

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8140

To prohibit the pay of Members of Congress during periods in which a Government shutdown is in effect, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 27, 2026

Mr. JAMES 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

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## A BILL

To prohibit the pay of Members of Congress during periods in which a Government shutdown is 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 “Money Where Our  
5       Mouths Are Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITING PAY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS IN**  
2 **RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN.**

3 (a) PROHIBITION OF PAY.—If on any day during a  
4 pay period a Government shutdown is in effect, the payroll  
5 administrator of each House of Congress shall exclude  
6 from the payments otherwise required to be made with re-  
7 spect to that pay period for the compensation of each  
8 Member of Congress who serves in that House of Congress  
9 an amount equal to the product of—

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

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

17 (b) ROLE OF SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.—The  
18 Secretary of the Treasury shall provide the payroll admin-  
19 istrators of the Houses of Congress with such assistance  
20 as may be necessary to enable the payroll administrators  
21 to carry out this section.

22 (c) PAYROLL ADMINISTRATOR DEFINED.—In this  
23 section, the “payroll administrator” of a House of Con-  
24 gress means—

25 (1) in the case of the House of Representatives,  
26 the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of

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

5           (2) in the case of the Senate, the Secretary of  
6       the Senate, or an employee of the Office of the Sec-  
7       retary of the Senate who is designated by the Sec-  
8       retary to carry out this section.

9       (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with  
10      respect to days occurring during the One Hundred Twen-  
11      tieth Congress and each succeeding Congress.

12   **SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN.**

13       For purposes of this Act, a Government shutdown  
14      shall be considered to be in effect if there is a lapse in  
15      appropriations for any Federal agency or department as  
16      a result of a failure to enact a regular appropriations bill  
17      or continuing resolution.

18   **SEC. 4. MEMBER OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**

19       In this Act, the term “Member of Congress” means  
20      an individual serving in a position under subparagraph  
21      (A), (B), or (C) of section 601(a) of the Legislative Reor-  
22      ganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501).

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