

S 2128

Lobbying Transparency and Accountability Act of 2006

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Dec 16, 2005

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 369.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 369. (Mar 3, 2006)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/senate-bill/2128>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]

Party: Republican • State: AZ • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Burns, Conrad R. [R-MT]	R · MT		Dec 16, 2005
Sen. Lieberman, Joseph I. [D-CT]	D · CT		Jan 18, 2006
Sen. Coleman, Norm [R-MN]	R · MN		Jan 25, 2006
Sen. Kyl, Jon [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Jan 25, 2006
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		Jan 25, 2006
Sen. Snowe, Olympia J. [R-ME]	R · ME		Jan 25, 2006
Sen. Chafee, Lincoln [R-RI]	R · RI		Mar 6, 2006

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Mar 3, 2006

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
109 SRES 525	Related bill	Jun 29, 2006: Referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration. (text of measure as introduced: CR S6811-6812)
109 HR 5677	Related bill	Jun 22, 2006: Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
109 HR 4975	Related bill	May 23, 2006: Laid on the table. See S. 2349 for further action.
109 S 2349	Related bill	May 23, 2006: Message on Senate action sent to the House.
109 HR 4988	Related bill	Apr 27, 2006: Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR H1880)
109 HRES 772	Related bill	Apr 25, 2006: Referred to the House Committee on Rules.
109 HCONRES 358	Related bill	Mar 15, 2006: Referred to the House Committee on Rules.
109 HR 4948	Related bill	Mar 14, 2006: Referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
109 HR 4920	Related bill	Mar 9, 2006: Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
109 HR 4575	Identical bill	Feb 16, 2006: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution.
109 HR 4667	Related bill	Feb 6, 2006: Executive Comment Requested from Interior.

Lobbying Transparency and Accountability Act of 2006 - **Title I: Enhancing Lobbying Disclosure** - (Sec. 101) Amends the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (LDA) to require: (1) quarterly instead of semiannual filing of lobbying disclosure reports; (2) an annual report on registered lobbyists' contributions; (3) maintenance of certain lobbying disclosure information in an electronic database, available to the public free of charge over the Internet; (4) disclosure by registered lobbyists of all past executive and congressional employment; and (5) disclosure of registered lobbyists' payments or reimbursements for travel and related expenses of covered legislative and executive branch officials.

(Sec. 106) Increases from \$50,000 to \$100,000 the penalty for failure to comply with lobbying disclosure requirements.

(Sec. 107) Revises requirements for the contents of lobbyist registrations, particularly disclosure of the identity of any organization, other than the client, that contributes over \$10,000 toward the registrant's lobbying activities in a semiannual period, and participates in a substantial way (currently, in whole or in major part) in the planning, supervision, or control of such lobbying activities. Waives such disclosure if it is publicly available knowledge that the organization is affiliated with the client, or has been publicly disclosed to have provided funding to the client, unless the organization in whole or in major part plans, supervises or controls such lobbying activities.

Provides that nothing in such disclosure requirement shall be construed to require disclosure of any information about individuals who are members of, or donors to, an entity treated as a client or its identified organization.

(Sec. 108) Requires the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives to provide, semiannually, to specified congressional committees the aggregate number of lobbyists and lobbying firms, separately accounted, referred to the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia for LDA noncompliance.

Requires the U.S. Attorney to report, semiannually, to such committees on the aggregate number of enforcement actions taken by the Attorney's office under the LDA and the amount of fines, if any, by case, but not the names of individuals or personally identifiable information.

(Sec. 109) Requires mandatory lobbyist reports to be filed electronically, in addition to any other form required.

(Sec. 110) Includes among lobbying activities any paid efforts to stimulate grassroots lobbying, but excludes grassroots lobbying itself.

Defines "grassroots lobbying" as the voluntary efforts of members of the general public to communicate their own views on an issue to federal officials or to encourage other members of the general public to do the same.

Defines "grassroots lobbying firm" as a person or entity that: (1) is retained by one or more clients to engage in paid efforts to stimulate grassroots lobbying on behalf of such clients; and (2) receives income of, or spends or agrees to spend, an aggregate of \$25,000 or more for such efforts in any quarterly period.

Excludes paid efforts to stimulate grassroots lobbying from the exemption from the registration requirement (thus, requiring LDA registration for such activities, regardless of low income or expenses).

Requires registration of a grassroots lobbying firm within 45 days after it is first retained by a client to engage in paid efforts to stimulate grassroots lobbying.

Modifies requirements for the contents of reports by a registered lobbying firm or individual to require separate itemization

of total income or expenses relating to paid efforts to stimulate grassroots lobbying (including advertising).

Exempts reports relating to paid efforts to stimulate grassroots lobbying activities from LDA requirements for: (1) a statement about the chambers of Congress and federal agencies contacted by lobbyists employed by the registrant on behalf of the client; and (2) a list of the registrant's employees who acted as lobbyists on behalf of the client.

Modifies requirements for the estimate of income or expenses of registered lobbyists to specify different requirements for estimates relating to paid efforts to stimulate grassroots lobbying.

Revises requirements for such estimates based on the tax reporting system with respect to such paid efforts.

Title II: Oversight of Ethics and Lobbying - (Sec. 201) Requires the Comptroller General to audit and report to Congress annually on lobbying registration and reports for LDA compliance or noncompliance by lobbyists and their clients.

(Sec. 202) Requires the Select Committee on Ethics to conduct ongoing ethics training and awareness programs for Members of the Senate and Senate staff.

(Sec. 203) Expresses the sense of the Senate that the lobbying community should develop proposals for multiple self-regulatory organizations which could provide for: (1) creation of standards for the organizations appropriate to the type of lobbying and individuals to be served; (2) training for the lobbying community on law, ethics, reporting requirements, and disclosure requirements; (3) development of educational materials for the public on how to hire a lobbyist or lobby firm responsibly; (4) standards regarding reasonable fees to clients; (5) creation of a third-party certification program that includes ethics training; and (6) disclosure of requirements to clients regarding fee schedules and conflict of interest rules.

(Sec. 204) Requires the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and the Senate Select Committee on Ethics (ethics committees) each to report annually on alleged ethics violations and complaints.

Title III: Slowing the Revolving Door - (Sec. 301) Amends the federal criminal code to extend from one to two years the ban on lobbying contacts by former very senior executive personnel, former Members of Congress, and officers of the legislative branch with any Member, officer, or employee of the entity in which such person served before his or her tenure terminated.

Prohibits former employees of either chamber of Congress, within one year after leaving office, from making lobbying contacts with a Member, officer, or employee of either chamber.

Title IV: Ban on Provision of Gifts or Travel by Lobbyists in Violation of the Rules of Congress - (Sec. 401) Amends the LDA to prohibit a registered lobbyist from knowingly making a gift or providing travel to a Member, officer, or employee of Congress, unless the gift or travel may be accepted under the rules of the House or the Senate.

Subjects such lobbyist to LDA penalties for violating this ban.

Title V: Commission to Strengthen Confidence in Congress Act of 2006 - Commission to Strengthen Confidence in Congress Act of 2006 - (Sec. 502) Establishes in the legislative branch the Commission to Strengthen Confidence in Congress to evaluate and report to Congress on congressional ethics requirements and to recommend improvements to ethical safeguards.

(Sec. 510) Authorizes appropriations.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 3, 2006:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Reported by Senator Collins with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Mar 3, 2006:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Reported by Senator Collins with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Mar 3, 2006:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 369.
- **Mar 2, 2006:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Jan 25, 2006:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 109-428.
- **Dec 16, 2005:** Introduced in Senate
- **Dec 16, 2005:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S13791-13793)
- **Dec 16, 2005:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.