference in the Rules of the House of Representa-
24 tives to the Office of Congressional Ethics shall be

1 deemed to be a reference to the Office of Congres-
2 sional Complaint Review.

