

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5942

To withhold the pay of Members of Congress in certain cases, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 12, 2023

Mr. LALOTA introduced the following bill

OCTOBER 25, 2023

Referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To withhold the pay of Members of Congress in certain cases, 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 “Troops Before Politi-
5 cians Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. WITHHOLDING OF PAY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS**
7 **IN CERTAIN CASES.**

8 (a) HOLDING SALARIES IN ESCROW.—If on any day
9 during a pay period members of the Armed Forces, includ-

1 ing the reserve components thereof, who perform active
2 service during such period are not receiving amounts of
3 pay due to such members, including as a result of a lapse
4 in appropriations for a fiscal year, the payroll adminis-
5 trator of a House of Congress shall—

6 (1) withhold the payments otherwise required to
7 be made during the period for the compensation of
8 each Member of Congress who serves in that House
9 of Congress; and

10 (2) deposit in an escrow account all amounts
11 withheld under paragraph (1).

12 (b) RELEASE OF AMOUNTS HELD IN ESCROW.—

13 (1) RELEASE.—The payroll administrator of a
14 House of Congress shall release for payments to
15 Members of that House of Congress any amounts in
16 any escrow account under this subsection as soon as
17 practicable after the date that the lapse in pay de-
18 scribed in subsection (a) terminates.

19 (2) SPECIAL RULE FOR ONE HUNDRED EIGHT-
20 EENTH CONGRESS.—In order to ensure that this
21 section is carried out in a manner that shall not
22 vary the compensation of Senators or Representa-
23 tives in violation of the twenty-seventh article of
24 amendment to the Constitution of the United States,
25 the payroll administrator of a House of Congress

1 shall release for payments to Members of that House
2 of Congress any amounts remaining in any escrow
3 account under this subsection on the last day of the
4 One Hundred Eighteenth Congress.

5 (c) ROLE OF SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.—The
6 Secretary of the Treasury shall provide the payroll admin-
7 istrators of the Houses of Congress with such assistance
8 as may be necessary to enable the payroll administrators
9 to carry out this Act.

10 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

11 (1) the terms “active service” and “Armed
12 Forces” have the meanings given such terms in sec-
13 tion 101 of title 10, United States Code;

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

18 (3) the “payroll administrator” of a House of
19 Congress means—

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

1 (B) in the case of the Senate, the Sec-
2 retary of the Senate, or an employee of the Of-
3 fice of the Secretary of the Senate who is des-
4 ignated by the Secretary to carry out this Act;
5 and

6 (4) the term “reserve components” means the
7 components named in section 10101 of title 10,
8 United States Code.

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