

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1547

To eliminate the franking privilege for the House of Representatives, to establish a spending allowance for postage for official mail of the House of Representatives and to limit the amount and type of mail sent by Members of the House of Representatives.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 31, 1993

Mr. NUSSLE (for himself, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, and Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred jointly to the Committees on House Administration and Post Office and Civil Service

A BILL

To eliminate the franking privilege for the House of Representatives, to establish a spending allowance for postage for official mail of the House of Representatives and to limit the amount and type of mail sent by Members of the House of Representatives.

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 “Citizen Representative
5 Reform Act Use a Stamp Provision”.

1 **SEC. 2. ABOLITION OF THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE FOR THE**
2 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

3 Notwithstanding title 39, United States Code, title
4 III of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1991,
5 or any other provision of law, the franking privilege is
6 abolished with respect to the House of Representatives.

7 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF SPENDING ALLOWANCE FOR**
8 **COSTS OF POSTAGE OF THE HOUSE OF REP-**
9 **RESENTATIVES.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—In lieu of the Official Mail Allow-
11 ance established by section 311 (e) of the Legislative
12 Branch Appropriations Act, 1991 (2 U.S.C. 59e(e)), there
13 is established a spending allowance for postage for official
14 mail of the House of Representatives. The spending allow-
15 ance shall be available to Members in the same manner
16 and to the same extent as the Official Mail Allowance was
17 available under such section, except for the following—

18 (1) the spending allowance shall be used to pur-
19 chase stamps and other postage rather than to pay
20 for mail sent under the frank.

21 (2) Members of the House of Representatives
22 are only permitted to use postage purchased through
23 the spending allowance to respond once to a con-
24 stituent inquiry, conduct routine business including
25 but not limited to press releases and correspondence

1 with Federal agencies and send one district-wide
2 mailing during the first session of a Congress.

3 (3) Officers and employees of the House of
4 Representatives shall purchase stamps and other
5 postage through their office's official expense ac-
6 count.

7 (b) METERED MAIL.—The Postmaster of the House
8 of Representatives shall take such actions as may be nec-
9 essary to provide for use of postage meters to record the
10 cost and volume of mail paid for from the spending allow-
11 ance for postage.

12 (c) TRANSFERS.—All amounts that, but for the en-
13 actment of this Act, would have been available to pay for
14 franked mail of the House of Representatives shall be
15 transferred to the spending allowance for postage.

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