

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8623

To require that Members of Congress hold a security clearance at the level of top secret or higher to obtain access to Sensitive Compartmented Information, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2022

Mr. PHILLIPS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To require that Members of Congress hold a security clearance at the level of top secret or higher to obtain access to Sensitive Compartmented Information, 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 “Member Security
5 Clearance Updates Required for Everyone Act” or the
6 “Member SECURE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SECURITY CLEARANCE REQUIREMENT FOR MEM-**
2 **BERS OF CONGRESS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—A Member of Congress who does
4 not hold a security clearance at the level of top secret or
5 higher that grants the Member access to Sensitive Com-
6 partmented Information (SCI) may not be provided access
7 to any material classified at the SCI level or higher.

8 (b) SPECIAL RULE FOR INTERIM SECURITY CLEAR-
9 ANCE.—A Member of Congress who applies for a security
10 clearance described in subsection (a) shall be granted an
11 interim security clearance that grants the Member access
12 to SCI until a final determination with respect to the secu-
13 rity clearance of the Member has been made pursuant to
14 subsection (c).

15 (c) FINAL DETERMINATION WITH RESPECT TO SE-
16 CURITY CLEARANCE.—With respect to an application for
17 a security clearance described in subsection (a) submitted
18 by a Member of Congress—

19 (1) the final determination of the application
20 shall be made pursuant to a vote of the appropriate
21 ethics committee after the committee receives the
22 background investigation for such Member under
23 subsection (d); and

24 (2) such security clearance shall be granted to
25 the Member only by an affirmative vote of a major-

1 ity of the members of the appropriate ethics com-
2 mittee.

3 (d) EXPEDITED BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS
4 PROCESSING.—With respect to an application for a secu-
5 rity clearance described in subsection (a) submitted by a
6 Member of Congress, the appropriate background inves-
7 tigation department of the Central Intelligence Agency
8 shall, to the greatest extent possible, ensure the expedited
9 completion of the background investigation required for
10 the appropriate ethics committee to make a final deter-
11 mination for such application.

12 (e) IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURE INFORMATION
13 SYSTEMS PROCEDURES.—Not later than 360 days after
14 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sergeant at
15 Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate and the Sergeant at
16 Arms of the House of Representatives shall, with respect
17 to each House, develop and implement information sys-
18 tems procedures with the same level of security and pro-
19 tection of sensitive information as the Secure Internet
20 Protocol Router Network used to manage access to sen-
21 sitive information for personnel of the Department of De-
22 fense for the purpose of enabling Members of Congress
23 and staff with the appropriate security clearance to se-
24 curely gain access to such sensitive information.

1 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following defi-
2 nitions apply:

3 (1) MEMBER OF CONGRESS.—The term “Mem-
4 ber of Congress” includes a Delegate or Resident
5 Commissioner to the Congress.

6 (2) APPROPRIATE ETHICS COMMITTEE.—The
7 term “appropriate ethics committee” means—

8 (A) in the case of an application for a se-
9 curity clearance described in subsection (a) sub-
10 mitted by a Member of the Senate, the Select
11 Committee on Ethics of the Senate; and

12 (B) in the case of an application for a se-
13 curity clearance described in subsection (a) sub-
14 mitted by a Member of the House of Represent-
15 atives, the Committee on Ethics of the House
16 of Representatives.

17 (g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This requirements under
18 this section shall take effect 360 days after the date of
19 the enactment of this Act.

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