

DIRECTING THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO PROVIDE INDIVIDUALS WHOSE PAY IS DISBURSED BY THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER BY ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER WITH THE OPTION OF RECEIVING RECEIPTS OF PAY AND WITHHOLDINGS ELECTRONICALLY

SEPTEMBER 8, 2008.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, from the Committee on House Administration, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. Res. 1207]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on House Administration, to whom was referred the resolution (H. Res. 1207) directing the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives to provide individuals whose pay is disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer by electronic funds transfer with the option of receiving receipts of pay and withholdings electronically, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the resolution be agreed to.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. PROVIDING INDIVIDUALS PAID BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH THE OPTION OF RECEIVING RECEIPTS OF PAY ELECTRONICALLY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives shall take such steps as may be necessary to provide each individual whose pay is disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer by electronic funds transfer with the option of receiving the receipt of the pay and the accompanying withholdings electronically, the option of viewing electronically the individual's employee statement required under section 6051 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the option of revising electronically (to the extent permitted under applicable law and regulations) the individual's number of deductions and withholdings under that statement and information relating to the deposit of the individual's funds with the financial institution to which the electronic funds transfer is made.

(b) **ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER DEFINED.**—In subsection (a), the term “electronic funds transfer” has the meaning given such term by section 3332 of title 31, United States Code.

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

H. Res. 1207 would direct the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives to provide individuals whose pay is disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer by electronic funds transfer with the option of receiving receipts of pay and withholdings electronically.

RESOLUTION SUMMARY

H. Res. 1207 would require the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide electronic pay stubs, rather than pay stubs by mail, upon request for any employee of the House of Representatives. The committee supports this resolution as a common-sense way to modernize the House pay-system.

Electronic pay stubs would offer convenience to members and staff by simplifying record keeping. H. Res. 1207 would also make a substantial reduction in paper waste.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

On July 30, 2008, the Committee considered H. Res. 1207 and, by voice vote, ordered the resolution reported favorably with an amendment. No recorded votes were taken during the consideration of the bill.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR H. RES. 1207

Currently, all employees of the House whose pay is distributed through the Chief Administrative Officer receive paper pay stubs through the mail. Not only is this an increasingly outdated practice, it also generates a substantial amount of unnecessary paper waste. Allowing members and staff to opt for an electronic pay stub will make it easier to keep payment records for both the dispersing authority and recipients. Allowing for electronic stubs will also decrease the amount of paper waste accrued from mailing receipts of pay, promoting the Speaker's Green the Capitol initiative.

The Chief Administrative Officer's staff has expressed some concerns over the responsibility of tracking the receipt preference, and the preferred e-mail address, of each individual House employee. If the proposal is adopted, the Committee on House Administration would work with the CAO staff to ensure a smooth transition into the new system.

ANALYSIS OF THE RESOLUTION (AS REPORTED)

H. Res. 1207 was introduced by Representative Virginia Foxx of North Carolina on May 16, 2008. The resolution directs the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the House of Representatives to provide individuals whose pay is disbursed electronically by the CAO with the option of receiving receipts of pay and withholdings electronically. The resolution was referred to the Committee on House Administration, which amended it and ordered it reported on July 30, 2008. The resolution would make W2 forms available electronically and allow individuals to change their deductions and withholdings, and to re-designate the depository institution(s) for electronic deposits.

The resolution is similar to H.R. 6073, which would require the Office of Personnel Management to ensure that all executive

branch employees have the option of receiving pay stubs electronically. H.R. 6073, which was also introduced by Representative Foxx, was reported by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on July 16, 2008. The Congressional Budget Office issued a cost estimate of that bill on July 21, and it passed the House by voice vote on July 30.

A section by section analysis of the resolution (as amended and reported) is as follows:

Section 1. Subsection (a) directs the CAO of the House of Representatives to take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that any employee who receives pay from the CAO by electronic funds transfer shall be given the option of electronically receiving receipt of pay and withholdings, viewing the employment statement required under the Internal Revenue Act of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 6051), and revising the employee's number of deductions and withholdings.

Subsection (b) gives the term "electronic funds transfer" the same meaning as in 31 U.S.C. § 3332.

MATTERS REQUIRED UNDER RULES OF THE HOUSE

Committee votes

Clause 3(b) of House Rule XIII requires the results of each recorded vote on an amendment or motion to report, together with the names of those voting for and against, to be printed in the committee report. No recorded votes were taken during the committee's consideration of H. Res. 1207.

Congressional Budget Office estimate

Clause 3(c)(3) of House Rule XIII requires the report of a committee on a measure which has been approved by the committee to include a cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 403 of the CBA, if timely submitted. The Director submitted the following estimate:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, August 8, 2008.

Hon. ROBERT A. BRADY,
Chairman, Committee on House Administration,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H. Res. 1207, a resolution directing the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives to provide individuals whose pay is disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer by electronic funds transfer with the option of receiving receipts of pay and withholdings electronically.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Matthew Pickford.

Sincerely,

ROBERT A. SUNSHINE
(For Peter R. Orszag, Director).

Enclosure.

H. Res. 1207—A resolution directing the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives to provide individuals whose pay is disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer by electronic funds transfer with the option of receiving receipts of pay and withholdings electronically

H. Res. 1207 would require the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the House of Representatives to take steps to provide employees who receive their pay through electronic transfer with the option of receiving their pay stubs electronically. According to the CAO, the agency intends to offer electronic pay stubs to all staff in the near future. Thus, CBO estimates that enacting H. Res. 1207 would have no significant effect on federal spending and would not affect revenues.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

Oversight findings

Clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII requires each committee report to contain oversight findings and recommendations required pursuant to clause 2(b)(1) of House Rule X. The Committee has general oversight responsibility for the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives. The Committee recommends the implementation of H. Res. 1207 to proceed with the goal of modernizing House administrative practices and to advance the Speaker's Greening the Capitol Initiative.

Statement of general performance goals and objectives

Clause 3(c)(4) of House Rule XIII requires committee reports to include a statement of general performance goals and objectives. The Committee finds that H. Res. 1207 will modernize the House payment system, provide greater flexibility for staff, and promote the Greening the Capitol initiative.