

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3774

To reduce the salaries of Members of Congress and the amounts available for the salaries and expenses of offices of Members, committees, and the leadership of Congress by 50 percent, to provide for further reductions in the salaries of Members of Congress to the extent that Congress is in session for more than 60 days during any session of a Congress, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 17, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, Rules, and Ethics, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To reduce the salaries of Members of Congress and the amounts available for the salaries and expenses of offices of Members, committees, and the leadership of Congress by 50 percent, to provide for further reductions in the salaries of Members of Congress to the extent that Congress is in session for more than 60 days during any session of a Congress, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Citizen Legislator Act
3 of 2012”.

4 **SEC. 2. 50 PERCENT REDUCTION IN MEMBER SALARIES**
5 **AND IN EXPENSES FOR MEMBER OFFICES,**
6 **LEADERSHIP OFFICES, AND COMMITTEES.**

7 (a) MEMBER SALARIES.—Section 601(a)(1) of the
8 Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 31(1))
9 by striking the matter following subparagraph (C) and in-
10 serting the following: “shall be 50 percent of the rate de-
11 termined for such positions for pay periods occurring dur-
12 ing fiscal year 2012, as adjusted by paragraph (2).”

13 (b) SALARIES AND EXPENSES OF HOUSE OFFICES.—
14 (1) MEMBERS REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOW-
15 ANCE.—Section 101 of the House of Representatives
16 Administrative Reform Technical Corrections Act (2
17 U.S.C. 57b) is amended—

18 (A) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
19 section (f); and

20 (B) by inserting after subsection (d) the
21 following new subsection:

22 “(e) LIMITATION ON AGGREGATE AMOUNT.—During
23 fiscal year 2012 and each succeeding fiscal year, the ag-
24 gregate amount appropriated or otherwise made available
25 for all Members’ Representational Allowances may not ex-
26 ceed 50 percent of the aggregate amount appropriated or

1 otherwise made available for such Allowances for fiscal
2 year 2012.”.

3 (2) HOUSE LEADERSHIP OFFICES.—During fis-
4 cal year 2013 and each succeeding fiscal year, the
5 aggregate amount appropriated or otherwise made
6 available for the salaries and expenses of House
7 leadership offices may not exceed 50 percent of the
8 aggregate amount appropriated or otherwise made
9 available for the salaries and expenses of such offices
10 for fiscal year 2012. For purposes of this paragraph,
11 the term “House leadership office” means, with re-
12 spect to any fiscal year, an office of the House of
13 Representatives for which the appropriation for sala-
14 ries and expenses of the office for the year involved
15 is provided under the heading “House Leadership
16 Offices” in the act making appropriations for the
17 Legislative Branch for the fiscal year involved.

18 (3) HOUSE COMMITTEES.—During fiscal year
19 2013 and each succeeding fiscal year, the aggregate
20 amount appropriated or otherwise made available for
21 the salaries and expenses of committees of the
22 House of Representatives, including joint committees
23 for which the amounts disbursed for salaries and ex-
24 penses are disbursed by the Chief Administrative Of-
25 ficer of the House of Representatives, may not ex-

1 ceed 50 percent of the aggregate amount appro-
2 priated or otherwise made available for the salaries
3 and expenses of such committees for fiscal year
4 2012.

5 (c) SALARIES AND EXPENSES OF SENATE OF-
6 FICES.—

7 (1) PERSONAL OFFICES.—During fiscal year
8 2013 and each succeeding fiscal year, the aggregate
9 amount appropriated or otherwise made available for
10 the salaries and expenses of offices of Senators may
11 not exceed 50 percent of the aggregate amount ap-
12 propriated or otherwise made available for the sala-
13 ries and expenses of such offices for fiscal year
14 2012.

15 (2) SENATE LEADERSHIP OFFICES.—During
16 fiscal year 2013 and each succeeding fiscal year, the
17 aggregate amount appropriated or otherwise made
18 available for the salaries and expenses of Senate
19 leadership offices may not exceed 50 percent of the
20 aggregate amount appropriated or otherwise made
21 available for the salaries and expenses of such offices
22 for fiscal year 2012. For purposes of this paragraph,
23 the term “Senate leadership offices” means the of-
24 fices of the President pro Tempore, Majority and
25 Minority Leaders, Majority and Minority Whips,

1 Conferences of the Majority and of the Minority,
2 and Majority and Minority Policy Committees of the
3 Senate.

4 (3) SENATE COMMITTEES.—During fiscal year
5 2013 and each succeeding fiscal year, the aggregate
6 amount appropriated or otherwise made available for
7 the salaries and expenses of committees of the Sen-
8 ate, including joint committees for which the
9 amounts disbursed for salaries and expenses are dis-
10 bursed by the Secretary of the Senate, may not ex-
11 ceed 50 percent of the aggregate amount appro-
12 priated or otherwise made available for the salaries
13 and expenses of such committees for fiscal year
14 2012.

15 **SEC. 3. REDUCTION IN MEMBER SALARIES FOR YEARS**
16 **DURING WHICH CONGRESS EXCEEDS 60 DAYS**
17 **IN SESSION.**

18 Section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act
19 of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 31) is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (1), in the matter following
21 subparagraph (C), by striking “paragraph (2)” and
22 inserting “paragraphs (2) and (3)”; and

23 (2) by adding at the end the following new
24 paragraph:

1 “(3) REDUCTION FOR EXCEEDING 60 DAYS IN
2 SESSION.—

3 “(A) REDUCTION.—For every 5 days on
4 which a House of Congress is in session during
5 a session of a Congress, each annual rate re-
6 ferred to in paragraph (1) which applies to
7 members of that House shall be reduced by 10
8 percent.

9 “(B) EXEMPTION FOR FIRST 60 DAYS AND
10 PRO FORMA SESSIONS.—In determining the
11 number of days on which a House of Congress
12 is in session during a session of a Congress for
13 purposes of subparagraph (A), there shall be
14 excluded—

15 “(i) the first 60 days on which that
16 House is in session; and

17 “(ii) any day on which that House is
18 in session solely on a pro forma basis.”.

19 **SEC. 4. REMOVAL OF LIMITATION ON OUTSIDE EARNED IN-**
20 **COME FOR MEMBERS, DELEGATES, AND THE**
21 **RESIDENT COMMISSIONER.**

22 (a) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—(1) Clause 1(a)
23 of rule XXV of the Rules of the House of Representatives
24 is amended to read as follows:

1 “1.(a)(1) Except as provided by paragraph (b), an
2 officer or employee of the House may not have outside
3 earned income attributable to a calendar year that exceeds
4 15 percent of the annual rate of basic pay for level II of
5 the Executive Schedule under section 5313 of title 5,
6 United States Code, as of January 1 of that calendar year.

7 “(2) A Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner,
8 officer, or employee of the House may not receive any hon-
9 orarium, except that an officer or employee of the House
10 who is paid at a rate less than 120 percent of the min-
11 imum rate of basic pay for GS-15 of the General Schedule
12 may receive an honorarium unless the subject matter is
13 directly related to the official duties of the individual, the
14 payment is made because of the status of the individual
15 with the House, or the person offering the honorarium has
16 interests that may be substantially affected by the per-
17 formance or nonperformance of the official duties of the
18 individual.”.

19 (2) Clause 1(b) of rule XXV of the Rules of the
20 House of Representatives is amended by striking “a Mem-
21 ber, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or em-
22 ployee” each place it appears and inserting “an officer or
23 employee”.

24 (3) Rule XXIII of the Rules of the House of Rep-
25 resentatives is amended by redesignating clause 18 as

1 clause 19 and by inserting after clause 17 the following
 2 new clause:

3 “17. A Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner,
 4 officer, or employee of the House may not derive any out-
 5 side income as a result of the privilege of their office.”.

6 (b) SENATE.—(1) Paragraph 5 of rule XXXVII of
 7 the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended—

8 (A) in subparagraph (a), by striking “Member,
 9 officer, or employee” and inserting “officer or em-
 10 ployee”; and

11 (B) in subparagraph (b), by striking “Member
 12 or”.

13 (2) Paragraph 6 of rule XXXVII of the Standing
 14 Rules of the Senate is amended—

15 (A) in subparagraph (a), by striking “Member,
 16 officer, or employee” each place it appears and in-
 17 serting “officer or employee”; and

18 (B) in subparagraph (b), by striking “A Mem-
 19 ber or an” and inserting “An”.

20 **SEC. 5. RESTORATION OF ELECTION OF MEMBERS NOT TO**
 21 **PARTICIPATE IN FEDERAL EMPLOYEES’ RE-**
 22 **TIREMENT SYSTEM.**

23 Section 8401(20) of title 5, United States Code, is
 24 amended by striking all that follows “System” and insert-
 25 ing a semicolon.

1 **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall
3 take effect January 1, 2013.

○