

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5411

To hold the salaries of senior government officials in escrow and prohibit the use of official funds for travel by such officials if each of the regular appropriation bills for a fiscal year prior has not been enacted into law by the beginning of the fiscal year, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. WEBER of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Reform, House Administration, Rules, and the Budget, 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 hold the salaries of senior government officials in escrow and prohibit the use of official funds for travel by such officials if each of the regular appropriation bills for a fiscal year prior has not been enacted into law by the beginning of the fiscal year, 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 “Governing Effectively,
5 with Transparency, Integrity, and Timeliness, and Doing

1 Our Necessary Expenditures Act” or the “GET IT DONE
2 Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. HOLDING SALARIES OF SENIOR GOVERNMENT OF-**
4 **FICIALS IN ESCROW.**

5 (a) HOLDING SALARIES IN ESCROW.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—If by the first day of a fiscal
7 year, each of the regular appropriation bills for such
8 fiscal year has not been enacted into law, during the
9 period described in paragraph (2) the applicable
10 payroll administrator shall deposit in an escrow ac-
11 count all payments otherwise required to be made
12 during such period for the compensation of senior
13 government officials, and shall release such pay-
14 ments to such officials only upon the expiration of
15 such period.

16 (2) PERIOD DESCRIBED.—With respect to a fis-
17 cal year, the period described in this paragraph is
18 the period which begins on the first day of the fiscal
19 year and ends on the earlier of—

20 (A) the first day by which each of the reg-
21 ular appropriation bills for such fiscal year has
22 been enacted into law; or

23 (B) the last day of the Congress during
24 which that fiscal year begins.

25 (b) ADMINISTRATION OF ESCROW.—

1 (1) WITHHOLDING AND REMITTANCE OF
2 AMOUNTS FROM PAYMENTS HELD IN ESCROW.—The
3 applicable payroll administrator shall provide for the
4 same withholding and remittance with respect to a
5 payment deposited in an escrow account under sub-
6 section (a) that would apply to the payment if the
7 payment were not subject to such subsection.

8 (2) ROLE OF SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.—
9 The Secretary of the Treasury shall provide the ap-
10 plicable payroll administrators described in para-
11 graphs (1) and (2) of subsection (d) with such as-
12 sistance as may be necessary to enable the payroll
13 administrators to carry out this section.

14 (c) RELEASE OF AMOUNTS AT END OF CONGRESS.—
15 The applicable payroll administrator shall release for pay-
16 ments to senior government officials any amounts remain-
17 ing in any escrow account under subsection (a) on the last
18 day of the Congress during which the amounts were depos-
19 ited in such account.

20 (d) PAYROLL ADMINISTRATOR DEFINED.—In this
21 section, the term “applicable payroll administrator”
22 means, with respect to a senior government official—

23 (1) in the case of a senior government official
24 who is a Member of the House of Representatives
25 (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to

1 the Congress), the Chief Administrative Officer of
2 the House of Representatives, or an employee of the
3 Office of the Chief Administrative Officer who is
4 designated by the Chief Administrative Officer to
5 carry out this section;

6 (2) in the case of a senior government official
7 who is a Senator, the Secretary of the Senate, or an
8 employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate
9 who is designated by the Secretary to carry out this
10 section; and

11 (3) in the case of any other senior government
12 official, the Secretary of the Treasury.

13 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITING OFFICIAL TRAVEL OF SENIOR GOV-**
14 **ERNMENT OFFICIALS.**

15 (a) PROHIBITION.—If, by the first day of a fiscal
16 year, each of the regular appropriation bills for such fiscal
17 year has not been enacted into law, no appropriated funds,
18 including official funds of the House of Representatives,
19 official funds of the Senate, or funds available under any
20 Federal law, rule, or regulation, may be used to pay for
21 the costs of travel by a senior government official until
22 each such bill is enacted into law.

23 (b) EXCEPTION FOR TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON MET-
24 ROPOLITAN AREA.—Subsection (a) does not apply with re-

1 spect to travel by a senior government official to the
2 Washington Metropolitan Area.

3 (c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “Wash-
4 ington Metropolitan Area” means the District of Colum-
5 bia, the Counties of Anne Arundel, Montgomery, and
6 Prince Georges in Maryland, and the Counties of Arling-
7 ton, Fairfax, Loudon, and Prince William and the Cities
8 of Alexandria and Falls Church in Virginia.

9 **SEC. 4. LIMITATIONS ON ADJOURNMENT.**

10 Section 309 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974
11 (2 U.S.C. 640) is amended—

12 (1) in the heading, by striking “HOUSE”;

13 (2) by striking “It shall not” and inserting “(a)

14 LIMITATION ON JULY RECESS IN HOUSE.—It shall
15 not”; and

16 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
17 section:

18 “(b) LIMITATION ON ADJOURNMENT.—Beginning on
19 the first day of each fiscal year, it shall not be in order
20 in a House of Congress to adjourn for a period of more
21 than 12 hours until the House of Congress has approved
22 annual appropriation bills providing new budget authority
23 under the jurisdiction of all the subcommittees of the
24 Committee on Appropriations of that House for the fiscal
25 year. For purposes of this subsection, the chairs of the

1 Committees on Appropriations of the House of Represent-
2 atives and Senate shall each periodically advise the Speak-
3 er of the House or the majority leader of the Senate (as
4 the case may be) as to changes in jurisdiction among the
5 various subcommittees of such Committees.”.

6 **SEC. 5. FUNDING THE GOVERNMENT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 13 of title 31, United
8 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1310
9 the following new section:

10 **“SEC. 1311. FUNDING THE GOVERNMENT.**

11 “(a)(1) If any appropriation measure for a fiscal year
12 is not enacted before the beginning of such fiscal year,
13 or a joint resolution making continuing appropriations is
14 not in effect, there are appropriated such sums as may
15 be necessary to continue any program, project, or activity
16 for which funds were provided in the preceding fiscal
17 year—

18 “(A) in the corresponding appropriation Act for
19 such preceding fiscal year; or

20 “(B) if the corresponding appropriation bill for
21 such preceding fiscal year did not become law, then
22 in a joint resolution making continuing appropria-
23 tions for such preceding fiscal year.

24 “(2)(A) Appropriations and funds made available,
25 and authority granted, for a program, project, or activity

1 for any fiscal year pursuant to this section shall be at a
2 rate of operations not in excess of the lower of—

3 “(i) 100 percent of the rate of operations pro-
4 vided for in the regular appropriation Act providing
5 for such program, project, or activity for the pre-
6 ceding fiscal year;

7 “(ii) in the absence of such an Act, 100 percent
8 of the rate of operations provided for such program,
9 project, or activity pursuant to a joint resolution
10 making continuing appropriations for such preceding
11 fiscal year; or

12 “(iii) 100 percent of the annualized rate of op-
13 erations provided for in the most recently enacted
14 joint resolution making continuing appropriations
15 for part of that fiscal year or any funding levels es-
16 tablished under the provisions of this Act,

17 for the period of 30 days. After the first 30-day period
18 during which this subsection is in effect for that fiscal
19 year, the applicable rate of operations shall be reduced by
20 2.5 percentage points. For each subsequent 30-day period
21 during which this subsection is in effect for that fiscal
22 year, the applicable rate of operations shall be reduced by
23 2.5 percentage points. The 30-day period reductions shall
24 extend beyond the last day of that fiscal year.

1 “(B) If this section is in effect at the end of a fiscal
2 year, funding levels shall continue as provided in this sec-
3 tion for the next fiscal year.

4 “(3) Appropriations and funds made available, and
5 authority granted, for any fiscal year pursuant to this sec-
6 tion for a program, project, or activity shall be available
7 for the period beginning with the first day of a lapse in
8 appropriations and ending with the date on which the ap-
9 plicable regular appropriation bill for such fiscal year be-
10 comes law (whether or not such law provides for such pro-
11 gram, project, or activity) or a continuing resolution mak-
12 ing appropriations becomes law, as the case may be.

13 “(b) An appropriation or funds made available, or au-
14 thority granted, for a program, project, or activity for any
15 fiscal year pursuant to this section shall be subject to the
16 terms and conditions imposed with respect to the appro-
17 priation made or funds made available for the preceding
18 fiscal year, or authority granted for such program, project,
19 or activity under current law.

20 “(c) Expenditures made for a program, project, or
21 activity for any fiscal year pursuant to this section shall
22 be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or au-
23 thorization whenever a regular appropriation bill or a joint
24 resolution making continuing appropriations until the end

1 of a fiscal year providing for such program, project, or
2 activity for such period becomes law.

3 “(d) This section shall not apply to a program,
4 project, or activity during a fiscal year if any other provi-
5 sion of law (other than an authorization of appropria-
6 tions)—

7 “(1) makes an appropriation, makes funds
8 available, or grants authority for such program,
9 project, or activity to continue for such period; or

10 “(2) specifically provides that no appropriation
11 shall be made, no funds shall be made available, or
12 no authority shall be granted for such program,
13 project, or activity to continue for such period.”.

14 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
15 of chapter 13 of title 31, United States Code, is amended
16 by inserting after the item relating to section 1310 the
17 following new item:

“1311. Funding the Government.”.

18 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amend-
19 ments made by this section shall take effect on the date
20 of enactment of this Act.

21 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

22 In this Act—

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

1 (2) the term “regular appropriation bill” means
2 any annual appropriation bill which, with respect to
3 the Congress involved, is under the jurisdiction of a
4 single subcommittee of the Committee on Appropria-
5 tions of the House of Representatives (pursuant to
6 the Rules of the House of Representatives for that
7 Congress) and a single subcommittee of the Com-
8 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate (pursuant to
9 the Standing Rules of the Senate); and

10 (3) the term “senior government official”
11 means—

12 (A) a Member of Congress;

13 (B) the President;

14 (C) the Vice President;

15 (D) the head of any executive department
16 (as that term is defined in section 101 of title
17 5, United States Code); and

18 (E) any employee of, or detailee to, the
19 Executive Office of the President whose annual
20 rate of basic pay is equal to or greater than
21 \$158,000.

1 **SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 Except as provided in section 5(c), this Act and the
3 amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to
4 fiscal year 2022 and each succeeding fiscal year.

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