



H.R. 790 — Federal Civilian Workforce Pay Raise Fairness Act of 2019 (Rep. Connolly, D-VA)

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on January 30, 2019, under a [rule](#).

This Legislative Bulletin has been updated to reflect amendments made in order under the rule.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 790](#) would increase pay for federal workers by 2.6 percent.

COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is not available.

CONSERVATIVE VIEWPOINTS:

Some conservatives may be concerned that H.R. 790 would reverse President Trump's [pay freeze](#) and issue a 2.6 percent pay raise for federal workers, who may already receive between [17](#) and [40](#) percent more in total compensation compared with their private sector counterparts. Additionally, 2.6 percent is above the 2.1 percent that federal workers would have received under current law prior to President Trump's pay freeze.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Yes, the bill would increase federal spending on federal worker salaries by 2.6 percent for the upcoming year for salaries subject to President Trump's pay freeze and increase salaries by 0.5 percent beyond the 2.1 percent raise federal workers would have received under current law.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 790 would increase pay for federal workers by 2.6 percent.

Unlike most Americans, federal workers receive an automatic pay increase every year under the [Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act of 1990](#). In 2019, federal workers would have received a 2.1% increase under the automatic raise. On December 28, 2019, President Trump issued an [executive order](#) freezing pay for federal workers. The pay freeze did not affect a 2.6% pay increase for US troops.

H.R. 790 would reverse President Trump's pay freeze, and, instead of issuing the 2.1% pay raise that otherwise would have gone into effect, issue a 2.6% pay raise, the level that military members received.

In 2017 CBO released a [report](#) that found the federal government paid 17% more in total compensation than it would have if average compensation had been comparable with that in the private sector. However, other organizations, like the Heritage Foundation, have [found](#) that federal workers actually make 30 to 40% more than their private sector counterparts.

AMENDMENTS:

1. [Trone \(D-MD\)](#) – This amendment would provide secret service employees with a 2.6 percent pay increase.
2. [Fletcher \(D-TX\)](#) – This amendment would provide certain National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) employees with a 2.6 percent pay increase.
3. [Trahan \(D-MD\)](#) – This amendment would ensure Internal Revenue Service (IRS) employees receive a 2.6 percent pay increase.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 790 was introduced on January 25, 2019 and was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, clause 18."

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