

**MARKUP OF H. RES. 316, PROVIDING FOR THE
EXPENSES OF CERTAIN COMMITTEES OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE 117TH
CONGRESS, AND COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
117-13, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FRANKED
MAIL ALLOWANCES FOR COMMITTEES FOR
THE 117TH CONGRESS**

MARKUP
BEFORE THE
**COMMITTEE ON HOUSE
ADMINISTRATION**
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

APRIL 15, 2021

Printed for the use of the Committee on House Administration



Available on the Internet:
<http://www.gpoinfo.gov/committee/house-administration>

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

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RESOLUTION 117-13, A RESOLUTION TO AP-
PROVE FRANKED MAIL ALLOWANCES FOR
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THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021

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

The Committee met, pursuant to call, at 12:34 p.m., via Webex, Hon. Zoe Lofgren [chairperson of the Committee] presiding.

Present: Representatives Lofgren, Butterfield, Aguilar, Scanlon, Leger Fernandez, Davis, Loudermilk, and Steil.

Staff Present: Jamie Fleet, Democratic Staff Director; Khalil Abboud, Deputy Staff Director; Dan Taylor, General Counsel; David Tucker, Parliamentarian; Brandon Jacobs, Legislative Clerk; Peter Whippy, Communications Director; Natalie Young, Press Secretary; Tim Monahan, Minority Deputy Staff Director; Caleb Hays, Minority General Counsel; Jen Daulby, Minority Republican Staff Director; and Janet Schwalb, Minority Professional Staff.

The CHAIRPERSON. The Committee on House Administration will come to order.

Good afternoon, everyone. I would like to thank the members of the Committee for joining us today. As we begin, I want to note that we are holding this hearing in compliance with regulations for remote committee proceedings pursuant to House Resolution 8.

Generally, we ask Committee members to keep their microphones muted when not speaking so that we can limit background noise. Members will need to unmute themselves when seeking recognition or when recognized for their five minutes of questions if there are questions.

I want to remind my colleagues to please keep your cameras on at all times, even if you need to step away for a moment. Please do not leave the meeting or turn your camera off. And I would like also to remind you that the regulations governing remote proceedings prohibit us from participating in more than one committee proceeding at the same time.

At this time, I ask unanimous consent that all members have five legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and have any written statements be made part of the record.

Hearing no objections, so ordered.

For this part of the Committee proceedings, this business meeting, we will consider House Resolution 316, the primary committee expense resolution for the 117th Congress, and Committee on House Administration Resolution 117–13, to approve franked mail allowances for committees.

Since the 104th Congress when the House adopted a biennial committee funding process, the House is required to adopt a committee expense resolution to provide funding for House committees. Today we will consider the resolution for the 117th Congress.

The interim funding authority we are currently operating under expires on April 22, 2021. In general, we provided committees with a 5-percent increase over amounts provided in the last Congress. A few committees requested less than a 5-percent increase, and we have accommodated those requests. We have provided increases above 5-percent to certain committees to provide the specific resources they require.

Throughout this process, we have endeavored to work with the minority and with all of our committees, being mindful of the very real restraints we face due to amounts previously appropriated to provide for committee funding. I am glad that the Ranking Member and I were able to reach agreement on the resources provided to this Committee, as reflected in H. Res. 308.

As I have stated during our committee funding hearings, I believe that an area of vital concern to the House as an institution is having a strong oversight capability. It is imperative that our committees rebuild the institutional capability to conduct robust and comprehensive oversight. I will note that, even with the increases contained in this resolution, many committees have not returned to funding levels which were provided in the 111th Congress, over one decade ago. I will remind my colleagues that the Committee reserves the right at any time in the future to ask chairs and ranking members of any committee to come back to us and discuss how committee funds are being used or to resolve any disagreements between the majority and the minority. In addition, we have included language in the resolution consistent with previous committee funding resolutions to provide the Committee with the authority, unless waived, to review the use of funds made by committees during the first session of this Congress.

We are also considering today Committee on House Administration Resolution 117–13, which provides nominal amounts for the incidental franking requirements of committees. The amounts provided in the resolution are the same amounts provided over the last several years.

I wish to thank everyone for all their work to ensure that the Committee accomplishes one of its most important responsibilities that we face: ensuring our committees have the resources to accomplish the necessary work of the House of Representatives on behalf of the American people.

I would now recognize our Ranking Member for any opening remarks that he may wish to make.

Mr. Davis.

Mr. DAVIS. Thank you, Madam Chair.

And as I have noted before, I wish we could have had this mark-up a little earlier. I really do appreciate the majority for working with us on the committee funding issues. I believe the underlying committee funding resolution is a step in the right direction and will allow the House to increase its oversight capacity. I would like to get assurance from the chairperson that any allocation from the reserve fund must be done in concurrence with the ranking member or be considered in a Committee meeting, as we agreed to in the last Congress.

The CHAIRPERSON. That has been our policy in the past and will continue to be in the future.

Mr. DAVIS. Much appreciated, Madam Chair. I appreciate the working relationship we developed on this, and I look forward to working with you and the committees in the future if more funds are needed out of that reserve fund.

As I noted in our hearing on this, it is about so much more than how much money each House committee should receive. It is a reflection on our priorities and our responsibilities as a legislative branch of the greatest and most powerful country in the world.

Committees are one of the major pillars of this institution. It is where so much of our critical work gets done, which is why I believe taxpayers deserve a thorough review of the budget request committees are submitting. My hope was that the funding process would have been done in a more transparent and thoughtful way. Oversight of committee budgets is a responsibility given to this Committee that I take very seriously, as do our Members. And I am hopeful next year we can spend a little more time reviewing these budgets and also ensure committee budgets are approved in a timely manner.

But as I said, I am glad we can come together on this. I appreciate the Chairperson's willingness to incorporate some of our feedback. Madam Chair, I support this resolution. With the understanding that we will continue to work together to make necessary adjustments through the reserve fund on an as-needed basis just, again, as we did last Congress.

Again, I thank you for your cooperation and the cooperation of the majority and their staff.

And I yield back.

The CHAIRPERSON. Very good. I now call up House Resolution 316.

Without objection, the first reading of the resolution is dispensed with.

Without objection, the resolution is considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

[The resolution follows:]

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 316

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 14, 2021

Ms. LOFGREN (for herself and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois) 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 Seventeenth Congress.

1 *Resolved,*

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

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the One Hundred
5 Seventeenth Congress, there shall be paid out of the appli-
6 cable 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

1 (including the expenses of all staff salaries) of each com-
2 mittee named in such subsection.

3 (b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees
4 and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee
5 on Agriculture, \$12,288,994; Committee on Armed Serv-
6 ices, \$18,155,984; Committee on the Budget,
7 \$10,899,446; Select Committee on the Climate Crisis,
8 \$3,865,000; Committee on Education and Labor,
9 \$15,727,650; Committee on Energy and Commerce,
10 \$22,834,754; Committee on Ethics, \$7,015,392; Com-
11 mittee on Financial Services, \$17,931,756; Committee on
12 Foreign Affairs, \$17,306,860; Committee on Homeland
13 Security, \$16,073,402; Committee on House Administra-
14 tion, \$11,482,401; Permanent Select Committee on Intel-
15 ligence, \$13,086,150; Committee on the Judiciary,
16 \$16,812,230; Select Committee on the Modernization of
17 Congress, \$1,942,500; Committee on Natural Resources,
18 \$14,590,722; Committee on Oversight and Reform,
19 \$27,793,928; Committee on Rules, \$6,854,838; Com-
20 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$11,633,636;
21 Committee on Small Business, \$6,506,110; Committee on
22 Transportation and Infrastructure, \$19,194,346; Com-
23 mittee on Veterans' Affairs, \$9,583,954; and Committee
24 on Ways and Means, \$19,600,208.

1 **SEC. 2. FIRST 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, 2021, and ending immediately
7 before noon on January 3, 2022.

8 (b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees
9 and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee
10 on Agriculture, \$6,144,497; Committee on Armed Serv-
11 ices, \$8,917,992; Committee on the Budget, \$5,449,723;
12 Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, \$1,915,000; Com-
13 mittee on Education and Labor, \$7,863,825; Committee
14 on Energy and Commerce, \$11,417,377; Committee on
15 Ethics, \$3,507,696; Committee on Financial Services,
16 \$8,965,878; Committee on Foreign Affairs, \$8,653,430;
17 Committee on Homeland Security, \$8,036,701; Committee
18 on House Administration, \$5,590,190; Permanent Select
19 Committee on Intelligence, \$6,543,075; Committee on the
20 Judiciary, \$8,406,115; Select Committee on the Mod-
21 ernization of Congress, \$971,250; Committee on Natural
22 Resources, \$7,295,361; Committee on Oversight and Re-
23 form, \$13,896,964; Committee on Rules, \$3,410,369;
24 Committee on Science, Space, and Technology,
25 \$5,816,818; Committee on Small Business, \$3,253,055;
26 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure,

1 Committee on Science, Space, and Technology,
2 \$5,816,818; Committee on Small Business, \$3,253,055;
3 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure,
4 \$9,597,173; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$4,791,977;
5 and Committee on Ways and Means, \$9,800,104.

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

7 (1) REVIEW.—None of the amounts provided
8 for in section 1 for a committee named in subsection
9 (b) may be available for expenses of the committee
10 after March 15, 2022, unless the chair or ranking
11 minority member of the committee appears and pre-
12 sents testimony at a hearing of the Committee on
13 House Administration held prior to such date to re-
14 view the committee's use of the amounts provided
15 for in section 1 during the first session of the One
16 Hundred Seventeenth Congress and to determine
17 whether the amount specified in subsection (b) with
18 respect to the committee should be updated on the
19 basis of the review.

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

1 **SEC. 4. VOUCHERS.**

2 Payments under this resolution shall be made on
3 vouchers authorized by the committee involved, signed by
4 the chair of such committee, and approved in the manner
5 directed by the Committee on House Administration.

6 **SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.**

7 Amounts made available under this resolution shall
8 be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by
9 the Committee on House Administration.

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

11 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is hereby established a
12 reserve fund for unanticipated expenses of committees for
13 the One Hundred Seventeenth Congress.

14 (b) **AMOUNT.**—The reserve fund under this section
15 shall have a balance of \$4,000,000, of which—

16 (1) \$1,500,000 shall be available for unantici-
17 pated expenses incurred during the period beginning
18 at noon on January 3, 2021, and ending imme-
19 diately before noon on January 3, 2022; and

20 (2) \$2,500,000 shall be available for unantici-
21 pated expenses incurred during the period beginning
22 at noon on January 3, 2022, and ending imme-
23 diately before noon on January 3, 2023.

24 (c) **ALLOCATION TO COMMITTEES.**—Amounts in the
25 reserve fund under this section shall be paid to a com-

1 mittee pursuant to an allocation approved by the Com-
2 mittee on House Administration.

3 **SEC. 7. ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY.**

4 The Committee on House Administration shall have
5 authority to make adjustments in amounts under section
6 1, if necessary to comply with an order of the President
7 issued under section 251A or 254 of the Balanced Budget
8 and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or to conform
9 to any change in appropriations for the purposes of such
10 section 1.

The CHAIRPERSON. Does any member wish to be recognized regarding House Resolution 316?

Seeing none, it is now in order to consider the resolution. I move that House Resolution 316 be reported favorably to the House.

All those in favor will please indicate by saying aye.

Are there any opposed? If so, say no.

And in the opinion of the chair, the motion is agreed to unanimously, and House Resolution 316 is ordered reported favorably to the House, and, without objection, the motion to reconsider is laid on the table.

I now call-up Committee on House Administration Resolution 117-13.

[The resolution follows:]

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
117th CONGRESS

A RESOLUTION

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 117-13

**Resolution to Approve Franked Mail Allowances for Committees for the
117th Congress**

Be it resolved, that pursuant to Public Law 101-520 § 311(e) (codified at 2 U.S.C. § 503), that effective January 3, 2021, and during the first session of the One Hundred Seventeenth 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 Labor	\$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
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence	\$5000
Committee on the Judiciary	\$5000
Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress	\$5000
Committee on Natural Resources	\$5000
Committee on Oversight and 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

Resolved further, pursuant to Public Law 101-520 § 311 (e) (codified at 2 U.S.C. § 503), that effective January 3, 2022, and during the second session of the One Hundred Seventeenth 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 Labor	\$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
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence	\$5000
Committee on the Judiciary	\$5000
Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress	\$5000
Committee on Natural Resources	\$5000
Committee on Oversight 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

The CHAIRPERSON. Does any member wish to be recognized regarding this resolution?

Seeing none, the question is on approving Committee on House Administration Resolution 117-13.

All in favor, please say aye.

Are there any opposed? If so, say no.

In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it and the resolution is agreed to, and, without objection, the motion to reconsider is laid upon the table.

Without objection, the staff is authorized to make any technical and conforming changes.

And, without objection, this Committee meeting will stand adjourned. I remind our Members that we have a separate check-in for our very important hearing at one o'clock with the Inspector General for the United States Capitol Police that I am sure everyone will want to participate in.

So we need to leave this markup, and I will see everyone at one o'clock for our hearing.

We are adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 12:43 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

