

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9031

To decrease the pay of Members of Congress during any period in which continuing appropriations are in effect, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

Mr. NORMAN (for himself, Mr. BIGGS, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Ms. MACE) 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 decrease the pay of Members of Congress during any period in which continuing appropriations are in effect, 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 “No Pay for Congres-
5 sional Recklessness Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITING USE OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN GOV-**
2 **ERNMENT ACTIVITIES WHILE CONTINUING**
3 **APPROPRIATIONS ARE IN EFFECT.**

4 (a) PROHIBITION.—During the period described in
5 subsection (c), no appropriated funds, including official
6 funds of the House of Representatives, official funds of
7 the Senate, or funds available under any Federal law, rule,
8 or regulation, may be used to pay for the costs of any
9 of the following:

10 (1) TRAVEL BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—
11 Travel by a Member of Congress (except as provided
12 in paragraph (1) of subsection (b)).

13 (2) TRAVEL BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH EMPLOY-
14 EES.—Travel by an employee of an executive agency
15 (except as provided in paragraph (2) of subsection
16 (b)).

17 (b) EXCEPTIONS.—

18 (1) TRAVEL BY MEMBERS TO WASHINGTON
19 METROPOLITAN AREA.—Subsection (a) does not
20 apply with respect to travel by a Member of Con-
21 gress to the Washington Metropolitan Area.

22 (2) WAIVERS IN CASE OF EMERGENCY OR
23 THREATS TO SECURITY.—The head of an executive
24 agency may waive the application of subsection (a)
25 to travel by an employee of the agency if the head
26 of the agency determines that travel by the employee

1 is necessary to respond to a threat to national secu-
2 rity, a significant law enforcement event, or a nat-
3 ural disaster or other similar emergency.

4 (c) PERIOD DESCRIBED.—The period described in
5 this subsection is the period that—

6 (1) begins on the 1st day on which a continuing
7 resolution is in effect; and

8 (2) ends on—

9 (A) the date on which appropriations and
10 funds are no longer made available pursuant to
11 a continuing resolution; or

12 (B) if such appropriations and funds are
13 no longer made available as a result of a Gov-
14 ernment shutdown, the later of the date such
15 shutdown ends or the date on which appropria-
16 tions and funds are no longer made available
17 pursuant to a continuing resolution after the
18 date such shutdown ends.

19 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following defi-
20 nitions apply:

21 (1) The term “executive agency” has the mean-
22 ing given that term in section 105 of title 5, United
23 States Code, and includes the Executive Office of
24 the President, the United States Postal Service, and

1 Postal Regulatory Commission, but does not include
2 the Government Accountability Office.

3 (2) The term “Washington Metropolitan Area”
4 means the District of Columbia, the Counties of
5 Montgomery and Prince George’s in Maryland, and
6 the Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudon, and
7 Prince William and the Cities of Alexandria and
8 Falls Church in Virginia.

9 **SEC. 3. WITHHOLDING THE PAY OF MEMBERS OF CON-**
10 **GRESS WHILE CONTINUING APPROPRIA-**
11 **TIONS ARE IN EFFECT.**

12 (a) RULE FOR ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CON-
13 GRESS.—

14 (1) HOLDING SALARIES IN ESCROW.—If a pay
15 period occurs during the One Hundred Seventeenth
16 Congress during the period described in paragraph
17 (2), the payroll administrator of each House of Con-
18 gress shall—

19 (A) deposit in an escrow account and ex-
20 clude from the payments otherwise required to
21 be made with respect to that pay period for the
22 compensation of each Member of Congress who
23 serves in that House of Congress an amount
24 equal to the product of—

1 (i) the daily rate of pay of the Mem-
2 ber under section 601(a) of the Legislative
3 Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C.
4 4501); and

5 (ii) the number of 24-hour periods
6 during the pay period; and

7 (B) release amounts deposited in an es-
8 crow account under subparagraph (A) to such
9 Member of Congress only upon the expiration of
10 the period described in paragraph (2).

11 (2) PERIOD DESCRIBED.—The period described
12 in this paragraph is the period that—

13 (A) begins on the 1st day on which a con-
14 tinuing resolution is in effect; and

15 (B) ends on the earlier of—

16 (i) the date on which appropriations
17 and funds are no longer made available
18 pursuant to a continuing resolution;

19 (ii) if such appropriations and funds
20 are no longer made available as a result of
21 a Government shutdown, the later of the
22 date such shutdown ends or the date on
23 which appropriations and funds are no
24 longer made available pursuant to a con-

1 continuing resolution after the date such shut-
2 down ends; or

3 (iii) the last day of the One Hundred
4 Seventeenth Congress.

5 (3) WITHHOLDING AND REMITTANCE OF
6 AMOUNTS FROM PAYMENTS HELD IN ESCROW.—The
7 payroll administrator of each House of Congress
8 shall provide for the same withholding and remit-
9 tance with respect to a payment deposited in an es-
10 crow account under paragraph (1) that would apply
11 to the payment if the payment were not subject to
12 paragraph (1).

13 (4) RELEASE OF AMOUNTS AT END OF THE
14 CONGRESS.—In order to ensure that this subsection
15 is carried out in a manner that shall not vary the
16 compensation of Senators or Representatives in vio-
17 lation of the twenty-seventh amendment to the Con-
18 stitution of the United States, the payroll adminis-
19 trator of a House of Congress shall release for pay-
20 ment to Members of that House of Congress any
21 amounts remaining in any escrow account under this
22 section on the last day of the One Hundred Seven-
23 teenth Congress.

24 (b) SUBSEQUENT CONGRESSES.—

1 (1) WITHHOLDING SALARIES.—If a pay period
2 occurs during the One Hundred Eighteenth Con-
3 gress or any succeeding Congress during the period
4 described in paragraph (2), the payroll administrator
5 of each House of Congress shall exclude from the
6 payments otherwise required to be made with re-
7 spect to that pay period for the compensation of
8 each Member of Congress who serves in that House
9 of Congress an amount equal to a decrease of 1 per-
10 cent of the annual rate of basic pay for the Member
11 under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganiza-
12 tion Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501) for each day dur-
13 ing the pay period on which a continuing resolution
14 is in effect.

15 (2) PERIOD DESCRIBED.—The period described
16 in this paragraph is the period that—

17 (A) begins on the 1st day on which a con-
18 tinuing resolution is in effect; and

19 (B) ends on—

20 (i) the date on which appropriations
21 and funds are no longer made available
22 pursuant to a continuing resolution; or

23 (ii) if such appropriations and funds
24 are no longer made available as a result of
25 a Government shutdown, the later of the

1 date such shutdown ends or the date on
2 which appropriations and funds are no
3 longer made available pursuant to a con-
4 tinuing resolution after the date such shut-
5 down ends.

6 (c) ROLE OF SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.—The
7 Secretary of the Treasury shall provide the payroll admin-
8 istrator of each House of Congress with such assistance
9 as may be necessary to enable the payroll administrator
10 to carry out this section.

11 (d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “payroll
12 administrator”, with respect to a House of Congress,
13 means—

14 (1) in the case of the House of Representatives,
15 the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of
16 Representatives, or an employee of the Office of the
17 Chief Administrative Officer who is designated by
18 the Chief Administrative Officer to carry out this
19 section; and

20 (2) in the case of the Senate, the Secretary of
21 the Senate, or an employee of the Office of the Sec-
22 retary of the Senate who is designated by the Sec-
23 retary to carry out this section.

1 **SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN.**

2 For purposes of this Act, a Government shutdown
3 shall be considered to be in effect if there is a lapse in
4 appropriations for any Federal agency or department as
5 a result of a failure to enact a regular appropriations bill
6 or continuing resolution.

7 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act—

9 (1) the term “continuing resolution” means,
10 with respect to a fiscal year for which an appropria-
11 tion measure for the fiscal year is not enacted before
12 the beginning of such fiscal year, a bill or joint reso-
13 lution making continuing appropriations for any pro-
14 gram, project, or activity for which funds were pro-
15 vided in the preceding fiscal year in the amount pro-
16 vided in the corresponding appropriation Act for
17 such preceding fiscal year or, if the corresponding
18 appropriation bill for such preceding fiscal year did
19 not become law, the amount provided in a bill or
20 joint resolution making continuing appropriations
21 for such preceding fiscal year; and

22 (2) the term “Member of Congress” means a
23 Senator or a Representative in, or Delegate or Resi-
24 dent Commissioner to, the Congress.

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