

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2093

To amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to provide for additional reporting by lobbying firms.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 1, 2007

Mr. MEEHAN (for himself and Mr. SHAYS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to provide for additional reporting by lobbying firms.

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. DISCLOSURE OF PAID COMMUNICATIONS CAM-**
4 **PAIGNS TO INFLUENCE THE GENERAL PUB-**
5 **LIC TO LOBBY CONGRESS.**

6 (a) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this
7 section shall not apply to any person or entity other than
8 a lobbying firm that is retained on behalf of a client other
9 than that person or entity. No person or entity other than

1 a lobbying firm is required to register or file a report
2 under the amendments made by this section.

3 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclo-
4 sure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1602) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (7), by adding at the end the
6 following: “For purposes of a lobbying firm only, the
7 term ‘lobbying activities’ includes paid communica-
8 tions campaigns to influence the general public to
9 lobby Congress.”;

10 (2) in paragraph (9)—

11 (A) in the first sentence—

12 (i) by striking “means a person” and
13 inserting
14 “(A) means—

15 “(i) a person”;

16 (ii) by moving the remaining text of
17 the sentence 4 ems to the right; and

18 (iii) by striking “entity.” and insert-
19 ing “entity; and

20 “(ii) a person or entity that is re-
21 tained by 1 or more clients (other than
22 that person or entity) to engage in paid
23 communications campaigns to influence the
24 general public to lobby Congress, and re-
25 ceives income of, or spends or agrees to

1 spend, an aggregate of \$100,000 or more
2 for such efforts in any quarterly period;
3 and”; and

4 (B) in the last sentence—

5 (i) by striking “The term also in-
6 cludes” and inserting

7 “(B) includes”; and

8 (ii) by moving the remaining text of
9 the sentence 2 ems to the right; and

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

11 “(17) PAID COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGNS TO
12 INFLUENCE THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO LOBBY CON-
13 GRESS.—The term ‘paid communications campaigns
14 to influence the general public to lobby Congress’
15 means any efforts by a lobbying firm, on behalf of
16 a client that retains the firm, to influence the gen-
17 eral public or segments thereof to contact 1 or more
18 covered legislative or executive branch officials (or
19 Congress generally) to urge such officials (or Con-
20 gress) to take specific action with respect to a mat-
21 ter described in paragraph (8)(A), except that such
22 term does not include—

23 “(A) communications made to the mem-
24 bers of the client; or

1 “(B) direct mail communications to the
2 general public, or segments of the general pub-
3 lic, that are made primarily for the purpose of
4 recruiting members to join an organization.”.

5 (c) REGISTRATION.—Section 4(a) of the Lobbying
6 Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1603(a)) is amended
7 by inserting after paragraph (2) the following and redesign-
8 nating the succeeding paragraph accordingly:

9 “(3) FILING BY CERTAIN LOBBYING FIRMS.—
10 Any person or entity that qualifies as a lobbying
11 firm under section 3(9)(A)(ii) shall register with the
12 Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House
13 of Representatives not later than 45 days after such
14 lobbying firm is first retained by a client to engage
15 in paid communications campaigns to influence the
16 general public to lobby Congress.”.

17 (d) SEPARATE ITEMIZATION OF PAID COMMUNICA-
18 TIONS CAMPAIGNS TO INFLUENCE THE GENERAL PUBLIC
19 To LOBBY CONGRESS.—Section 5(b) of the Act (2 U.S.C.
20 1604(b)) is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (3)—

22 (A) by striking “firm, a good” and insert-
23 ing “firm—

24 “(A) a good”;

(B) by moving the remaining text 2 ems to the right; and

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

10 (2) by adding at the end the following:

11 “Subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (2) shall not
12 apply with respect to reports relating to paid communica-
13 tions campaigns to influence the general public to lobby
14 Congress.”.