

H.R. 3565 – Reconnecting Congress with America Act
Section by Section Summary

Section 1

Short title

Section 2

Establishes base rate of pay for Members of Congress (Members), ties Member salary to the Federal budget deficit, and repeals the automatic pay adjustment. If the Federal deficit is equal to or greater than 3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), then Members' base salary would be cut by 20%. If the Federal deficit is less than 3 percent, Members' base salary would be cut by 10%. In a case of no Federal deficit, or if a surplus were to exist, Members would receive 100% of their base salary.

Section 3

Increases Member contribution to the Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS). Members of Congress currently contribute 1.3% of salary to FERS. The Federal government pays approximately 17.9% of pay for Members under FERS. This section would increase to 6.2% the amount of their salary Members contribute to FERS, and the Federal government contribution would be offset by this amount. Section 3 would also apply to Members of Congress enrolled under the Civil Service Retirement System.

Section 4

Prohibits commodities and securities trading by Members and employees of Congress, and employees of Executive branch agencies, based on nonpublic information related to their official duties.

Section 5

Expresses the sense of Congress that Members of Congress and Senators live by the laws that they enact.

The Reconnecting Congress with America Act is part of a package of simple yet meaningful Congressional reforms that Congressman Flores has introduced, along with other colleagues, to overhaul our system of governing, restore confidence in Congress and reconnect Congress with the American people. For more information, please visit Flores.house.gov.