

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1000

To direct the Clerk of the House of Representatives to provide Members-elect of the House with written copies of the oath of office prior to the first session of a Congress and to provide that a Member-elect who signs such copies shall be considered to have taken the oath of office.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2023

Ms. FOXX (for herself, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. COLE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To direct the Clerk of the House of Representatives to provide Members-elect of the House with written copies of the oath of office prior to the first session of a Congress and to provide that a Member-elect who signs such copies shall be considered to have taken the oath of office.

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 “Ordering Authentica-
5 tion in The House’s Swearing-in Act” or the “OATHS
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. USE OF SIGNED WRITTEN COPY FOR TAKING OATH**
2 **OF OFFICE BY MEMBERS OF HOUSE OF REP-**
3 **RESENTATIVES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 30 of the Revised Stat-
5 utes of the United States (2 U.S.C. 25) is amended—

6 (1) by striking the first undesignated para-
7 graph; and

8 (2) by striking the remaining paragraph and in-
9 serting the following:

10 “(a) PROVISION OF WRITTEN OATH OF OFFICE BY
11 CLERK.—Prior to the first session of Congress after every
12 general election of Representatives, the Clerk of the House
13 of Representatives shall cause the oath of office to be
14 printed and shall furnish 2 copies to each Representative-
15 elect, Delegate-elect, and Resident Commissioner-elect,
16 who shall sign the copies and return them to the Clerk.

17 “(b) FILING OF SIGNED COPIES.—Upon receiving a
18 signed copy of the oath of office under subsection (a), the
19 Clerk shall file one copy in the records of the House of
20 Representatives, and shall cause the other copy to be re-
21 corded in the Journal of the House and in the Congres-
22 sional Record.

23 “(c) LEGAL EFFECT OF RETURNING SIGNED COP-
24 IES.—The signed copy of the oath of office, or a certified
25 copy thereof, or the copy filed or recorded under sub-
26 section (b), shall be admissible in evidence in any court

1 of the United States, and shall be held conclusive proof
2 of the fact that the individual who signed the copies duly
3 took the oath of office in accordance with law, effective—

4 “(1) at noon on the first day of the first session
5 of Congress, in the case of an individual who returns
6 the signed copies to the Clerk prior to noon on the
7 first day of the first session of the Congress; or

8 “(2) at the time the individual returns the
9 signed copies to the Clerk, in the case of an indi-
10 vidual who does not return the signed copies to the
11 Clerk prior to noon on the first day of the first ses-
12 sion of the Congress.”.

13 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
14 this section shall apply with respect to the One Hundred
15 Nineteenth Congress and each succeeding Congress.

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