

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

117th CONGRESS

A RESOLUTION

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 117-17

A Resolution to Establish Timetables and Procedures for the Deduction of Net Salary for the Payment of Fines for Violations Under House Resolution 73

Be it resolved, that the Committee on House Administration, pursuant to House Resolution 73 subsection 1(c), 117th Congress, hereby issues the following regulations establishing a timetable and procedures for the Chief Administrative Officer to deduct the amount of a fine imposed under House Resolution 73 from the net salary of an individual who is a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) (hereinafter “Member”).

SECTION 1. NOTICE OF THE IMPOSITION OF CERTAIN FINES AGAINST A MEMBER.

- a) If a Member who is required to pay a fine under House Resolution 73 has not fully paid the amount of the fine prior to the expiration of 90 calendar days from the date of notification from the chair of the Committee on Ethics, the Chief Administrative Officer shall notify the Member, the Speaker, the Sergeant-at-Arms, the Committee on Ethics, and the Committee on House Administration that payment of the fine is not complete and the dollar amount that remains unpaid according to the records of the Chief Administrative Officer.
- b) Any full or partial payment by a Member in satisfaction of a fine imposed under House Resolution 73 before the commencement of salary deduction should be submitted by the Member through the Chief Administrative Officer. If a Member submits a full or partial fine payment through the Committee on Ethics or the Sergeant-at-Arms, the House office receiving such payment shall immediately notify the Chief Administrative Officer.
- c) Any notice to be made to the Committee on Ethics or the Committee on House Administration under House Resolution 73 or these regulations shall be in writing and addressed to the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee.
- d) Any notice to the Member shall be in writing and addressed to the Member.

SEC. 2. DEDUCTING AMOUNTS FROM COMPENSATION.

- a) In the event that a Member has not paid the entire fine imposed under House Resolution 73 prior to the expiration of the 90 calendar days period which begins on the date of the notice provided by the chair of the Committee on Ethics, the Chief Administrative Officer shall take steps to deduct from the Member's net salary such amounts as may be necessary to fully discharge the amount of the remaining unpaid fine beginning in the pay period after the expiration of the 90 calendar day period.
- b) In deducting any amounts under House Resolution 73 and these regulations, the Chief Administrative Officer is authorized and directed to deduct in one pay period an amount equal to the amount of all outstanding fines for which the 90 calendar day period has passed divided by the number of remaining pay periods in the Congress, including the first pay period in which deduction from the Member's pay is permitted.
- c) Any amounts deducted by the Chief Administrative Officer shall be deducted from a Member's monthly net salary that is available after required deductions under title 5, United States Code; payment of federal, state, and/or local taxes; Thrift Savings Plan contributions under section 8432(f) of title 5, United States Code; and any court-ordered collections, such as for child support and alimony; and not to exceed the outstanding fine amount due under House Resolution 73. For purposes of these regulations, any required deductions under title 5, United States Code, include amounts deducted for defined benefit retirement plans (CSRS/FERS), basic health insurance premiums, and basic life insurance premiums, but does not include amounts deducted for optional benefits, including but not limited to healthcare flexible spending accounts, dental, vision, health savings accounts, optional life insurance premiums, long-term care insurance premiums, or dependent-care flexible spending accounts.
- d) The Chief Administrative Officer shall notify the Member of any amount to be deducted under these regulations in advance, consistent with the current Chief Administrative Officer practice for court-ordered garnishments.
- e) A Member who is subject to salary deduction under House Resolution 73 and these regulations may elect to have more of their wages deducted and paid to the account in furtherance of their remaining unpaid balance of such fine under House Resolution 73. Such election must be made in writing to the Chief Administrative Officer and by such time as the Chief Administrative Officer may require to take effect in a particular pay period.
- f) A direct payment made by a Member to the Chief Administrative Officer in satisfaction of a fine under House Resolution 73 that occurs after the payroll processing date in a given month may result in the Chief Administrative Officer deducting an amount in excess of the remaining amount owed. In such an event, the Chief Administrative Officer shall take immediate steps to return to the Member any amounts deducted in excess of the total fine amount outstanding.
- g) In the event that a Member who is required to make a payment for a fine under House Resolution 73 and subject to deduction under House Resolution 73 and these regulations, departs the House before the Member has fully reimbursed the amount required, the Chief Administrative Officer shall notify the Speaker, the Sergeant-at-Arms, the Committee on Ethics, and the Committee on House Administration in writing.

- h) The Chief Administrative Officer shall adopt a new deduction code for any salary deductions under the provisions of clause 3(g) of House Rule II, House Resolution 38, or House Resolution 73 and these regulations.
- i) The Chief Administrative Officer shall adopt a policy and procedures to implement the requirements of House Resolution 73 and these regulations. Such policy may also collectively address other net salary deduction authorities, including clause 3(g) of House Rule II and House Resolution 38.
- j) As necessary, the Chief Administrative Officer shall coordinate with the Speaker, the Sergeant-at-Arms, the Committee on Ethics, and the Committee on House Administration to ensure compliance with House Resolution 73 and these regulations.