

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 659

To amend title 5, United States Code, to reform the provisions of law commonly referred to as the “Hatch Act”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2013

Mr. LATTA (for himself and Mr. PASCARELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To amend title 5, United States Code, to reform the provisions of law commonly referred to as the “Hatch Act”.

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 “State and Local Law
5 Enforcement Hatch Act Reform Act of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.**

7 Section 1502 of title 5, United States Code, is
8 amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(d) Subsection (a)(1) does not prohibit a sheriff
2 from participating in political campaigns for, or endorsing,
3 political candidates running for elective office by—

4 “(1) attending or speaking at political cam-
5 paign rallies or events;

6 “(2) holding or sponsoring political fundraisers;

7 or

8 “(3) appearing on political advertisements, in-
9 cluding print, radio, television, or any other form of
10 advertising.”.

11 **SEC. 3. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.**

12 Section 1504 of title 5, United States Code, is
13 amended—

14 (1) by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before
15 “When”; and

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

17 “(b) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR LAW ENFORCE-
18 MENT OFFICERS.—With respect to paragraphs (1) and
19 (3) of section 1502(a), the Special Counsel may not
20 present any charges against a law enforcement officer
21 under subsection (a) after the end of the 6-month period
22 beginning on the later of—

23 “(1) the date of the alleged violation of para-
24 graph (1) or (3) of section 1502(a), as the case may
25 be; or

1 “(2) the date of the enactment of the State and
2 Local Law Enforcement Hatch Act Reform Act of
3 2013.”.

4 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

5 Section 1501 of title 5, United States Code, is
6 amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” after
8 the semicolon;

9 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period and
10 inserting a semicolon; and

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

12 “(5) ‘sheriff’ means an individual who holds the
13 elected Office of Sheriff, as defined by State con-
14 stitution or State statute, of a county, town, town-
15 ship, parish, village, or other general purpose polit-
16 ical subdivision of a State; and

17 “(6) ‘law enforcement officer’ means a State or
18 local officer or employee whose duties are primarily
19 the investigation, apprehension, or detention of indi-
20 viduals suspected or convicted of offenses against
21 the criminal laws of a State or local jurisdiction, in-
22 cluding an officer or employee engaged in this activ-
23 ity who is transferred to a supervisory or adminis-
24 trative position.”.

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