

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

118th CONGRESS

A RESOLUTION

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 118-13

Resolution Adopting Revised Formula to Calculate the Members' Representational Allowance

Whereas, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 4313 and 2 U.S.C. § 4314, the Committee on House Administration (Committee) is authorized “to fix and adjust the amounts, terms, and conditions of, and other matters relating to, allowances for Members” and “may fix or adjust the allowances of the House of Representatives only by reason of – (1) a change in the price of materials, service or office space; (2) a technological change or other improvement in office equipment; or (3) an increase under section 5303 of title 5 in rates of pay under the General Section.”

Whereas, the Members' Representational Allowance (MRA) was established in 1995, when the Committee combined three separate allowances (Clerk Hire, Official Expenses & Official Mail Allowances) into one allowance based on a formula that included standard components, such as personnel and office expenditures, and variable components unique to each district, such as travel, rent and franked mail.

Whereas, a formula was used from 1995 until 2010 to calculate the MRA but due to sequestration and reduction in appropriations, there were across the board reductions and then a freeze in the MRA until 2014. From 2015 through 2022, there have been across the board dollar and percentage increases to the MRA.

Whereas, due to reapportionment and subsequent redistricting the makeup of Congressional districts have changed significantly, the Committee has worked closely with the Chief Administrative Officer to revise the formula taking into consideration the unique makeup of each district to ensure that each MRA is calculated based on data that accurately reflects the actual expenditures and needs of that district.

Whereas, the revised formula is established in such a way as to allow for recalculations each year that take into account changes to the price of materials, services, technology, office space and rates of pay to ensure that Members are provided with the necessary resources to adequately operate and maintain their offices.

Be it resolved, that the Committee hereby adopts the following formula to calculate the MRA.

MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCE LEGISLATIVE YEAR 2023

The Members' Representational Allowance for 2023 was calculated using the following formula.

1. Clerk-Hire Component: Standard amount of \$1,434,751 for all Members to cover personnel compensation costs using comparable GS levels and compensation for standard Member office positions based on an analysis of 2022 salary levels.
2. Official Expense Component: Based on one standard and two variable components to cover all office expenditures other than personnel compensation and official mail.

- Office: Standard amount of \$134,412 for all Members to cover office expenditures, such as equipment, supplies, subscriptions, technology contracts, etc., based on an actual expenditure over the last 10 years.
- Travel: Variable amount for official travel expenses, including travel between Washington, D.C., and the district, as well as local official travel within the district and out of district official travel, that is based on the following formula:

Base amount (\$20,000) + (Weighted Air Travel Cost x Number of One-Way Trips) + Days of Lodging + Days of Meals & Incidentals.

Weighted travel was calculated for each District based on the General Services Administration's (GSA) City Pair Program and Federal Aviation Administration's airport data. Formula assumes 90 one-way trips between Washington, D.C. and the District (72 Member/18 Staff) and 75 days of lodging and meals at the GSA Per Diem rate for the district.

- District Office Rent: Variable amount based on dollar equivalent of 2,500 square feet multiplied by the applicable 2023 GSA rental rate for each district.

4. Official Mail Component: Variable amount based on the formula below to cover official communication expenses including franked mail as well as related printing and production costs.

- 3 x first class rate for mail (as determined by the Postmaster General) x number of postal addresses (other than business delivery stops) in the Member's congressional district.
- The Committee has set the amount at 25% of this calculation.