

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1988

To amend chapter 85 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify that Federal civilian and military personnel excepted from a furlough during a Government shutdown are eligible for unemployment compensation, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 2025

Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Ms. SEWELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To amend chapter 85 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify that Federal civilian and military personnel excepted from a furlough during a Government shutdown are eligible for unemployment compensation, 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 “Pay Federal Workers  
5 and Servicemembers Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION**  
2 **FOR FEDERAL CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PER-**  
3 **SONNEL EXCEPTED FROM FURLOUGH DUR-**  
4 **ING GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN.**

5 (a) FEDERAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 85  
7 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding  
8 at the end the following:

9 **“§ 8510. Eligibility for unemployment compensation**  
10 **for Federal personnel excepted from fur-**  
11 **lough during Government shutdown**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any lapse in ap-  
13 propriations beginning on or after March 14, 2025, each  
14 covered employee shall be, solely for the purpose of deter-  
15 mining eligibility for unemployment compensation under  
16 this subchapter or subchapter II (as the case may be),  
17 deemed for the duration of the lapse in appropriations to  
18 be—

19 “(1) totally separated from Federal service; and

20 “(2) eligible for unemployment compensation  
21 benefits under the applicable subchapter with no  
22 waiting period for such eligibility to accrue.

23 “(b) COVERED EMPLOYEE DEFINED.—In this sec-  
24 tion, the term ‘covered employee’ means any of the fol-  
25 lowing Federal personnel who are excepted from furlough  
26 and are not being paid due to a lapse in appropriations:

1           “(1) Any member of the Armed Forces or the  
2           Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and  
3           Atmospheric Administration.

4           “(2) Any Federal civilian employee who is an  
5           excepted employee or an employee performing emer-  
6           gency work, as such terms are defined by the Office  
7           of Personnel Management.”.

8           (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
9           tions for such subchapter is amended by adding at  
10          the end the following:

          “8510. Eligibility for unemployment compensation for Federal personnel ex-  
          cepted from furlough during Government shutdown.”.

11          (a) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by sub-  
12          section (a) shall apply to weeks of unemployment begin-  
13          ning on or after March 14, 2025.

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