

HR 5011

MERIT Act

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Jun 26, 2014

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice. (Sep 2, 2014)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/5011>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Speier, Jackie [D-CA-14]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (3 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Rep. Enyart, William L. [D-IL-12] | D · IL | | Jul 23, 2014 |
| Rep. Bustos, Cheri [D-IL-17] | D · IL | | Jul 30, 2014 |
| Rep. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ-9] | D · AZ | | Jul 30, 2014 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|-----------------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Committee on House Administration | House | Referred To | Jun 26, 2014 |
| Judiciary Committee | House | Referred to | Sep 2, 2014 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|--------------|--|
| 113 HR 3356 | Related bill | Oct 28, 2013: Referred to the House Committee on House Administration. |

Making Every Representative's Integrity Transparent Act of 2014 or the MERIT Act - Amends the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit a candidate's authorized committee from employing any of the candidate's relatives in a paid position.

Prohibits a leadership political action committee (PAC) from employing in a paid position any relative of the candidate or any individual holding federal office who establishes, finances, maintains, or controls the leadership PAC.

Limits the interest rate an authorized committee may pay on a loan accepted from the candidate to an annual rate no higher than the prime rate plus 2%.

Revises political committee disclosure requirements about:

- loans made by candidates,
- expenditures to relatives of candidates for operating expenses, and
- disbursements received by a candidate's relative or a business organization one of whose officers or directors is a relative of the candidate.

Applies the prohibition against the conversion to personal use of contributions accepted by candidates also to contributions accepted by political committees.

Allows the use of contributions accepted by political committees for authorized expenditures in connection with political activities.

Amends the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to: (1) require lobbying registrations to contain, for each employee of the registrant who has acted or who the registrant expects to act as a lobbyist on behalf of the client, the name of each relative of the employee who serves currently or who has served previously as a covered executive or legislative branch official, including the Congressional Bioguide Identifier of any covered official who is or was a Member of Congress; (2) require updates to registrations for employees who become relatives of covered officials, and (3) include lobbying contacts with relatives who are covered officials in quarterly reports on lobbying activities.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 2, 2014:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.
- **Jun 26, 2014:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 26, 2014:** Referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on 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.