

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3147

To amend the House of Representatives Administrative Reform Technical Corrections Act to require that certain types of services be provided at no cost to constituents, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 2015

Mr. PETERS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To amend the House of Representatives Administrative Reform Technical Corrections Act to require that certain types of services be provided at no cost to constituents, 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 “Constituent Services
5 Disclosure Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIONAL**
2 **ALLOWANCE RELATING TO CONSTITUENT**
3 **SERVICES.**

4 Section 101 of the House of Representatives Admin-
5 istrative Reform Technical Corrections Act (2 U.S.C.
6 5341) is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and
8 (e) as subsections (d), (e), and (f), respectively;

9 (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
10 lowing new subsection:

11 “(c) CONSTITUENT SERVICES.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the Members' Represen-
13 tational Allowance, 20 percent shall not be available
14 to a Member's office unless such office provides cer-
15 tain constituent services at no cost. For purposes of
16 the preceding sentence, such constituent services in-
17 clude assistance with respect to the following mat-
18 ters:

19 “(A) Passports.

20 “(B) Individual Federal income tax re-
21 turns.

22 “(C) Tax-exempt status applications under
23 section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
24 of 1986.

1 “(D) The Medicare program under title
2 XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
3 1395 et seq.).

4 “(E) Social Security benefits under title II
5 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et
6 seq.).

7 “(F) Supplemental security benefits under
8 title XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
9 1381 et seq.).

10 “(G) Student loans (as defined in section
11 5379(a)(1)(B) of title 5, United States Code).

12 “(H) Benefits provided under title 38,
13 United States Code, or other laws administered
14 by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

15 “(2) ASSISTANCE DEFINED.—In this subsection
16 the term ‘assistance’, with respect to a matter de-
17 scribed in paragraph (1), means—

18 “(A) requesting information;

19 “(B) requesting status reports;

20 “(C) arranging appointments;

21 “(D) advocating for prompt consideration
22 of the matter based on the merits of the case;
23 and

24 “(E) expressing an opinion on the matter.

1 “(3) PUBLICATION.—Each Member’s office
2 shall make publicly available in print or on the con-
3 gressional website of such office all the constituent
4 services the office provides.

5 “(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall
6 take effect on the date that is six months after the
7 date of the enactment of the Constituent Services
8 Disclosure Act of 2015.”; and

9 (3) in subsection (f), as redesignated by para-
10 graph (1), by striking “This section” and inserting
11 “Except as provided in paragraph (4) of subsection
12 (c), this section”.

13 **SEC. 3. REGULATIONS.**

14 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
15 ment of this Act, the Committee on House Administration
16 of the House of Representatives shall prescribe regulations
17 with respect to the constituent services described in sec-
18 tion 101(c) of the House of Representatives Administra-
19 tive Reform Technical Corrections Act (2 U.S.C. 5341),
20 as amended by section 2 of this Act.

21 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

22 It is the sense of Congress that private companies
23 that provide assistance to individuals that is the same or
24 similar to the assistance described in section 101 of the
25 House of Representatives Administrative Reform Tech-

1 nical Corrections Act (2 U.S.C. 5341), as amended by sec-
2 tion 2 of this Act, should disclose that such assistance
3 could be provided at no cost by the office of a Member
4 of the House of Representatives.

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