

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 507

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit former Members and elected officers of Congress from lobbying Congress at any time after leaving office, to prohibit the use of funds for official travel expenses of Members of Congress and legislative branch employees for airline accommodations other than coach class, to reduce the pay of Members of the House of Representatives if a Speaker is not elected on the first day of a Congress, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 25, 2023

Ms. CRAIG introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Ethics, Rules, and Oversight and Accountability, 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

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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 “Halt Unchecked Mem-
5 ber Benefits with Lobbying Elimination Act” or the
6 “HUMBLE Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITING FORMER MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**
8 **OF CONGRESS FROM LOBBYING CONGRESS.**

9 (a) PROHIBITION.—Section 207(e)(1) of title 18,
10 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

11 “(1) MEMBERS AND ELECTED OFFICERS OF
12 CONGRESS.—Any person who is a Senator, a Mem-
13 ber of the House of Representatives, or an elected
14 officer of the Senate or the House of Representa-
15 tives and who, after that person leaves office, know-
16 ingly makes, with the intent to influence, any com-
17 munication to or appearance before any Member, of-
18 ficer, or employee of either House of Congress or
19 any employee of any other legislative office of the
20 Congress, on behalf of any other person (except the
21 United States) in connection with any matter on
22 which such former Senator, Member, or elected offi-
23 cial seeks action by a Member, officer, or employee
24 of either House of Congress, in his or her official ca-

1 pacity, shall be punished as provided in section 216
2 of this title.”.

3 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 207(e)(2)
4 of such title is amended—

5 (1) in the heading, by striking “OFFICERS AND
6 STAFF” and inserting “STAFF”;

7 (2) by striking “an elected officer of the Senate,
8 or”;

9 (3) by striking “leaves office or employment”
10 and inserting “leaves employment”; and

11 (4) by striking “former elected officer or”.

12 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
13 this section shall apply with respect to an individual who
14 leaves office on or after the date of the enactment of this
15 Act.

16 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITING USE OF FUNDS FOR OFFICIAL TRAV-**
17 **EL EXPENSES OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS**
18 **AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCH EMPLOYEES FOR**
19 **AIRLINE ACCOMMODATIONS OTHER THAN**
20 **COACH CLASS.**

21 (a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in subsection
22 (b), no funds appropriated or otherwise made available for
23 the official travel expenses of a Member of Congress or
24 other officer or employee of any office in the legislative

1 branch may be used for airline accommodations which are
2 not coach-class accommodations.

3 (b) EXCEPTIONS.—Funds described in subsection (a)
4 may be used for airline accommodations which are not
5 coach-class accommodations for an individual described in
6 subsection (a) if the use of the funds for such accommoda-
7 tions would be permitted under sections 301–10.121
8 through 301–10.125 of title 41 of the Code of Federal
9 Regulations if the individual were an employee of an agen-
10 cy which is subject to chapter 301 of such title.

11 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
12 may be construed to affect any officer or employee of an
13 office of the legislative branch which, as of the date of
14 the enactment of this Act, is subject to chapter 301 of
15 title 41 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

16 (d) DEFINITIONS.—

17 (1) COACH-CLASS ACCOMMODATIONS.—In this
18 Act, the term “coach-class accommodations” means
19 the basic class of accommodation by airlines that is
20 normally the lowest fare offered regardless of airline
21 terminology used, and (as referred to by airlines)
22 may include tourist class or economy class, as well
23 as single class when the airline offers only one class
24 of accommodations to all travelers.

1 (2) MEMBER OF CONGRESS.—In this Act, the
2 term “Member of Congress” means a Senator or a
3 Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commis-
4 sioner to, the Congress.

5 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with
6 respect to fiscal year 2024 and each succeeding fiscal year.

7 **SEC. 4. BENEFITS AND SERVICES PROVIDED TO FORMER**
8 **MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-**
9 **TIVES.**

10 (a) BENEFITS AND SERVICES DESCRIBED.—The
11 House of Representatives may not make any of the fol-
12 lowing benefits and services available to an individual who
13 becomes a former Member of the House (except to the
14 extent such benefits and services are made available to
15 members of the public):

16 (1) Access to the Hall of the House.

17 (2) Access to athletic facilities and other facili-
18 ties available for the use of Members of the House.

19 (3) Access to the Members’ Dining Room lo-
20 cated in the House of Representatives wing of the
21 United States Capitol.

22 (4) Access to parking spaces.

23 (5) Access to material from the House docu-
24 ment room.

1 (6) Use of the collections in the House Legisla-
2 tive Resource Center without borrowing privileges.

3 (b) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—

4 (1) AUTHORITY TO WAIVE ELIMINATION OF
5 BENEFIT OR SERVICE.—The Speaker and the minor-
6 ity leader of the House of Representatives may joint-
7 ly, on a case-by-case basis, grant a waiver of sub-
8 section (a) with respect to a former Member of the
9 House and a benefit or service described in such
10 subsection.

11 (2) PUBLICATION IN CONGRESSIONAL
12 RECORD.—If the Speaker and the minority leader
13 jointly grant a waiver under paragraph (1) to make
14 a benefit or service available to a former Member,
15 the Speaker and minority leader shall, not later than
16 24 hours after the waiver is granted, cause to have
17 published in the Congressional Record a statement
18 identifying the former Member and the benefit or
19 service involved.

20 **SEC. 5. PROHIBITING MEMBERS OF HOUSE OF REPRESENT-**
21 **ATIVES FROM OWNING INDIVIDUAL STOCKS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Rule XXIII of the Rules of the
23 House of Representatives is amended—

24 (1) by redesignating clause 22 as clause 23;
25 and

1 (2) by inserting after clause 21 the following:

2 “22. A Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner
3 may not own the common stock of any individual corpora-
4 tion.”.

5 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
6 subsection (a) shall take effect immediately before noon
7 on January 3, 2025.

8 **SEC. 6. REDUCTION OF PAY OF MEMBERS OF HOUSE IF**
9 **SPEAKER IS NOT ELECTED.**

10 (a) REDUCTION OF PAY.—

11 (1) REDUCTION.—If, by the end of the first day
12 of a Congress, the House of Representatives has not
13 elected a Speaker, the annual rate of pay applicable
14 under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganiza-
15 tion Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501) with respect to
16 each Member of the House of Representatives for
17 the year shall be reduced by an amount equal to the
18 product of—

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

21 (B) the number of 24-hour periods occur-
22 ring during the Congress during which no
23 Speaker has been elected for the Congress.

1 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall
2 apply with respect to the One Hundred Nineteenth
3 Congress and each succeeding Congress.

4 (b) RULE FOR ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CON-
5 GRESS.—

6 (1) HOLDING SALARIES IN ESCROW.—If, by the
7 end of the first day of the One Hundred Eighteenth
8 Congress, the House of Representatives has not
9 elected a Speaker, the Chief Administrative Officer
10 of the House of Representatives, or an employee of
11 the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer who is
12 designated by the Chief Administrative Officer to
13 carry out this Act, shall—

14 (A) deposit in an escrow account and ex-
15 clude from the payments otherwise required to
16 be made for the compensation of each Member
17 of the House of Representatives with respect to
18 a pay period during which the House has not
19 elected a Speaker an amount equal to the prod-
20 uct of—

21 (i) the daily rate of pay of the Mem-
22 ber under section 601(a) of the Legislative
23 Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C.
24 4501); and

1 (ii) the number of 24-hour periods
2 during which no Speaker has been elected
3 for the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress;
4 and

5 (B) release amounts deposited in an es-
6 crow account under subparagraph (A) to such
7 Member of the House of Representatives only
8 upon the expiration of the period described in
9 paragraph (2).

10 (2) PERIOD DESCRIBED.—The period described
11 in this paragraph is the period that—

12 (A) begins on the first day of the One
13 Hundred Eighteenth Congress; and

14 (B) ends on the earlier of—

15 (i) the date on which the House elects
16 a Speaker for the One Hundred Eight-
17 eenth Congress; or

18 (ii) the last day of the One Hundred
19 Eighteenth Congress.

20 (3) WITHHOLDING AND REMITTANCE OF
21 AMOUNTS FROM PAYMENTS HELD IN ESCROW.—The
22 Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Rep-
23 resentatives, or an employee of the Office of the
24 Chief Administrative Officer who is designated by
25 the Chief Administrative Officer to carry out this

1 Act, shall provide for the same withholding and re-
2 mittance with respect to a payment deposited in an
3 escrow account under paragraph (1) that would
4 apply to the payment if the payment were not sub-
5 ject to paragraph (1).

6 (4) RELEASE OF AMOUNTS AT END OF THE
7 CONGRESS.—In order to ensure that this subsection
8 is carried out in a manner that shall not vary the
9 compensation of Representatives in violation of the
10 Twenty-seventh Amendment to the Constitution of
11 the United States, the Chief Administrative Officer
12 of the House of Representatives, or an employee of
13 the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer who is
14 designated by the Chief Administrative Officer to
15 carry out this Act, shall release for payment to
16 Members of the House of Representatives any
17 amounts remaining in any escrow account under this
18 section on the last day of the One Hundred Eight-
19 eenth Congress.

20 (c) MEMBER DEFINED.—In this section, the term
21 “Member of the House of Representatives” means an indi-
22 vidual serving in a position in the House of Representa-
23 tives which is covered under subparagraph (A), (B), or
24 (C) of section 601(a)(1) of the Legislative Reorganization
25 Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501(1)).

1 **SEC. 7. PROHIBITING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REP-**
2 **RESENTATIVES FROM SERVING ON BOARDS**
3 **OF FOR-PROFIT ENTITIES.**

4 Rule XXIII of the Rules of the House of Representa-
5 tives, as amended by section 5(a), is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating clauses 19 through 23 as
7 clauses 20 through 24, respectively; and

8 (2) by inserting after clause 18 the following
9 new clause:

10 “19. A Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner
11 may not serve on the board of directors of any for-profit
12 entity.”.

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