

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1454

To require the salaries of Members of Congress to be held in escrow if all regular appropriation bills for a fiscal year have not been enacted by the beginning of the fiscal year, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 8, 2011

Mr. HULTGREN 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 require the salaries of Members of Congress to be held in escrow if all regular appropriation bills for a fiscal year have not been enacted 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 “Congressional Pay Ac-  
5 countability Act of 2011”.

1 **SEC. 2. HOLDING SALARIES OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS IN**  
2 **ESCROW UPON FAILURE TO ENACT REGULAR**  
3 **APPROPRIATION BILLS FOR FISCAL YEAR.**

4 (a) ESCROW.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—If all of the regular appro-  
6 priation bills for a fiscal year do not become law be-  
7 fore the beginning of such fiscal year, the Secretary  
8 of the Treasury shall deposit all payments otherwise  
9 required to be made for the compensation of Mem-  
10 bers of Congress in an escrow account, and shall re-  
11 lease such payments to the Members only upon the  
12 enactment of all such bills.

13 (2) WITHHOLDING AND REMITTANCE OF  
14 AMOUNTS FROM PAYMENTS HELD IN ESCROW.—The  
15 Secretary of the Treasury shall provide for the same  
16 withholding and remittance with respect to a pay-  
17 ment deposited in an escrow account under para-  
18 graph (1) that would apply to the payment if the  
19 payment were not subject to paragraph (1).

20 (3) COORDINATION WITH HOUSE AND SEN-  
21 ATE.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall enter  
22 into such agreements with the Chief Administrative  
23 Officer of the House of Representatives and the Sec-  
24 retary of the Senate as may be necessary to carry  
25 out this subsection.

1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with  
2 respect to fiscal year 2012 and each succeeding fiscal year.

3 **SEC. 3. REDUCTION IN SALARY UPON FAILURE TO ENACT**  
4 **REGULAR APPROPRIATION BILLS PRIOR TO**  
5 **BEGINNING OF CONGRESS.**

6 (a) REDUCTION IN SALARY.—Notwithstanding any  
7 other provision of law, if all of the regular appropriation  
8 bills for the fiscal year in which a Congress begins do not  
9 become law before the first day of the Congress, the an-  
10 nual rate of pay for each Member of Congress for pay  
11 periods occurring during the Congress shall be the applica-  
12 ble rate in effect for the most recent pay period prior to  
13 the Congress reduced by 25 percent, rounded to the near-  
14 est multiple of \$100 (or, if midway between multiples of  
15 \$100, to the next higher multiple of \$100).

16 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with  
17 respect to the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress and each  
18 succeeding Congress.

19 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

20 (a) MEMBER OF CONGRESS.—In this Act, the term  
21 “Member of Congress” means an individual serving in a  
22 position under subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section  
23 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2  
24 U.S.C. 31).

1 (b) REGULAR APPROPRIATION BILL.—In this Act,  
2 the term “regular appropriation bill” means any annual  
3 appropriation bill making appropriations, otherwise mak-  
4 ing funds available, or granting authority, for any of the  
5 following categories of projects and activities:

6 (1) Agriculture, rural development, Food and  
7 Drug Administration, and related agencies pro-  
8 grams.

9 (2) The Departments of Commerce, Justice,  
10 Science, and related agencies.

11 (3) The Department of Defense.

12 (4) Energy and water development, and related  
13 agencies.

14 (5) Financial services and general Government.

15 (6) The Department of Homeland Security.

16 (7) The Department of the Interior, environ-  
17 ment, and related agencies.

18 (8) The Departments of Labor, Health and  
19 Human Services, and Education, and related agen-  
20 cies.

21 (9) The legislative branch.

22 (10) Military construction and veterans affairs.

23 (11) The Department of State, foreign oper-  
24 ations, and related programs.

1           (12) The Departments of Transportation,  
2           Housing and Urban Development, and related agen-  
3           cies.

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