

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5993

To prohibit the use of funds provided for the official travel expenses of Members of Congress and other officers and employees of the legislative branch for airline accommodations which are not coach-class accommodations, to prohibit the use of official funds for long-term vehicle leases for Members of Congress, to prohibit the use of the Members' Representational Allowance for expenses of official mail of any material other than a document transmitted under the official letterhead of the Member involved, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

Mr. ASHFORD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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 prohibit the use of funds provided for the official travel expenses of Members of Congress and other officers and employees of the legislative branch for airline accommodations which are not coach-class accommodations, to prohibit the use of official funds for long-term vehicle leases for Members of Congress, to prohibit the use of the Members' Representational Allowance for expenses of official mail of any material other than a document transmitted under the official letterhead of the Member involved, 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 “Congressional Ac-
5 countability Now Act” or the “CAN Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITING USE OF FUNDS FOR OFFICIAL TRAV-**
7 **EL EXPENSES OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS**
8 **AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCH EMPLOYEES FOR**
9 **AIRLINE ACCOMMODATIONS OTHER THAN**
10 **COACH-CLASS.**

11 (a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in subsection
12 (b), no funds appropriated or otherwise made available for
13 the official travel expenses of a Member of Congress or
14 other officer or employee of any office in the legislative
15 branch may be used for airline accommodations which are
16 not coach-class accommodations.

17 (b) EXCEPTIONS.—Funds described in subsection (a)
18 may be used for airline accommodations which are not
19 coach-class accommodations for an individual described in
20 subsection (a) if the use of the funds for such accommoda-
21 tions would be permitted under sections 301–10.121
22 through 301–10.125 of title 41 of the Code of Federal
23 Regulations if the individual were an employee of an agen-
24 cy which is subject to chapter 301 of such title.

1 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
 2 tion may be construed to affect any officer or employee
 3 of an office of the legislative branch which, as of the date
 4 of the enactment of this Act, is subject to chapter 301
 5 of title 41 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

6 (d) DEFINITIONS.—

7 (1) COACH-CLASS ACCOMMODATIONS.—In this
 8 section, the term “coach-class accommodations”
 9 means the basic class of accommodation by airlines
 10 that is normally the lowest fare offered regardless of
 11 airline terminology used, and (as referred to by air-
 12 lines) may include tourist class or economy class, as
 13 well as single class when the airline offers only one
 14 class of accommodations to all travelers.

15 (2) MEMBER OF CONGRESS.—In this section,
 16 the term “Member of Congress” means a Senator or
 17 a Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Com-
 18 missioner to, the Congress.

19 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITING USE OF FUNDS FOR LONG-TERM VE-**
 20 **HICLE LEASES BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.**

21 (a) PROHIBITION.—No funds appropriated or other-
 22 wise made available during a fiscal year for the operations
 23 of a House of Congress, including the official and rep-
 24 resentational expenses of a Member of Congress or the
 25 expenses of a committee or leadership office of a House

1 of Congress, may be used for the long-term leasing of a
2 vehicle.

3 (b) MEMBER OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this sec-
4 tion, the term “Member of Congress” means a Senator
5 or a Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commis-
6 sioner to, the Congress.

7 **SEC. 4. RESTRICTING USE OF FRANK BY MEMBERS OF THE**
8 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

9 Section 311(e) of the Legislative Branch Appropria-
10 tions Act, 1991 (2 U.S.C. 503(e)) is amended by adding
11 at the end the following new paragraph:

12 “(3) Funds of the House of Representatives may not
13 be used for official mail of a Member of the House of Rep-
14 resentatives for any material other than a document trans-
15 mitted under the official letterhead used for the Member’s
16 stationery.”.

17 **SEC. 5. REDUCTION IN PAY AND ELIMINATION OF AUTO-**
18 **MATIC PAY INCREASES FOR MEMBERS OF**
19 **CONGRESS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 601(a) of the Legislative
21 Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501) is amended
22 to read as follows:

23 “SEC. 601. (a) Effective as of the beginning of the
24 first applicable pay period commencing after the date of
25 the first regularly scheduled general election for Federal

1 office which is held after the date of the enactment of the
2 Congressional Accountability Now Act, the annual rate of
3 pay for—

4 “(1) each Senator, Member of the House of
5 Representatives, and Delegate to the House of Rep-
6 resentatives, and the Resident Commissioner from
7 Puerto Rico,

8 “(2) the President pro tempore of the Senate,
9 the majority leader and the minority leader of the
10 Senate, and the majority leader and the minority
11 leader of the House of Representatives, and

12 “(3) the Speaker of the House of Representa-
13 tives,

14 shall be equal to the annual rate of pay for that position
15 as of the date on which such general election is held, re-
16 duced by 10 percent.”.

17 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall take ef-
18 fect on the date of the first regularly scheduled general
19 election for Federal office which is held after the date of
20 the enactment of this Act.

21 **SEC. 6. TERMINATION OF CERTAIN RETIREMENT BENEFITS**
22 **FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.**

23 (a) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO THE CIVIL SERVICE
24 RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter
2 83 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by in-
3 serting after section 8335 the following:

4 **“§ 8335a. Termination of further retirement coverage**
5 **of Members of Congress**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
7 vision of this subchapter and subject to subsection (f), ef-
8 fective as of the date of enactment of this section—

9 “(1) a Member shall not be subject to this sub-
10 chapter for any further period of time; and

11 “(2) no further Government contributions or
12 deductions from basic pay may be made with respect
13 to such Member for deposit in the Treasury of the
14 United States to the credit of the Fund.

15 “(b) PRIOR RIGHTS NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in
16 subsection (a) shall be considered to nullify, modify, or
17 otherwise affect any right, entitlement, or benefit under
18 this subchapter with respect to any Member covering any
19 period prior to the date of enactment of this section.

20 “(c) RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THRIFT SAVINGS
21 PLAN NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in subsection (a) shall
22 affect the eligibility of a Member to participate in the
23 Thrift Savings Plan in accordance with otherwise applica-
24 ble provisions of law.

1 “(d) REGULATIONS.—Any regulations necessary to
2 carry out this section may—

3 “(1) except with respect to matters under para-
4 graph (2), be prescribed by the Director of the Of-
5 fice of Personnel Management; and

6 “(2) with respect to matters relating to the
7 Thrift Savings Plan, be prescribed by the Executive
8 Director (as defined by section 8401(13)).

9 “(e) EXCLUSION.—For purposes of this section, the
10 term ‘Member’ does not include the Vice President.

11 “(f) OPT-IN.—Not later than 90 days after the date
12 of enactment of this section, a Member covered by this
13 subchapter as of such date of enactment may elect, by giv-
14 ing notice in writing to the official by whom such Member
15 is paid, to remain subject to this subchapter.”.

16 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
17 tions at the beginning of chapter 83 of title 5,
18 United States Code, is amended by inserting after
19 the item relating to section 8335 the following:

“8335a. Termination of further retirement coverage of Members of Congress.”.

20 (b) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO THE FEDERAL EM-
21 PLOYEES’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 84
23 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by insert-
24 ing after section 8425 the following:

1 **“§ 8425a. Termination of further retirement coverage**
2 **of Members of Congress**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
4 vision of this chapter, effective as of the date of enactment
5 of this section—

6 “(1) subject to subsection (f), in the case of an
7 individual who first becomes a Member before such
8 date of enactment—

9 “(A) such Member shall not be subject to
10 this chapter for any further period of time after
11 such date of enactment; and

12 “(B) no further Government contributions
13 or deductions from basic pay may be made with
14 respect to such Member for deposit in the
15 Treasury of the United States to the credit of
16 the Fund; and

17 “(2) in the case of an individual who first be-
18 comes a Member on or after such date of enact-
19 ment—

20 “(A) such Member shall not be subject to
21 this chapter; and

22 “(B) no Government contributions or de-
23 ductions from basic pay may be made with re-
24 spect to such Member for deposit in the Treas-
25 ury of the United States to the credit of the
26 Fund.

1 “(b) PRIOR RIGHTS NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in
2 subsection (a) shall be considered to nullify, modify, or
3 otherwise affect any right, entitlement, or benefit under
4 this chapter with respect to any Member covering any pe-
5 riod prior to the date of enactment of this section.

6 “(c) RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THRIFT SAVINGS
7 PLAN NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in subsection (a) or (b)
8 shall affect the eligibility of a Member to participate in
9 the Thrift Savings Plan in accordance with otherwise ap-
10 plicable provisions of law.

11 “(d) REGULATIONS.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any regulations necessary
13 to carry out this section may—

14 “(A) except with respect to matters under
15 subparagraph (B), be prescribed by the Direc-
16 tor of the Office of Personnel Management; and

17 “(B) with respect to matters relating to
18 the Thrift Savings Plan, be prescribed by the
19 Executive Director (as defined by section
20 8401(13)).

21 “(2) REFUNDS.—Notwithstanding subsection
22 (b), the regulations under paragraph (1)(A) shall, in
23 the case of a Member who has not completed at
24 least 5 years of civilian service as of the date of en-
25 actment of this section, provide that the lump-sum

1 credit shall be payable to such Member to the same
 2 extent and in the same manner as if such Member
 3 satisfied paragraphs (1) through (4) of section
 4 8424(a) as of such date of enactment.

5 “(e) EXCLUSIONS.—For purposes of this section, the
 6 term ‘Member’ does not include the Vice President.

7 “(f) OPT-IN FOR MEMBERS.—Not later than 90 days
 8 after the date of enactment of this section, a Member cov-
 9 ered by this chapter as of such date may elect, by giving
 10 notice in writing to the official by whom such Member is
 11 paid, to remain subject to this chapter.”.

12 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 13 tions at the beginning of chapter 84 of title 5,
 14 United States Code, is amended by inserting after
 15 the item relating to section 8425 the following:

“8425a. Termination of further retirement coverage of Members of Congress.”.

16 **SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

17 This Act and the amendments made by this Act,
 18 other than sections 5 and 6, shall apply with respect to
 19 fiscal year 2017 and each succeeding fiscal year.

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