

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5151

To limit the amount which may be made available for the Members' Representational Allowance for fiscal year 2011, to prohibit the use of such Allowance for expenses of official mail of any material other than a document transmitted under the official letterhead of the Member involved, and to require the quarterly statement of costs incurred for official mail by offices of the House of Representatives to provide a separate breakdown of the costs incurred for each method of mass communication covered by the statement.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 27, 2010

Mr. FLAKE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To limit the amount which may be made available for the Members' Representational Allowance for fiscal year 2011, to prohibit the use of such Allowance for expenses of official mail of any material other than a document transmitted under the official letterhead of the Member involved, and to require the quarterly statement of costs incurred for official mail by offices of the House of Representatives to provide a separate breakdown of the costs incurred for each method of mass communication covered by the statement.

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 “Congressional Over-
5 sight and Spending Transparency (COST) Act of 2010”.

6 **SEC. 2. LIMIT ON AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS’ REP-**
7 **RESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCE.**

8 The amount authorized to be appropriated for the
9 Members’ Representational Allowance under section 101
10 of the House of Representatives Administrative Reform
11 Technical Corrections Act (2 U.S.C. 57b) for fiscal year
12 2011 may not exceed the amount appropriated for such
13 Allowance for fiscal year 2009.

14 **SEC. 3. RESTRICTING USE OF FRANK BY MEMBERS OF THE**
15 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

16 (a) RESTRICTING USE OF FRANK TO MATERIALS
17 TRANSMITTED UNDER LETTERHEAD.—Section 311(e) of
18 the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1991 (2
19 U.S.C. 59e(e)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing new paragraph:

21 “(3) Funds of the House of Representatives may not
22 be used for official mail of a Member of the House of Rep-
23 resentatives for any material other than a document trans-
24 mitted under the official letterhead used for the Member’s
25 stationery.”.

1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 2 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to official mail dis-
 3 seminated on or after the date of the enactment of this
 4 Act.

5 **SEC. 4. CLARIFICATION OF INFORMATION INCLUDED IN**
 6 **QUARTERLY REPORTS OF EXPENDITURES**
 7 **FOR OFFICIAL MAIL OF HOUSE OF REP-**
 8 **RESENTATIVES.**

9 (a) SEPARATION OF INFORMATION AMONG TYPES OF
 10 COMMUNICATIONS.—Section 311(a)(3) of the Legislative
 11 Branch Appropriations Act, 1991 (2 U.S.C. 59e(a)(3)) is
 12 amended by striking the period at the end and inserting
 13 the following: “, and shall include in the statement a
 14 breakdown of the costs incurred for each category of mass
 15 mailings and communications covered by the statement.”.

16 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 17 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to reports filed by
 18 the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Rep-
 19 resentatives under section 311(a)(3) of the Legislative
 20 Branch Appropriations Act, 1991 (2 U.S.C. 59e(a)(3)) on
 21 or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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