

Integrity in Legislation Act

INTEGRITY IN LEGISLATION ACT

Section 1 - Purpose

The purpose of this Act is to increase transparency, accountability, and integrity in the legislative process by ensuring that all provisions within a bill are directly related to the bill's stated subject and preventing manipulation through unrelated riders, vague subject definitions, or procedural loopholes.

Section 2 - Prohibition on Unrelated Provisions

No bill introduced in Congress may contain provisions that are unrelated to the primary purpose of the bill as stated in its title and summary. The primary subject must be clearly identified, and any provision not germane to the subject shall be subject to removal.

Section 3 - Specificity of Title and Summary

Bill titles and summaries must reference a clearly defined and narrow policy issue. The use of vague, generic, or catch-all language such as 'general welfare,' 'economic development,' or 'infrastructure support' without specific reference to a unified policy domain is prohibited.

Section 4 - Amendment Restrictions

All amendments to a bill must be germane to the bill's defined subject and purpose. The Parliamentarian of the originating chamber shall review and rule on each amendment's relevance before a committee or floor vote. Noncompliant amendments shall be ruled out of order and removed.

Section 5 - Plain Language & Crosswalk Requirements

Each provision in a bill must include a plain-language summary and a subject matter tag linking it to the bill's

core topic. Any provision that cannot be reasonably connected shall be subject to removal.

Section 6 - Emergency and Reconciliation Limits

Reconciliation bills and emergency legislation may only include items directly tied to budgetary outlays or urgent response activities, as certified by the Comptroller General. Add-ons or unrelated policy provisions are prohibited.

Section 7 - Single-Issue Requirement

All bills introduced in Congress shall be limited to a single subject matter.

- (a) The subject of the bill must be clearly stated in the bill's title and summary.
- (b) No provision of the bill may address a topic not germane to the stated subject.
- (c) The Parliamentarian of each chamber shall be empowered to enforce this rule by issuing binding determinations.
- (d) Any bill that fails to meet this requirement shall be declared procedurally invalid and may not proceed to a vote.

Section 8 - Definition of Single Subject

- (a) A 'single subject' shall mean a unified public policy issue or legislative concern that can reasonably be debated and voted on independently.
- (b) Topics such as appropriations, tax reform, defense, and transportation shall be treated as distinct and may not be bundled into a single legislative act.
- (c) Emergency exceptions may be granted for narrowly-defined, time-sensitive national crises, subject to a two-thirds vote in both chambers and certification by the Comptroller General.

Section 9 - Parliamentary Authority and Independence

The Parliamentarian of each chamber shall be a nonpartisan officer, protected from removal except for cause. Their rulings on bill germaneness, single-subject compliance, and amendment relevance shall be binding and may only be overruled by a two-thirds vote of the respective chamber.