

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2860

To amend the Budget Control Act of 2011 to require members and staff of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction to disclose lobbying activities and campaign or member-designated political action committee contributions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

Mr. LOEBACK (for himself, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. RENACCI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

A BILL

To amend the Budget Control Act of 2011 to require members and staff of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction to disclose lobbying activities and campaign or member-designated political action committee contributions, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Deficit Committee
5 Transparency Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS**
2 **AND STAFF OF THE JOINT SELECT COM-**
3 **MITTEE ON DEFICIT REDUCTION.**

4 Section 401 of the Budget Control Act of 2011 is
5 amended by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (h)
6 and by adding after subsection (c) the following new sub-
7 sections:

8 “(d) DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES AND
9 MEETINGS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any member of the joint
11 committee, and any individual who is on the staff of
12 the committee or on the personal staff of a member
13 of the committee, shall disclose any meeting with
14 any other individual relating to matters before the
15 committee if such individual—

16 “(A) is a registered lobbyist or agent of a
17 foreign principal as those terms are defined in
18 clause 5 of rule XXV of the Rules of the House
19 of Representatives;

20 “(B) has any direct personal or pecuniary
21 interest in any legislative measure pending be-
22 fore the House of Representatives or the Senate
23 or reported by a committee of either House; or

24 “(C) is in the employ of or represents any
25 party or organization for the purpose of influ-

1 encing, directly or indirectly, the passage, de-
2 feat, or amendment of any legislative proposal.

3 “(2) TIMING OF DISCLOSURE.—A meeting shall
4 be disclosed under paragraph (1) within 48 hours
5 after such meeting is held, subject to subsection
6 (f)(2).

7 “(e) DISCLOSURE OF CAMPAIGN OR MEMBER-DES-
8 IGNATED POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE CONTRIBU-
9 TIONS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any member of the joint
11 committee who is a candidate with an authorized
12 committee or who is a candidate or an individual
13 holding Federal office affiliated with a leadership
14 PAC shall disclose any contribution such committee
15 or such leadership PAC receives from an individual,
16 or any entity, which—

17 “(A) is a registered lobbyist or agent of a
18 foreign principal;

19 “(B) the authorized committee or leader-
20 ship PAC, using the best efforts of such com-
21 mittee or PAC, determines is in the employ of
22 or represents any party or organization for the
23 purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the
24 passage, defeat, or amendment of any legisla-
25 tive proposal; or

1 “(C) makes a single contribution in excess
2 of \$500.

3 “(2) TIMING OF DISCLOSURE.—The disclosure
4 required under paragraph (1) shall be made not
5 later than 48 hours after the receipt of the contribu-
6 tion described in such paragraph.

7 “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

8 “(A) AUTHORIZED COMMITTEE, CAN-
9 DIDATE, AND CONTRIBUTION.—The terms ‘au-
10 thorized committee’, ‘candidate’, and ‘contribu-
11 tion’ have the meaning given such terms in sec-
12 tion 301 of the Federal Election Campaign Act
13 of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431).

14 “(B) FOREIGN PRINCIPAL, LOBBYIST.—
15 The terms ‘foreign principal’ and ‘registered
16 lobbyist’ have the meaning given such terms in
17 clause 5 of rule XXV of the Rules of the House
18 of Representatives.

19 “(C) LEADERSHIP PAC.—The term ‘leader-
20 ship PAC’ has the meaning given such term in
21 section 304(i)(8) of the Federal Election Cam-
22 paign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 434(i)(8)).

23 “(f) FINAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES & CAMPAIGN OR
24 MEMBER-DESIGNATED POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE
25 CONTRIBUTIONS.—

1 “(1) CONTENTS OF FINAL REPORT.—Not later
2 than December 2, 2011, the joint committee shall
3 submit a report to both Houses of Congress dis-
4 closing all information required under subsections
5 (d) and (e) in a final report.

6 “(2) CERTAIN ACTIVITIES POSTED ON
7 WEBSITE.—(A) Any meeting described under sub-
8 section (d) that occurs in the 48-hour period imme-
9 diately preceding the vote required under subsection
10 (b)(3)(B)(i) shall be posted on the official website of
11 the joint committee before such meeting is held and
12 before such vote may occur.

13 “(B) Any meeting described under subsection
14 (d) that occurs in the 48-hour period immediately
15 preceding the submission of the report and legisla-
16 tive language required under subsection (b)(3)(B)(ii)
17 shall be posted to the website before such meeting
18 is held and before such submission may occur.

19 “(g) OFFICIAL WEBSITE.—

20 “(1) CREATION OF JOINT COMMITTEE
21 WEBSITE.—Before the first meeting of the joint
22 committee, the Co-Chairs shall establish and main-
23 tain a website for the joint committee that is avail-
24 able to the public and the contents of which are
25 searchable and sortable.

1 “(2) CONTENT.—The website shall contain in-
2 formation required under subsections (d), (e), and
3 (f) and shall contain such other information the
4 joint committee or its staff deems necessary and
5 beneficial to inform the public of the committee’s
6 proceedings, deliberations, and deadlines of the joint
7 committee.

8 “(3) POSTING REQUIREMENTS.—Information
9 required to be disclosed under subsections (d), (e),
10 and (f) shall be posted to the website within the
11 timeframe required for disclosure under such sub-
12 sections.”.

13 **SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF REPORT AND LEGISLATIVE LAN-**
14 **GUAGE PROPOSED BY JOINT COMMITTEE.**

15 Section 401(b)(3)(B)(iv) of the Budget Control Act
16 of 2011 is amended by inserting before the first sentence
17 the following new sentence: “The proposed joint com-
18 mittee report and proposed legislative language shall be
19 made available to the public on the website of the joint
20 committee at least 72 hours before the vote on such meas-
21 ures.”.

1 **SEC. 4. AUDIO AND VISUAL COVERAGE OF JOINT COM-**
2 **MITTEE HEARINGS.**

3 Section 401(b)(5)(F) of the Budget Control Act of
4 2011 is amended by adding at the end thereof the fol-
5 lowing new clause:

6 “(iii) AUDIO AND VISUAL COV-
7 ERAGE.—Whenever a hearing conducted by
8 the joint committee is open to the public,
9 those proceedings shall be open to coverage
10 by audio and visual means, including in a
11 format that is streaming on the Internet
12 via the website of the joint committee.”.

○