

## **Rules of the House Requiring Committees to Evaluate Regulations and Report:**

Clause 2 of rule X specifically tells committees to “review specific problems with Federal rules, regulations, statutes, and court decisions that are ambiguous, arbitrary, or nonsensical, or that impose severe financial burdens on individuals.”

That same clause requires committees to do a number of other things, including:

- Analysis, appraisal, and evaluation of the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of Federal laws.
- Review and study on a continuing basis the execution of laws and programs within its jurisdiction, to see if they should be continued, curtailed or eliminated.
- Committees are also supposed to have an oversight subcommittee to help with these responsibilities.
- Each committee submits its oversight plan by February 15 of the first session of the Congress.

Clause 1 of rule XI says that, in addition to the forward-looking oversight plan each committee has to write, they have to submit a report to the House twice a year saying what oversight activities they have undertaken. They have to say what they’ve done in general, and specifically what in their oversight plan they have actually carried out.

There are a number of other related provisions in the Rules of the House:

- Clause 2(n) of rule XI requires each committee to hold at least one hearing every 4 months on waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement in government programs in their jurisdiction.
- Clause 3 of rule X also gives each standing committee special oversight functions. Oversight and Government Reform is to study on a continuing basis “the operation of Government activities at all levels with a view to determining

their economy and efficiency.” Small Business is to study and investigate on a continuing basis the problems of all types of small business.