

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5891

To reduce the annual rate of pay of Members of Congress if a Government shutdown occurs during a year, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 31, 2025

Mr. STEIL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government 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 reduce the annual rate of pay of Members of Congress if a Government shutdown occurs during a 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 “Withhold Member Pay
5 During Shutdowns Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NO PAY FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS DURING GOV-**
7 **ERNMENT SHUTDOWNS.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

1 (1) the term “Government shutdown” means a
2 lapse in appropriations for 1 or more Federal agen-
3 cies or departments;

4 (2) the term “Member of Congress” means an
5 individual serving in a position under subparagraph
6 (A), (B), or (C) of section 601(a)(1) of the Legisla-
7 tive Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501(1));
8 and

9 (3) the term “payroll administrator”, with re-
10 spect to a House of Congress, means—

11 (A) in the case of the Senate, the Sec-
12 retary of the Senate, or an employee of the Of-
13 fice of the Secretary of the Senate who is des-
14 ignated by the Secretary to carry out the re-
15 quirements of this section; and

16 (B) in the case of the House of Represent-
17 atives, the Chief Administrative Officer of the
18 House of Representatives, or an employee of
19 the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
20 who is designated by the Chief Administrative
21 Officer to carry out the requirements of this
22 section.

23 (b) REQUIRING REDUCTION OF PAY OF MEMBERS OF
24 CONGRESS IF GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN OCCURS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—If on any day during a pay
2 period a Government shutdown is in effect, the pay-
3 roll administrator of each House of Congress shall
4 exclude from the payments otherwise required to be
5 made with respect to that pay period for the com-
6 pensation of each Member of Congress who serves in
7 that House of Congress an amount equal to the
8 product of—

9 (A) an amount equal to one day’s worth of
10 pay under the annual rate of pay of the Mem-
11 ber under section 601(a) of the Legislative Re-
12 organization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501); and

13 (B) the number of 24-hour periods during
14 the pay period during which the Government
15 shutdown is in effect.

16 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall
17 apply with respect to days occurring after the date
18 of the regularly scheduled general election for Fed-
19 eral office held in November 2026 (in this section
20 referred to as the “pay reduction effective date”).

21 (c) SPECIAL RULE FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS BE-
22 FORE GENERAL ELECTION.—

23 (1) HOLDING SALARIES IN ESCROW.—If on any
24 day before the pay reduction effective date a Govern-

1 ment shutdown is in effect, the payroll administrator
2 of each House of Congress shall—

3 (A) withhold from the payments otherwise
4 required to be made with respect to a pay pe-
5 riod for the compensation of each Member of
6 Congress who serves in that House of Congress
7 an amount equal to the product of—

8 (i) an amount equal to one day's
9 worth of pay under the annual rate of pay
10 applicable to the Member under section
11 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization
12 Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501); and

13 (ii) the number of 24-hour periods
14 during which the Government shutdown is
15 in effect which occur during the pay pe-
16 riod; and

17 (B) deposit in an escrow account all
18 amounts withheld under subparagraph (A).

19 (2) RELEASE OF AMOUNTS AT END OF THE
20 CONGRESS.—In order to ensure that this subsection
21 is carried out in a manner that shall not vary the
22 compensation of Senators or Representatives in vio-
23 lation of the 27th Amendment to the Constitution of
24 the United States, the payroll administrator of a
25 House of Congress shall release for payments to

1 Members of that House of Congress any amounts re-
2 maining in any escrow account under this subsection
3 on the pay reduction effective date.

4 (3) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection shall
5 apply with respect to days during the period begin-
6 ning on the date of enactment of this Act and end-
7 ing on the pay reduction effective date.

8 (d) ROLE OF SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.—The
9 Secretary of the Treasury shall provide the payroll admin-
10 istrators of the Houses of Congress with such assistance
11 as may be necessary to enable the payroll administrators
12 to carry out this section.

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