

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 657

To provide loans to employees of the Federal Government and the government of the District of Columbia affected by a Government shutdown, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 17, 2019

Mr. COX of California (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BERA, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CASE, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CORREA, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CROW, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. DEAN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. HARDER of California, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KHANNA, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. PORTER, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. ROUDA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. TRONE, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. WATERS, Ms. WILD, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SOTO, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. COHEN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. MORELLE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

A BILL

To provide loans to employees of the Federal Government

and the government of the District of Columbia affected by a Government shutdown, 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 “Immediate Financial
 5 Relief for Federal Employees Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. INTEREST-FREE LOAN FOR FEDERAL AND DC EM-**
 7 **PLOYEES AFFECTED BY GOVERNMENT SHUT-**
 8 **DOWN.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury
 10 shall, at the request of any employee affected by a Govern-
 11 ment shutdown, issue to such employee an interest-free
 12 loan.

13 (b) NOTICE TO EMPLOYER.—At the time any loan
 14 is provided to an employee affected by a Government shut-
 15 down under subsection (a), the Secretary shall notify the
 16 employee’s employer that such loan has been provided and
 17 the amount of such loan.

18 (c) LOAN TERMS.—

19 (1) PROHIBITION ON FEES AND INTEREST.—

20 The Secretary may not charge any fee or interest in
 21 connection with a loan provided under subsection
 22 (a).

1 (2) LIMITATION ON LOAN AMOUNT.—A loan
2 provided under subsection (a) may not exceed
3 \$6,000.

4 (3) EMPLOYEES LIMITED TO ONE LOAN.—With
5 respect to each period of time that an individual is
6 an employee affected by a Government shutdown,
7 the individual may not be provided more than one
8 loan under subsection (a).

9 (d) LOAN REPAYMENT.—

10 (1) REPAYMENT THROUGH GARNISHMENT.—
11 With respect to an individual who was provided a
12 loan under subsection (a), when such individual is
13 no longer an employee affected by a Government
14 shutdown, the employer of the individual shall gar-
15 nish 100 percent of the individual's pay with respect
16 to the applicable pay period, and transfer such
17 amounts to the Secretary as repayment on the loan
18 provided to the individual under subsection (a), until
19 the loan is repaid in full.

20 (2) ADDITIONAL REPAYMENT.—The Secretary
21 shall issue regulations to provide for a repayment
22 process for loans provided under subsection (a) with
23 respect to which the garnishment requirement under
24 paragraph (1) will not provide for the full repayment
25 of the loan.

1 (e) CLARIFICATION.—Any loan provided under sub-
2 section (a) shall not—

3 (1) be treated as basic pay or annual pay of an
4 employee for purposes of title 5, United States Code;
5 or

6 (2) be counted for purposes of determining the
7 amount of backpay owed to such employee under the
8 Government Employee Fair Treatment Act of 2019
9 or any other provision of law.

10 (f) AUTHORITY TO MAKE LOANS AND PAY FOR AD-
11 MINISTRATIVE COSTS.—There are hereby made available
12 to the Secretary from amounts in the general fund of the
13 Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may
14 be necessary to provide the loans described under sub-
15 section (a) and to pay for the administrative costs of car-
16 rying out this section.

17 (g) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

18 (1) EMPLOYEE AFFECTED BY A GOVERNMENT
19 SHUTDOWN.—The term “employee affected by a
20 Government shutdown” means—

21 (A) any employee of a Federal agency with
22 respect to which appropriations have lapsed for
23 a period equal to or longer than 15 consecutive
24 days beginning on or after December 22, 2018;
25 and

1 (B) any employee of an office of the gov-
2 ernment of the District of Columbia with re-
3 spect to which appropriations have so lapsed.

4 (2) EMPLOYER.—With respect to an individual
5 who is provided a loan under subsection (a), the
6 term “employer” means the Federal agency or office
7 of the government of the District of Columbia that
8 employs such individual on the date the individual
9 became an employee affected by a Government shut-
10 down.

11 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
12 the Secretary of the Treasury.

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