

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 170

To amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and the Rules of the House of Representatives to strengthen financial disclosures and to require precertification of privately-funded travel, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2007

Mr. KING of Iowa introduced the following bill; which was 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

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## A BILL

To amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and the Rules of the House of Representatives to strengthen financial disclosures and to require precertification of privately-funded travel, 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 “Sunlight Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. PRECERTIFICATION OF TRAVEL BY COMMITTEE ON**  
2 **STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT.**

3 Clause 5 of rule XXV of the Rules of the House of  
4 Representatives is amended by inserting after paragraph  
5 (d) the following new paragraph:

6 “(d)(1) Before a Member, Delegate, Resident Com-  
7 missioner, officer, or employee of the House may take a  
8 privately-funded trip, that individual shall—

9 “(A) provide the estimated cost of the trip, the  
10 entity paying for the trip, the purpose of the trip,  
11 the modes of transportation, accommodations, num-  
12 ber of meals on the trip, and the proposed itinerary  
13 to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct;  
14 and

15 “(B) agree to provide to the Committee on  
16 Standards of Official Conduct within 5 calendar  
17 days after the trip is completed the expenses reim-  
18 bursed or to be reimbursed and any changes from  
19 the information provided under subdivision (A).

20 The information shall be made available on the public  
21 website of the committee in a searchable and sortable  
22 manner.

23 “(2) A Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner,  
24 officer, or employee of the House may not take a privately-  
25 funded trip unless the Committee makes a determination  
26 that the proposed trip (including the itinerary and esti-

1 mated expenses) complies with all applicable rules of the  
 2 House, based on the information submitted under sub-  
 3 paragraph (1).”.

4 **SEC. 3. DOLLAR AMOUNTS REQUIRED FOR ANNUAL FINAN-**  
 5 **CIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS.**

6 (a) FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES.—Section 102(d) of the  
 7 Ethics in Government Act of 1978 is amended by adding  
 8 at the end the following new paragraph:

9 “(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act,  
 10 in the case of reports of Members of Congress and officers  
 11 and employees of Congress filed pursuant to sections  
 12 101(d) and (e), references to the categories for reporting  
 13 the amount or value of the items covered in paragraphs  
 14 (3), (4), (5), and (8) of subsection (a) shall be deemed  
 15 to be exact dollar amounts.”.

16 (b) AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS ON THE INTER-  
 17 NET.—Section 103 of the Ethics in Government Act of  
 18 1978 is amended by adding at the end the following new  
 19 subsection:

20 “(1) A copy of each report filed under this title with  
 21 the Clerk of the House of Representatives or the Secretary  
 22 of the Senate shall be made available as soon as prac-  
 23 ticable to the general public on the Internet in a format  
 24 that is searchable and sortable.”.

1 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
2 subsection (a) shall apply to reports filed for calendar  
3 years beginning after the date of enactment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 4. PUBLIC DISPLAY OF THE SUBJECT MATTER OF DE-**  
5 **BATES.**

6 Clause 2 of rule II of the Rules of the House of Rep-  
7 resentatives is amended by adding at the end the following  
8 new paragraph:

9 “(l) During general debate on any measure, the Clerk  
10 shall project on a wall of the Hall of the House the subject  
11 matter of that debate so that it is visible to Members and  
12 to visitors in the gallery.”.

13 **SEC. 5. AVAILABILITY OF BILLS, CONFERENCE REPORTS,**  
14 **AND AMENDMENTS ON THE INTERNET BE-**  
15 **FORE VOTING.**

16 Rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representa-  
17 tives is amended by adding at the end the following new  
18 clause:

19 “7. It shall not be in order to consider any bill or  
20 joint resolution, or conference report thereon, or amend-  
21 ment thereto, unless—

22 “(1) in the case of a bill, joint resolution, or  
23 conference report, such measure is made available to  
24 Members and the general public on the Internet for  
25 at least 48 hours before its consideration; or

1 “(2)(A) in the case of an amendment made in  
 2 order by a rule, it is made available to Members and  
 3 the general public on the Internet within one hour  
 4 after the rule is filed; or

5 “(B) in the case of an amendment under an  
 6 open rule, it is made available to Members and the  
 7 general public on the Internet immediately after  
 8 being offered;

9 in a format that is searchable and sortable.”.

10 **SEC. 6. PROMOTING EXPEDITED AVAILABILITY OF FEC RE-**  
 11 **PORTS.**

12 (a) MANDATORY ELECTRONIC FILING FOR ALL RE-  
 13 PORTS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 304(a)(11) of the  
 15 Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C.  
 16 434(a)(11)) is amended—

17 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “a  
 18 person required to file—” and all that follows  
 19 and inserting the following: “each person re-  
 20 quired to file a report under this Act shall be  
 21 required to maintain and file such report in  
 22 electronic form accessible by computers.”;

23 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “des-  
 24 ignations, statements, and reports” and insert-  
 25 ing “documents”; and

1 (C) in subparagraph (D), by striking  
2 “means, with respect to” and all that follows  
3 and inserting the following: “means any report,  
4 designation, statement, or notification required  
5 by this Act to be filed with the Commission or  
6 the Secretary of the Senate.”.

7 (2) PLACEMENT OF ALL REPORTS ON INTER-  
8 NET.—Section 304(a)(11)(B) of such Act (2 U.S.C.  
9 434(a)(11)(B)) is amended—

10 (A) by striking “a designation, statement,  
11 report, or notification” and inserting “each re-  
12 port”; and

13 (B) by striking “the designation, state-  
14 ment, report, or notification” and inserting  
15 “the report”.

16 (3) SEARCHABLE AND SORTABLE MANNER OF  
17 INFORMATION.—Section 304(a)(11)(B) of such Act  
18 (2 U.S.C. 434(a)(11)(B)) is amended by inserting  
19 “in a format that is searchable and sortable” after  
20 “Internet”.

21 (4) SOFTWARE FOR FILING OF ALL REPORTS.—  
22 Section 304(a)(12) of such Act (2 U.S.C  
23 434a(a)(12)) is amended—

24 (A) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking  
25 “each person required to file a designation,

1 statement, or report in electronic form” and in-  
2 serting “each person required to file a report  
3 (as defined in paragraph (11)(D))”; and

4 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “any  
5 designation, statement, or report” and inserting  
6 “any report (as defined in paragraph  
7 (11)(D))”.

8 (b) REQUIRING REPORTS FOR ALL CONTRIBUTIONS  
9 MADE TO ANY POLITICAL COMMITTEE WITHIN 30 DAYS  
10 OF ELECTION; REQUIRING REPORTS TO BE MADE WITH-  
11 IN 24 HOURS.—Section 304(a)(6)(A) of such Act (2  
12 U.S.C. 434(a)(6)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

13 “(A) Each political committee shall notify the Sec-  
14 retary or the Commission, and the Secretary of State, as  
15 appropriate, in writing, of any contribution received by the  
16 committee during the period which begins on the 30th day  
17 before an election and ends at the time the polls close for  
18 such election. This notification shall be made within 24  
19 hours (or, if earlier, by midnight of the day on which the  
20 contribution is deposited) after the receipt of such con-  
21 tribution and shall include the name of the candidate in-  
22 volved (as appropriate) and the office sought by the can-  
23 didate, the identification of the contributor, and the date  
24 of receipt and amount of the contribution.”.

1       (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
2 this section shall apply with respect to reports for periods  
3 beginning on or after January 1, 2008.

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