

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9418

To revise the annual rate of pay of Members of Congress to restore cost-of-living increases which were waived under previous laws, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 2, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To revise the annual rate of pay of Members of Congress to restore cost-of-living increases which were waived under previous laws, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “27th Amendment En-
5 forcement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Under a longstanding law, the annual rates
2 of pay for Members of Congress are subject to cost-
3 of-living adjustments whenever the President adjusts
4 the annual rates of pay applicable to Federal em-
5 ployees covered by the General Schedule.

6 (2) The 27th Amendment to the Constitution of
7 the United States, ratified in 1992, prohibits any
8 law “varying the compensation of Senators and Rep-
9 resentatives” from taking effect until after the next
10 regularly scheduled general election for Members of
11 the House of Representatives.

12 (3) Since the 27th Amendment was ratified, on
13 over a dozen occasions Congress has enacted a law
14 to prohibit these cost-of-living adjustments from tak-
15 ing effect, which means that each of these laws has
16 varied the compensation of Members of Congress
17 from what the compensation would have been if
18 these laws had not been enacted.

19 (4) In nearly every instance, each of these laws
20 took effect prior to the next election for Members of
21 the House, in violation of the 27th Amendment.

22 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
23 gress that, in order to provide relief from the changes
24 which were made to the annual rates of pay of Members
25 of Congress by laws which were in violation of the 27th

1 Amendment, the adjustments which were prohibited by
2 these laws must be restored.

3 **SEC. 3. RESTORING COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS IN**
4 **RATES OF PAY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.**

5 (a) RESTORATION.—Section 601(a) of the Legislative
6 Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “as adjusted
8 by paragraph (2)” and inserting “as adjusted by
9 paragraphs (2) and (3)”; and

10 (2) by adding at the end the following new
11 paragraph:

12 “(3) The annual rate of pay for the positions de-
13 scribed in paragraph (1) shall be the rate which would
14 have applied to such positions during the most recent pay
15 period beginning before the date of the enactment of this
16 paragraph if no laws had been enacted prior to such date
17 to prohibit adjustments to such rate under paragraph
18 (2).”.

19 (b) DETERMINATION AND PUBLICATION OF
20 RATES.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the en-
21 actment of this Act, the Chief Administrative Officer of
22 the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the
23 Senate shall determine and publish the annual rates of
24 pay for the positions described in paragraph (1) of section
25 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2

1 U.S.C. 4501) and the date on which such rates shall take
2 effect, taking into account the amendments made by sub-
3 section (a).

