

HR 97

Accountability and Transparency in Ethics Act

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Congress

Introduced: Jan 4, 2007

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties. (Feb 2, 2007)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/house-bill/97>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Castle, Michael N. [R-DE-At Large]

Party: Republican • State: DE • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Platts, Todd Russell [R-PA-19]	R · PA		Jan 4, 2007

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Committee on House Administration	House	Referred To	Jan 4, 2007
Ethics Committee	House	Referred To	Jan 4, 2007
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 2, 2007
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 2, 2007
Rules Committee	House	Referred To	Jan 4, 2007

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Congress

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
110 HRES 895	Related bill	Mar 11, 2008: Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 1031, H. Res. 895 is considered passed House as amended. (consideration: CR H1534-1537; text as passed: CR H1534-1536)
110 HRES 1018	Related bill	Mar 4, 2008: Referred to the House Committee on Rules.
110 HR 1754	Related bill	Mar 29, 2007: Referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on 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.

Accountability and Transparency in Ethics Act - Establishes an independent Investigations Commission within the legislative branch.

Requires annual ethics training for Members and employees of the House of Representatives and for registered lobbyists.

Amends Rule XXV (Limitations on Outside Earned Income and Acceptance of Gifts) of the Rules of the House to require advance authorization by the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct of any privately-funded trip by any Member, officer, or employee of the House.

Amends such Rule and Rule XXXV (Gifts) of the Standing Rules of the Senate with respect to: (1) the market value of a flight on an airplane not licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to operate for compensation or hire; (2) a ban on gifts worth less than \$50; and (3) disbursements for a national party convention event in honor of a Member, officer, or employee.

Amends the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (LDA) to: (1) transfer certain functions of the Clerk of the House to the Committee with respect to registration of lobbyists; (2) revise certain registration and disclosure requirements; and (3) prescribe civil fines for lobbyists offering certain gifts to Members, officers, or employees.

Amends the federal criminal code to revise the one-year ban on lobbying contacts by former Members, officers, or employees of either chamber of Congress.

Amends the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit conversion of leadership PAC funds to personal use.

Prohibits payment of campaign funds, except nominal reimbursements, to immediate family members of candidates.

Prohibits involvement of a registered lobbyist in administration of certain campaign committees unless a candidate for federal office.

Amends Rule XXIII (Code of Official Conduct) of the Rules of the House and Rule XXXVII (Conflict of Interest) of the Standing Rules of the Senate to require a Member of Congress or Senator to prohibit all of his or her staff from having any official contact with the Member's or Senator's spouse or immediate family member if such individual is a registered lobbyist or is employed or retained by one to influence legislation.

Expresses the sense of Congress that the use of a family relationship by a lobbyist who is an immediate family member of a Member of Congress to gain special advantages over other lobbyists is inappropriate.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 2, 2007:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
- **Feb 2, 2007:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.
- **Jan 4, 2007:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 4, 2007:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, Rules, and Standards of Official Conduct, 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.