

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5845

To prohibit Members of the House of Representatives from using their congressional offices for personal overnight accommodations and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for living expenses incurred by Members of the House of Representatives, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi (for himself, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. CLYBURN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BASS, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. EVANS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. LEE, Mr. CLAY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on 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 prohibit Members of the House of Representatives from using their congressional offices for personal overnight accommodations and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for living expenses incurred by Members of the House of Representatives, 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 “No Couches for Con-
5 gress Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REP-**
7 **RESENTATIVES FROM USING OFFICES FOR**
8 **PERSONAL OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS;**
9 **REQUIRING ETHICS COMMITTEE TO RE-**
10 **SPOND TO COMPLAINTS FILED BY MEMBERS.**

11 (a) PROHIBITING MEMBERS FROM USING OFFICES
12 FOR PERSONAL OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS.—Rule
13 XXIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives is
14 amended—

15 (1) by redesignating clause 18 as clause 19;

16 and

17 (2) by inserting after clause 17 the following
18 new clause:

19 “18. A Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner
20 may not use the Member’s, Delegate’s, or Resident Com-
21 missioner’s office for personal overnight accommodations,
22 and may not use official resources of the House, including
23 employees of the House, to support the use of such office
24 for such purpose.”.

1 (b) REQUIRING HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE TO RE-
2 SPOND TO COMPLAINTS FILED BY MEMBERS.—Clause
3 3(b)(2) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Represent-
4 atives is amended by striking the period at the end of the
5 first sentence in the matter following subdivision (C) and
6 inserting the following: “, and, in the case of a complaint
7 from a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner,
8 shall promptly transmit to such Member, Delegate, or
9 Resident Commissioner a written response containing an
10 explanation for the delay in disposing of the complaint and
11 the results of any investigation of the complaint.”.

12 (c) EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWERS.—The pro-
13 visions of this section are enacted—

14 (1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of
15 the House of Representatives, and as such they shall
16 be considered as part of the rules of the House, and
17 such rules shall supersede other rules only to the ex-
18 tent that they are inconsistent therewith; and

19 (2) with full recognition of the constitutional
20 right of the House of Representatives to change
21 such rules (so far as relating to the House) at any
22 time, in the same manner, and to the same extent
23 as in the case of any other rule of the House.

1 **SEC. 3. REINSTATING LIMITED DEDUCTION FOR LIVING EX-**
 2 **PENSES INCURRED BY MEMBERS OF THE**
 3 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The second sentence of section
 5 162(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended
 6 by inserting after “for income tax purposes” the following:
 7 “in any amount in the case of a Senator or in excess of
 8 \$3,000 in the case of a Member of the House of Rep-
 9 resentatives or a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to
 10 the Congress”.

11 (b) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—Section 162 of such
 12 Code is amended by redesignating subsection (s) as sub-
 13 section (t) and by inserting after subsection (r) the fol-
 14 lowing new subsection:

15 “(s) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—In the case of a tax-
 16 able year beginning after 2018, the \$3,000 amount in sub-
 17 section (a) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

18 “(1) such dollar amount, multiplied by

19 “(2) the cost-of-living adjustment determined
 20 under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which
 21 the taxable year begins, determined by substituting
 22 ‘calendar year 1954’ for ‘calendar year 2016’ in sub-
 23 paragraph (A)(ii) thereof.

24 If any amount as adjusted under paragraph (1) is not a
 25 multiple of \$50, such amount shall be rounded to the next
 26 lowest multiple of \$50.”.

1 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
2 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
3 December 31, 2018.

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