

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4524

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit former Members and elected officers of Congress from lobbying Congress at any time after leaving office.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 13, 2026

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Ms. WARREN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit former Members and elected officers of Congress from lobbying Congress at any time after leaving office.

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 “Banning Lobbying And
5 Safeguarding Trust Act” or the “BLAST Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITING FORMER MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**
2 **OF CONGRESS FROM LOBBYING CONGRESS.**

3 (a) PROHIBITION.—Section 207(e) of title 18, United
4 States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (1) and
5 inserting the following:

6 “(1) MEMBERS AND ELECTED OFFICERS OF
7 CONGRESS.—Any person who is a Senator, a Mem-
8 ber of the House of Representatives, or an elected
9 officer of the Senate or the House of Representa-
10 tives and who, after that person leaves office—

11 “(A) registers as a lobbyist under section
12 4 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2
13 U.S.C. 1603), or

14 “(B) knowingly makes, with the intent to
15 influence, any communication to or appearance
16 before any Member, officer, or employee of ei-
17 ther House of Congress or any employee of any
18 other legislative office of Congress, on behalf of
19 any other person (except the United States) in
20 connection with any matter on which the former
21 Senator, Member, or elected official seeks ac-
22 tion by a Member, officer, or employee of either
23 House of Congress, in his or her official capac-
24 ity,

25 shall be punished as provided in section 216.”.

1 (b) LOBBYIST DEFINITION.—Section 3(10) of the
 2 Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1602(10)) is
 3 amended—

4 (1) by striking “‘lobbyist’ means any” and in-
 5 serting “‘lobbyist’—

6 “(A) means any”;

7 (2) by striking the period at the end and insert-
 8 ing “; and”; and

9 (3) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(B) includes any former Member of Con-
 11 gress who is employed or retained by a client
 12 for financial or other compensation—

13 “(i) for services that include making 1
 14 or more lobbying contacts; or

15 “(ii) to engage in lobbying activities
 16 that do not include making lobbying con-
 17 tacts.”.

18 (c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—
 19 Section 207(e)(2) of title 18, United States Code, is
 20 amended—

21 (1) in the heading, by striking “OFFICERS AND
 22 STAFF” and inserting “STAFF”;

23 (2) by striking “an elected officer of the Senate,
 24 or”;

25 (3) by striking “office or”; and

1 (4) by striking “former elected officer or”.

2 (d) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this
3 section shall apply with respect to an individual who leaves
4 office on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

○