

H. RES. 245, PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES OF CERTAIN
COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN
THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS; AND COM-
MITTEE RESOLUTION 116-09, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
FRANKED MAIL ALLOWANCES FOR COMMITTEES FOR
THE 116TH CONGRESS

HEARING
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE
ADMINISTRATION
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

MARCH 25, 2019

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**H. RES. 245, PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES
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GRESS**

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to call, at 7:15 p.m., in Room 1310, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Zoe Lofgren [chairperson of the Committee] presiding.

Present: Representatives Lofgren, Raskin, Davis of California, Butterfield, Fudge, Aguilar, Davis of Illinois, and Walker.

Staff Present: Jamie Fleet, Staff Director; Eddie Flaherty, Director of Operations; Sean Jones, Legislative Clerk; David Tucker, Parliamentarian; Khalil Abboud, Deputy Staff Director; Veleter Mazyck, Chief of Staff, Office of Representative Fudge; Peter Whippy, Communications Director; Lisa Sherman, Chief of Staff, Office of Representative Susan Davis; Brandon Mendoza, Legislative Assistant; Evan Dorner, Office of Representative Aguilar; Julie Tegen, Chief of Staff; Laura Doney, Office of Representative Raskin; Jen Daulby, Minority Staff Director; Brittany Randall, Minority Professional Staff; Tim Monahan, Minority Professional Staff; Carson Steelman, Minority Staff Assistant, Office of Representative Walker; Courtney Parella, Minority Communications Director; and Susannah Johnston, Minority Legislative Assistant.

The CHAIRPERSON. A quorum being present, the Committee will come to order, and I would like to thank the Members of the Committee for attending this evening, and we shall work as expeditiously as we can.

Today we will consider H. Res. 245, The Primary Expense Resolution for the 116th Congress, and Committee Resolution 116-09 to approve franked mail allowances for committees. The funding resolution represents a best effort between what is needed and what is available. In determining these authorizations, the Committee consulted with the Appropriations Committee to determine the

most prudent overall amount, understanding that we are working under an appropriation that was enacted last fall.

We have increased the amount available in the reserve fund for the second session to better enable this Committee working together, to meet new responsibilities of the committees', and to give us the ability to move quickly, assuming there is a new appropriation enacted this fall.

It is my intention to work closely with Ranking Member Davis to reach agreement on expenditures from the reserve fund, and if, for some reason, we are not able to reach agreement, then it is my intention that expenditures will be subject to a vote of the Committee.

In addition to considering the primary expense resolution, we will also consider Committee Resolution 116-09 to approve franked mail allowances for committees for the 116th Congress. This resolution enables committees to meet their incidental postal needs. These levels have proved more than sufficient in previous Congresses.

I am now pleased to recognize our Ranking Member, Mr. Davis, for any opening statement he may have before we proceed to the business part of our meeting.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Well, thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would like to start by saying I appreciate the bipartisanship and the sensibility that I saw during this committee funding resolution process. The funding resolution that is being marked up today is a very reasonable one. It balances the reality that many of our committees need more resources to effectively do their work with the fact that we as an institution have to operate within our fiscal reality.

When I first reviewed the budget request from our standing and select committees, it stood out to me that several committees were asking for increases of more than 15 percent, and in some cases, the asks were above 25 percent. As well-intentioned as those requests might be, they are simply not reasonable or sustainable. What the majority is proposing equates to an average increase per committee of about 3.8 percent. The resolution, as drafted, gives the largest percentage increase to the Ethics Committee for the purpose of updating the Ethics Manual, which I believe is a worthwhile endeavor that is long overdue.

Additionally, I am pleased to see the inclusion of language that gives this Committee the authority to have Committee chairs and ranking members come before us to do a mid-Congress check-in on resource usage. This will give us the ability to make informed decisions on any needed adjustments in the second session.

I must note one area of concern, and that is providing \$3.7 million to a committee that has no legislative authority, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. Any time we do not utilize our existing committee structure, we risk wasting valuable resources that could have been used more effectively.

I would also like to call attention to the funding amount proposed in the Committee Reserve Fund for the second session of this Congress. It is \$6.5 million, which is a considerable amount. This reserve will allow us flexibility to make additional resources available to committees, if needed, and I have been assured, as Madam

Chairperson mentioned, that any funds allocated from the reserve will be done transparently by including discussions with the minority in advance.

Finally, I must note that once again, the Appropriations Committee, the committee with the largest budget, is not part of this vital process of checks and balances that every other committee participates in.

I know the appropriators are special, or at least that is what they all tell me, Mr. Aguilar. However, I think their inclusion in the committee funding resolution would make the process more whole. I support this resolution wholeheartedly, and I thank the Chairperson for her bipartisanship and her willingness to work with me and in spite of Mr. Aguilar being here as an appropriator. I, again, yield back.

The CHAIRPERSON. Thank you, Mr. Davis. I will now call up H. Res. 245. And without objection, the first reading of the resolution is dispensed with, and without objection the resolution is considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

[The information follows:]

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 245

Providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 2019

Ms. LOFGREN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

RESOLUTION

Providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. COMMITTEE EXPENSES FOR THE ONE HUN-**
3 **DRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the One Hundred
5 Sixteenth Congress, there shall be paid out of the applica-
6 ble accounts of the House of Representatives, in accord-
7 ance with this primary expense resolution, not more than
8 the amount specified in subsection (b) for the expenses
9 (including the expenses of all staff salaries) of each com-
10 mittee named in such subsection.

1 (b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees
2 and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee
3 on Agriculture, \$11,513,328; Committee on Armed Serv-
4 ices, \$16,350,222; Committee on the Budget,
5 \$10,380,424; Select Committee on the Climate Crisis,
6 \$3,781,500; Committee on Education and Labor,
7 \$14,578,714; Committee on Energy and Commerce,
8 \$21,147,384; Committee on Ethics, \$7,015,392; Com-
9 mittee on Financial Services, \$17,077,862; Committee on
10 Foreign Affairs, \$16,240,724; Committee on Homeland
11 Security, \$15,308,002; Committee on House Administra-
12 tion, \$10,644,422; Permanent Select Committee on Intel-
13 ligence, \$12,463,000; Committee on the Judiciary,
14 \$15,860,594; Select Committee on the Modernization of
15 Congress, \$487,500; Committee on Natural Resources,
16 \$13,895,926; Committee on Oversight and Reform,
17 \$18,990,068; Committee on Rules, \$6,654,378; Com-
18 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$11,079,654;
19 Committee on Small Business, \$6,196,296; Committee on
20 Transportation and Infrastructure, \$17,830,330; Com-
21 mittee on Veterans' Affairs, \$8,276,384; and Committee
22 on Ways and Means, \$18,266,864.

23 **SEC. 2. FIRST SESSION LIMITATIONS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount provided for in
25 section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not

1 more than the amount specified in such subsection shall
2 be available for expenses incurred during the period begin-
3 ning at noon on January 3, 2019, and ending immediately
4 before noon on January 3, 2020.

5 (b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees
6 and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee
7 on Agriculture, \$5,756,664; Committee on Armed Serv-
8 ices, \$8,175,111; Committee on the Budget, \$5,190,212;
9 Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, \$1,890,750; Com-
10 mittee on Education and Labor, \$7,289,357; Committee
11 on Energy and Commerce, \$10,573,692; Committee on
12 Ethics, \$3,507,696; Committee on Financial Services,
13 \$8,538,931; Committee on Foreign Affairs, \$8,120,362;
14 Committee on Homeland Security, \$7,654,001; Committee
15 on House Administration, \$5,172,211; Permanent Select
16 Committee on Intelligence, \$6,231,500; Committee on the
17 Judiciary, \$7,930,297; Select Committee on the Mod-
18 ernization of Congress, \$450,000; Committee on Natural
19 Resources, \$6,947,963; Committee on Oversight and Re-
20 form, \$9,495,034; Committee on Rules, \$3,327,189; Com-
21 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$5,539,827;
22 Committee on Small Business, \$3,098,148; Committee on
23 Transportation and Infrastructure, \$8,915,165; Com-
24 mittee on Veterans' Affairs, \$4,138,192; and Committee
25 on Ways and Means, \$9,133,432.

1 **SEC. 3. SECOND SESSION LIMITATIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount provided for in
3 section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not
4 more than the amount specified in such subsection shall
5 be available for expenses incurred during the period begin-
6 ning at noon on January 3, 2020, and ending immediately
7 before noon on January 3, 2021.

8 (b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees
9 and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee
10 on Agriculture, \$5,756,664; Committee on Armed Serv-
11 ices, \$8,175,111; Committee on the Budget, \$5,190,212;
12 Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, \$1,890,750; Com-
13 mittee on Education and Labor, \$7,289,357; Committee
14 on Energy and Commerce, \$10,573,692; Committee on
15 Ethics, \$3,507,696; Committee on Financial Services,
16 \$8,538,931; Committee on Foreign Affairs, \$8,120,362;
17 Committee on Homeland Security, \$7,654,001; Committee
18 on House Administration, \$5,472,211; Permanent Select
19 Committee on Intelligence, \$6,231,500; Committee on the
20 Judiciary, \$7,930,297; Select Committee on the Mod-
21 ernization of Congress, \$37,500; Committee on Natural
22 Resources, \$6,947,963; Committee on Oversight and Re-
23 form, \$9,495,034; Committee on Rules, \$3,327,189; Com-
24 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$5,539,827;
25 Committee on Small Business, \$3,098,148; Committee on
26 Transportation and Infrastructure, \$8,915,165; Com-

1 mittee on Veterans' Affairs, \$4,138,192; and Committee
2 on Ways and Means, \$9,133,432.

3 (c) REVIEW OF USE OF FUNDS IN FIRST SESSION.—

4 (1) REVIEW.—None of the amounts provided
5 for in section 1 for a committee named in subsection
6 (b) may be available for expenses of the committee
7 after March 15, 2020, unless the chair or ranking
8 minority member of the committee appears and pre-
9 sents testimony at a hearing of the Committee on
10 House Administration held prior to such date to re-
11 view the committee's use of the amounts provided
12 for in section 1 during the first session of the One
13 Hundred Sixteenth Congress and to determine
14 whether the amount specified in subsection (b) with
15 respect to the committee should be updated on the
16 basis of the review.

17 (2) WAIVER.—The Committee on House Ad-
18 ministration may waive the application of paragraph
19 (1) to any or all of the committees named in sub-
20 section (b).

21 **SEC. 4. VOUCHERS.**

22 Payments under this resolution shall be made on
23 vouchers authorized by the committee involved, signed by
24 the chair of such committee, and approved in the manner
25 directed by the Committee on House Administration.

1 **SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.**

2 Amounts made available under this resolution shall
3 be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by
4 the Committee on House Administration.

5 **SEC. 6. RESERVE FUND FOR UNANTICIPATED EXPENSES.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established a
7 reserve fund for unanticipated expenses of committees for
8 the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress.

9 (b) AMOUNT.—The reserve fund under this section
10 shall have a balance of \$8,000,000, of which—

11 (1) \$1,500,000 shall be available for unantici-
12 pated expenses incurred during the period beginning
13 at noon on January 3, 2019, and ending imme-
14 diately before noon on January 3, 2020; and

15 (2) \$6,500,000 shall be available for unantici-
16 pated expenses incurred during the period beginning
17 at noon on January 3, 2020, and ending imme-
18 diately before noon on January 3, 2021.

19 (c) ALLOCATION TO COMMITTEES.—Amounts in the
20 reserve fund under this section shall be paid to a com-
21 mittee pursuant to an allocation approved by the Com-
22 mittee on House Administration.

23 **SEC. 7. ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY.**

24 The Committee on House Administration shall have
25 authority to make adjustments in amounts under section
26 1, if necessary to comply with an order of the President

1 issued under section 251A or 254 of the Balanced Budget
2 and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or to conform
3 to any change in appropriations for the purposes of such
4 section 1.

○

The CHAIRPERSON. Does any Member wish to be recognized regarding H. Res. 245? If not, then I move that H. Res. 245 be reported favorably to the House. All those in favor reporting H. Res. 245 favorably to the House will say aye. Opposed will say no. In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it. The ayes have it, and the motion will favorably report H. Res. 245 to the House is agreed to and the motion to reconsider is laid upon the table.

I now call up Committee Resolution 116-09. Does any member wish to be recognized regarding Committee Resolution 116-09?
[The information follows:]

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
116th CONGRESS

A RESOLUTION

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 116-09

**Resolution to Approve Franked Mail Allowances for Committees for the
116th Congress**

Be it resolved, that pursuant to Public Law 101-520 § 311 (e) (codified at 2 U.S.C. § 503), that effective January 3, 2019, and during the first session of the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, the allocation of the Official Mail Allowance for the following committees of the House of Representatives is:

Committee on Agriculture	\$5000
Committee on Armed Services	\$5000
Committee on the Budget	\$5000
Select Committee on the Climate Crisis	\$5000
Committee on Education and the Workforce	\$5000
Committee on Energy and Commerce	\$5000
Committee on Ethics	\$5000
Committee on Financial Services	\$5000
Committee on Foreign Affairs	\$5000
Committee on Homeland Security	\$5000
Committee on House Administration	\$5000
Committee on the Judiciary	\$5000
Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress	\$5000
Committee on Natural Resources	\$5000
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform	\$5000
Committee on Rules	\$5000
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology	\$5000
Committee on Small Business	\$5000
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure	\$5000
Committee on Veterans' Affairs	\$5000
Committee on Ways and Means	\$5000

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence	\$5000
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Resolved further, pursuant to Public Law 101-520 § 311 (e) (codified at 2 U.S.C. § 503), that effective January 3, 2020, and during the second session of the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, the allocation of the Official Mail Allowance for the following committees of the House of Representatives is:

Committee on Agriculture	\$5000
Committee on Armed Services	\$5000
Committee on the Budget	\$5000
Select Committee on the Climate Crisis	\$5000
Committee on Education and the Workforce	\$5000
Committee on Energy and Commerce	\$5000
Committee on Ethics	\$5000
Committee on Financial Services	\$5000
Committee on Foreign Affairs	\$5000
Committee on Homeland Security	\$5000
Committee on House Administration	\$5000
Committee on the Judiciary	\$5000
Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress	\$750
Committee on Natural Resources	\$5000
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform	\$5000
Committee on Rules	\$5000
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology	\$5000
Committee on Small Business	\$5000
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure	\$5000
Committee on Veterans' Affairs	\$5000
Committee on Ways and Means	\$5000
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence	\$5000

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Chairperson.

The CHAIRPERSON. Mr. Davis.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you. I support this routine bipartisan resolution. This Committee has passed this resolution every Congress since the 109th Congress, and as the former chair of the Franking Commission, thank you to my co-chair, Mrs. Davis. I am happy to support it again this year. It gives committees an appropriate amount to cover their franked mail costs, while establishing a reasonable limit to prevent any abuse. I look forward to continuing this bipartisan work on franking issues in the 116th Congress, and I yield back.

The CHAIRPERSON. Thank you, Mr. Davis. Any other Member wish to be heard on this resolution? Seeing none, the question is on approving Committee Resolution 116-09. All in favor will say aye. Opposed will say no. In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it. The resolution is agreed to, and the motion to reconsider is laid upon the table. Without objection, the staff is authorized to make technical and conforming changes. There being no further business, the Committee business meeting stands adjourned without objection. Thank you very much.

[Whereupon, at 7:25 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

