

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1496

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## AN ACT

To amend the Act of August 25, 1958, commonly known as the “Former Presidents Act of 1958”, with respect to the monetary allowance payable to a former President, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Presidential Allowance  
3 Modernization Act of 2019”.

4 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Act entitled “An Act to pro-  
6 vide retirement, clerical assistants, and free mailing privi-  
7 leges to former Presidents of the United States, and for  
8 other purposes”, approved August 25, 1958 (commonly  
9 known as the “Former Presidents Act of 1958”) (3 U.S.C.  
10 102 note), is amended—

11 (1) by striking “That (a) each” and inserting  
12 the following:

13 **“SECTION 1. FORMER PRESIDENTS LEAVING OFFICE BE-**  
14 **FORE PRESIDENTIAL ALLOWANCE MOD-**  
15 **ERNIZATION ACT OF 2019.**

16 “(a) Each”;

17 (2) by redesignating subsection (g) as section 3  
18 and adjusting the margin accordingly; and

19 (3) by inserting after section 1, as so des-  
20 ignated, the following:

21 **“SEC. 2. FORMER PRESIDENTS LEAVING OFFICE AFTER**  
22 **PRESIDENTIAL ALLOWANCE MODERNIZA-**  
23 **TION ACT OF 2019.**

24 “(a) ANNUITIES AND ALLOWANCES.—

25 “(1) ANNUITY.—Each modern former President  
26 shall be entitled for the remainder of his or her life

1 to receive from the United States an annuity at the  
2 rate of \$200,000 per year, subject to subsections  
3 (b)(2) and (c), to be paid by the Secretary of the  
4 Treasury.

5 “(2) ALLOWANCE.—The Administrator of Gen-  
6 eral Services is authorized to provide each modern  
7 former President a monetary allowance at the rate  
8 of \$200,000 per year, subject to the availability of  
9 appropriations and subsections (b)(2), (c), and (d).

10 “(b) DURATION; FREQUENCY.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The annuity and allowance  
12 under subsection (a) shall each—

13 “(A) commence on the day after the date  
14 on which an individual becomes a modern  
15 former President;

16 “(B) terminate on the date on which the  
17 modern former President dies; and

18 “(C) be payable on a monthly basis.

19 “(2) APPOINTIVE OR ELECTIVE POSITIONS.—  
20 The annuity and allowance under subsection (a)  
21 shall not be payable for any period during which a  
22 modern former President holds an appointive or  
23 elective position in or under the Federal Government  
24 to which is attached a rate of pay other than a  
25 nominal rate.

1       “(c) COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES.—Effective Decem-  
 2 ber 1 of each year, each annuity and allowance under sub-  
 3 section (a) that commenced before that date shall be in-  
 4 creased by the same percentage by which benefit amounts  
 5 under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401  
 6 et seq.) are increased, effective as of that date, as a result  
 7 of a determination under section 215(i) of that Act (42  
 8 U.S.C. 415(i)).

9       “(d) LIMITATION ON MONETARY ALLOWANCE.—

10       “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
 11 provision of this section, the monetary allowance  
 12 payable under subsection (a)(2) to a modern former  
 13 President for any 12-month period—

14       “(A) except as provided in subparagraph  
 15 (B), may not exceed the amount by which—

16       “(i) the monetary allowance that (but  
 17 for this subsection) would otherwise be so  
 18 payable for such 12-month period, exceeds  
 19 (if at all)

20       “(ii) the applicable reduction amount  
 21 for such 12-month period; and

22       “(B) shall not be less than the amount de-  
 23 termined under paragraph (4).

24       “(2) DEFINITION.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of para-  
2 graph (1), the term ‘applicable reduction  
3 amount’ means, with respect to any modern  
4 former President and in connection with any  
5 12-month period, the amount by which—

6           “(i) the sum of—

7           “(I) the adjusted gross income  
8 (as defined in section 62 of the Inter-  
9 nal Revenue Code of 1986) of the  
10 modern former President for the most  
11 recent taxable year for which a tax re-  
12 turn is available; and

13           “(II) any interest excluded from  
14 the gross income of the modern  
15 former President under section 103 of  
16 such Code for such taxable year, ex-  
17 ceeds (if at all)

18           “(ii) \$400,000, subject to subpara-  
19 graph (C).

20           “(B) JOINT RETURNS.—In the case of a  
21 joint return, subclauses (I) and (II) of subpara-  
22 graph (A)(i) shall be applied by taking into ac-  
23 count both the amounts properly allocable to  
24 the modern former President and the amounts

1 properly allocable to the spouse of the modern  
2 former President.

3 “(C) COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES.—The  
4 dollar amount specified in subparagraph (A)(ii)  
5 shall be adjusted at the same time that, and by  
6 the same percentage by which, the monetary al-  
7 lowance of the modern former President is in-  
8 creased under subsection (c) (disregarding this  
9 subsection).

10 “(3) DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT.—

11 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

12 “(i) the terms ‘return’ and ‘return in-  
13 formation’ have the meanings given those  
14 terms in section 6103(b) of the Internal  
15 Revenue Code of 1986; and

16 “(ii) the term ‘Secretary’ means the  
17 Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary  
18 of the Treasury’s delegate.

19 “(B) REQUIREMENT.—A modern former  
20 President may not receive a monetary allowance  
21 under subsection (a)(2) unless the modern  
22 former President discloses to the Secretary,  
23 upon the request of the Secretary, any return  
24 or return information of the modern former  
25 President or spouse of the modern former

1 President that the Secretary determines is nec-  
2 essary for purposes of calculating the applicable  
3 reduction amount under paragraph (2) of this  
4 subsection.

5 “(C) CONFIDENTIALITY.—Except as pro-  
6 vided in section 6103 of the Internal Revenue  
7 Code of 1986 and notwithstanding any other  
8 provision of law, the Secretary may not, with  
9 respect to a return or return information dis-  
10 closed to the Secretary under subparagraph  
11 (B)—

12 “(i) disclose the return or return in-  
13 formation to any entity or person; or

14 “(ii) use the return or return informa-  
15 tion for any purpose other than to cal-  
16 culate the applicable reduction amount  
17 under paragraph (2).

18 “(4) INCREASED COSTS DUE TO SECURITY  
19 NEEDS.—With respect to the monetary allowance  
20 that would be payable to a modern former President  
21 under subsection (a)(2) for any 12-month period but  
22 for the limitation under paragraph (1)(A) of this  
23 subsection, the Administrator of General Services, in  
24 coordination with the Director of the United States  
25 Secret Service, shall determine the amount of the al-

1        lowance that is needed to pay the increased cost of  
2        doing business that is attributable to the security  
3        needs of the modern former President.

4        “(e) WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS.—The widow or wid-  
5        ower of each modern former President shall be entitled  
6        to receive from the United States a monetary allowance  
7        at a rate of \$100,000 per year (subject to paragraph (4)),  
8        payable monthly by the Secretary of the Treasury, if such  
9        widow or widower shall waive the right to each other annu-  
10       ity or pension to which she or he is entitled under any  
11       other Act of Congress. The monetary allowance of such  
12       widow or widower—

13                “(1) commences on the day after the modern  
14       former President dies;

15                “(2) terminates on the last day of the month  
16       before such widow or widower dies;

17                “(3) is not payable for any period during which  
18       such widow or widower holds an appointive or elec-  
19       tive office or position in or under the Federal Gov-  
20       ernment to which is attached a rate of pay other  
21       than a nominal rate; and

22                “(4) shall, after its commencement date, be in-  
23       creased at the same time that, and by the same per-  
24       centage by which, annuities of modern former Presi-  
25       dents are increased under subsection (c).



1       “(f) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘modern  
2 former President’ means a person—

3               “(1) who shall have held the office of President  
4 of the United States of America;

5               “(2) whose service in such office shall have ter-  
6 minated—

7                       “(A) other than by removal pursuant to  
8 section 4 of article II of the Constitution of the  
9 United States of America; and

10                      “(B) after the date of enactment of the  
11 Presidential Allowance Modernization Act of  
12 2019; and

13               “(3) who does not then currently hold such of-  
14 fice.”.

15       (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—  
16 The Former Presidents Act of 1958 is amended—

17               (1) in section 1(f)(2), as designated by this sec-  
18 tion—

19                       (A) by striking “terminated other than”  
20 and inserting the following: “terminated—

21                               “(A) other than”; and

22                       (B) by adding at the end the following:

23                               “(B) on or before the date of enactment of  
24 the Presidential Allowance Modernization Act of  
25 2019; and”; and

1 (2) in section 3, as redesignated by this sec-  
2 tion—

3 (A) by inserting after the section enu-  
4 merator the following: “**AUTHORIZATION OF**  
5 **APPROPRIATIONS.**”; and

6 (B) by inserting “or modern former Presi-  
7 dent” after “former President” each place that  
8 term appears.

9 **SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

10 Nothing in this Act or an amendment made by this  
11 Act shall be construed to affect—

12 (1) any provision of law relating to the security  
13 or protection of a former President or modern  
14 former President, or a member of the family of a  
15 former President or modern former President; or

16 (2) funding, under the Former Presidents Act  
17 of 1958 or any other law, to carry out any provision  
18 of law described in paragraph (1).

19 **SEC. 4. APPLICABILITY.**

20 Section 2 of the Former Presidents Act of 1958, as  
21 added by section 2(a)(3) of this Act, shall not apply to—

22 (1) any individual who is a former President on  
23 the date of enactment of this Act; or

24 (2) the widow or widower of an individual de-  
25 scribed in paragraph (1).

1 **SEC. 5. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

2       The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of  
3 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,  
4 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement  
5 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this  
6 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record  
7 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-  
8 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the  
9 vote on passage.

      Passed the House of Representatives October 16,  
2019.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

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To amend the Act of August 25, 1958, commonly known as the “Former Presidents Act of 1958”, with respect to the monetary allowance payable to a former President, and for other purposes.