

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9769

To require Members of Congress to provide disclosures related to absences from attendance, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2026

Mr. TORRES of New York (for himself and Mr. MOULTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

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## A BILL

To require Members of Congress to provide disclosures related to absences from attendance, 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 “Duty of Transparency  
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DISCLOSURES RELATED TO PROLONGED ABSENCE**  
7 **FROM THE CONGRESS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—An individual who is a Member  
9 of Congress and who has a reasonable belief that the indi-  
10 vidual will not be physically present to participate in the

1 proceedings of the applicable House of Congress of which  
2 the individual is a Member for a period of not less than  
3 21 consecutive calendar days shall file a disclosure state-  
4 ment under subsection (b) with the designated attending  
5 officer of the House of Congress not later than 5 calendar  
6 days after having the reasonable belief.

7 (b) CONTENTS OF DISCLOSURE.—The disclosure  
8 statement referred to in subsection (a) shall include the  
9 following:

10 (1) The expected dates during which the Mem-  
11 ber of Congress will not be physically present to par-  
12 ticipate.

13 (2) A statement explaining why the Member of  
14 Congress will not be physically present to participate  
15 during the dates described in paragraph (1).

16 (3) Whether the Member of Congress shall be  
17 able to perform official duties or responsibilities not-  
18 withstanding not being physically present, including  
19 through remote work, and, if so, a description of the  
20 duties or responsibilities.

21 (4) Identification and contact information of an  
22 individual employed by the Member under the Mem-  
23 bers' Representational Allowance who shall have ac-  
24 cess to the Member should the need arise with re-  
25 spect to the House of Congress.

1       (c) INCAPACITATION.—A Member of Congress who  
2 does not comply with subsection (a) despite being subject  
3 to such subsection because the Member was incapacitated  
4 or otherwise unable to comply shall file a disclosure state-  
5 ment under subsection (b) with the designated attending  
6 officer of the House of Congress not later than 5 calendar  
7 days after the end of the incapacitation or inability to  
8 comply.

9       (d) PRIVACY.—A Member of Congress required to file  
10 a disclosure statement under this section shall not be re-  
11 quired to disclose any diagnosis, prognosis, course of treat-  
12 ment, medical record, or other protected health informa-  
13 tion concerning the Member or another individual, but the  
14 disclosure statement may contain such additional informa-  
15 tion that the Member may choose to disclose beyond the  
16 information required under subsection (b).

17       (e) UPDATES.—Every 30 days after the start of a  
18 period during which a Member of Congress is not phys-  
19 ically present to participate in the proceedings of the ap-  
20 plicable House of Congress and through the end of such  
21 period, the Member shall file a new disclosure statement  
22 that updates the information provided in the prior disclo-  
23 sure statement.

24       (f) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The designated attend-  
25 ing officer of each House of Congress shall make available

1 to the general public, in a website under the authority of  
2 the officer, each disclosure statement filed with the officer  
3 not later than 2 calendar days after the filing.

4 (g) ENFORCEMENT.—The failure to comply with this  
5 section shall be a matter in the jurisdiction of the applica-  
6 ble ethics committee.

7 (h) RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.—This section is en-  
8 acted as an exercise in the rulemaking power of the House  
9 of Representatives and the Senate, respectively, and as  
10 such shall be considered as part of the rules of each  
11 House, with full recognition of the constitutional right of  
12 either House to change such rules at any time, in the same  
13 manner, and to the same extent, as any other rule of that  
14 House.

15 (i) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with  
16 respect to any period during which a Member of Congress  
17 is not physically present to participate in the proceedings  
18 of the applicable House of Congress that begins after the  
19 date of the enactment of this section.

20 (j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 (1) APPLICABLE ETHICS COMMITTEE.—The  
22 term “applicable ethics committee” means—

23 (A) with respect to the House of Rep-  
24 resentatives, the Committee on Ethics of the  
25 House of Representatives; and

1 (B) with respect to the Senate, the Select  
2 Committee on Ethics of the Senate.

3 (2) AREA OF CONSTITUENCY.—The term “area  
4 of constituency” means—

5 (A) with respect to a Representative in, or  
6 a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the  
7 Congress, the congressional district of the Rep-  
8 resentative, Delegate, or Resident Commis-  
9 sioner; and

10 (B) with respect to a Senator in the Con-  
11 gress, the State of the Senator.

12 (3) DESIGNATED ATTENDING OFFICER.—The  
13 term “designated attending officer” means—

14 (A) with respect to the House of Rep-  
15 resentatives, the Clerk of the House of Rep-  
16 resentatives, or an officer or employee of the  
17 House of Representatives designated by the  
18 Clerk; and

19 (B) with respect to the Senate, the Sec-  
20 retary of the Senate, or an officer or employee  
21 of the Senate designated by the Secretary.

22 (4) MEMBER OF CONGRESS.—The term “Mem-  
23 ber of Congress” means a Senator or Representative  
24 in, or a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the  
25 Congress.

1           (5) PHYSICALLY PRESENT TO PARTICIPATE IN  
2       THE PROCEEDINGS.—The term “physically present  
3       to participate in the proceedings” includes, with re-  
4       spect to a House of Congress, entering the Capitol  
5       Buildings (as such term is defined in section 5101  
6       of title 40, United States Code), entering the office  
7       of a Member of Congress in the Capitol Buildings or  
8       in the area of constituency of the Member which is  
9       accessible to the general public, entering the applica-  
10      ble Hall or Chamber of such House, casting or mak-  
11      ing a vote in such House, making a motion or re-  
12      quest for unanimous consent on the floor of such  
13      House, or engaging in any other activity that re-  
14      quires physical presence in the Capitol Buildings.

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