

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1973

To reduce the annual rate of pay of Members of Congress if the public debt limit is reached or a Government shutdown occurs during a year, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK) 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 reduce the annual rate of pay of Members of Congress if the public debt limit is reached or 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 “No Pay for Congress  
5 During Default or Shutdown Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIRING REDUCTION OF PAY OF MEMBERS OF**  
2 **CONGRESS IF PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT IS**  
3 **REACHED.**

4 (a) REDUCTION OF PAY FOR EACH DAY OF GOVERN-  
5 MENT SHUTDOWN.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—If on any day during a year  
7 the public debt limit is reached, the annual rate of  
8 pay applicable under section 601(a) of the Legisla-  
9 tive Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501)  
10 with respect to each Member of Congress for the  
11 year shall be reduced by an amount equal to the  
12 product of—

13 (A) an amount equal to one day's worth of  
14 pay under such annual rate; and

15 (B) the number of 24-hour periods during  
16 which the public debt limit is reached.

17 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall  
18 apply with respect to days occurring after the date  
19 of the regularly scheduled general election for Fed-  
20 eral office held in November 2026.

21 (b) SPECIAL RULE FOR ONE HUNDRED NINE-  
22 TEENTH CONGRESS.—

23 (1) HOLDING SALARIES IN ESCROW.—If on any  
24 day during the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress  
25 the public debt limit is reached, the payroll adminis-  
26 trator of that House of Congress shall—

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

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

11 (ii) the number of 24-hour periods  
12 during which the public debt limit is  
13 reached which occur during the pay period;  
14 and

15 (B) deposit in an escrow account all  
16 amounts withheld under subparagraph (A).

17 (2) RELEASE OF AMOUNTS AT END OF THE  
18 CONGRESS.—In order to ensure that this subsection  
19 is carried out in a manner that shall not vary the  
20 compensation of Members of Congress in violation of  
21 the twenty-seventh article of amendment to the Con-  
22 stitution of the United States, the payroll adminis-  
23 trator of a House of Congress shall release for pay-  
24 ments to Members of that House of Congress any  
25 amounts remaining in any escrow account under this

1 subsection on the last day of the One Hundred  
2 Nineteenth Congress.

3 (3) EXCEPTION FOR DAYS OCCURRING AFTER  
4 GENERAL ELECTION.—This subsection does not  
5 apply with respect to any day during the One Hun-  
6 dred Nineteenth Congress which occurs after the  
7 date of the regularly scheduled general election for  
8 Federal office held in November 2026.

9 (c) DETERMINATION OF REACHING OF PUBLIC DEBT  
10 LIMIT.—For purposes of this section, the public debt limit  
11 shall be considered to be reached if the Federal Govern-  
12 ment is unable to make payments or meet obligations be-  
13 cause the public debt limit under section 3101 of title 31,  
14 United States Code, has been reached.

15 **SEC. 3. REQUIRING REDUCTION OF PAY OF MEMBERS OF**  
16 **CONGRESS IF GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN OC-**  
17 **CURS.**

18 (a) REDUCTION OF PAY FOR EACH DAY OF GOVERN-  
19 MENT SHUTDOWN.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—If on any day during a year  
21 a Government shutdown is in effect, the annual rate  
22 of pay applicable under section 601(a) of the Legis-  
23 lative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501)  
24 with respect to each Member of Congress for the

1 year shall be reduced by an amount equal to the  
2 product of—

3 (A) an amount equal to one day’s worth of  
4 pay under such annual rate; and

5 (B) the number of 24-hour periods during  
6 which the Government shutdown is in effect.

7 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall  
8 apply with respect to days occurring after the date  
9 of the regularly scheduled general election for Fed-  
10 eral office held in November 2026.

11 (b) SPECIAL RULE FOR ONE HUNDRED NINE-  
12 TEENTH CONGRESS.—

13 (1) HOLDING SALARIES IN ESCROW.—If on any  
14 day during the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress a  
15 Government shutdown is in effect, the payroll ad-  
16 ministrator of that House of Congress shall—

17 (A) withhold from the payments otherwise  
18 required to be made with respect to a pay pe-  
19 riod for the compensation of each Member of  
20 Congress who serves in that House of Congress  
21 an amount equal to the product of—

22 (i) an amount equal to one day’s  
23 worth of pay under the annual rate of pay  
24 applicable to the Member under section

1           601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization  
2           Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501); and

3           (ii) the number of 24-hour periods  
4           during which the Government shutdown is  
5           in effect which occur during the pay pe-  
6           riod; and

7           (B) deposit in an escrow account all  
8           amounts withheld under subparagraph (A).

9           (2) RELEASE OF AMOUNTS AT END OF THE  
10          CONGRESS.—In order to ensure that this subsection  
11          is carried out in a manner that shall not vary the  
12          compensation of Senators or Representatives in vio-  
13          lation of the twenty-seventh article of amendment to  
14          the Constitution of the United States, the payroll  
15          administrator of a House of Congress shall release  
16          for payments to Members of that House of Congress  
17          any amounts remaining in any escrow account under  
18          this subsection on the last day of the One Hundred  
19          Nineteenth Congress.

20          (3) EXCEPTION FOR DAYS OCCURRING AFTER  
21          GENERAL ELECTION.—This subsection does not  
22          apply with respect to any day during the One Hun-  
23          dred Nineteenth Congress which occurs after the  
24          date of the regularly scheduled general election for  
25          Federal office held in November 2026.

1           (c) DETERMINATION OF GOVERNMENT SHUT-  
2 DOWN.—For purposes of this section, a Government shut-  
3 down shall be considered to be in effect if there is a lapse  
4 in appropriations for any Federal agency or department  
5 as a result of a failure to enact a regular appropriations  
6 bill or continuing resolution.

7 **SEC. 4. ROLE OF SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.**

8           The Secretary of the Treasury shall provide the pay-  
9 roll administrators of the Houses of Congress with such  
10 assistance as may be necessary to enable the payroll ad-  
11 ministrators to carry out this Act.

12 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

13           (a) MEMBER OF CONGRESS.—In this Act, the term  
14 “Member of Congress” means an individual serving in a  
15 position under subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section  
16 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2  
17 U.S.C. 4501).

18           (b) PAYROLL ADMINISTRATOR.—In this Act, the  
19 “payroll administrator” of a House of Congress means—

20                   (1) in the case of the House of Representatives,  
21           the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of  
22           Representatives, or an employee of the Office of the  
23           Chief Administrative Officer who is designated by  
24           the Chief Administrative Officer to carry out this  
25           Act; and

1           (2) in the case of the Senate, the Secretary of  
2           the Senate, or an employee of the Office of the Sec-  
3           retary of the Senate who is designated by the Sec-  
4           retary to carry out this Act.

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