

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2417

To provide greater controls and restrictions on revolving door lobbying.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 3, 2014

Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. TESTER) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To provide greater controls and restrictions on revolving door lobbying.

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 “Close the Revolving
5 Door Act of 2014”.

6 **SEC. 2. LIFETIME BAN ON MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FROM**
7 **LOBBYING.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 207(e)(1) of title 18,
9 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

1 “(1) MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—Any person
 2 who is a Senator, a Member of the House of Rep-
 3 resentatives or an elected officer of the Senate or the
 4 House of Representatives and who after that person
 5 leaves office, knowingly makes, with the intent to in-
 6 fluence, any communication to or appearance before
 7 any Member, officer, or employee of either House of
 8 Congress or any employee of any other legislative of-
 9 fice of the Congress, on behalf of any other person
 10 (except the United States) in connection with any
 11 matter on which such former Senator, Member, or
 12 elected official seeks action by a Member, officer, or
 13 employee of either House of Congress, in his or her
 14 official capacity, shall be punished as provided in
 15 section 216 of this title.”.

16 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 207(e)(2)
 17 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

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

20 (2) by striking “an elected officer of the Senate,
 21 or”.

22 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF.**

23 Paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5)(A), and (6)(A) of sec-
 24 tion 207(e) of title 18, United States Code, is amended
 25 by striking “1 year” and inserting “6 years”.

1 **SEC. 4. IMPROVED REPORTING OF LOBBYISTS' ACTIVITIES.**

2 Section 6 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2
3 U.S.C. 1605) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(c) JOINT WEB SITE.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Sen-
7 ate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives
8 shall maintain a joint lobbyist disclosure Internet
9 database for information required to be publicly dis-
10 closed under this Act which shall be an easily
11 searchable Web site called lobbyists.gov with a stat-
12 ed goal of simplicity of usage.

13 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

14 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
15 this subsection \$100,000 for fiscal year 2015.”.

16 **SEC. 5. LOBBYIST REVOLVING DOOR TO CONGRESS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Any person who is a registered
18 lobbyist or an agent of a foreign principal may not within
19 6 years after that person leaves such position be hired by
20 a Member or committee of either House of Congress with
21 whom the registered lobbyist or an agent of a foreign prin-
22 cipal has had substantial lobbying contact.

23 (b) WAIVER.—This section may be waived in the Sen-
24 ate or the House of Representatives by the Committee on
25 Ethics or the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct
26 based on a compelling national need.

1 (c) SUBSTANTIAL LOBBYING CONTACT.—For pur-
 2 poses of this section, in determining whether a registered
 3 lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal has had substantial
 4 lobbying contact within the applicable period of time, the
 5 Member or committee of either House of Congress shall
 6 take into consideration whether the individual’s lobbying
 7 contacts have pertained to pending legislative business, or
 8 related to solicitation of an earmark or other Federal
 9 funding, particularly if such contacts included the coordi-
 10 nation of meetings with the Member or staff, involved
 11 presentations to staff, or participation in fundraising ex-
 12 ceeding the mere giving of a personal contribution. Simple
 13 social contacts with the Member or committee of either
 14 House of Congress and staff, shall not by themselves con-
 15 stitute substantial lobbying contacts.

16 **SEC. 6. REPORTING BY SUBSTANTIAL LOBBYING ENTITIES.**

17 The Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601
 18 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 6 the fol-
 19 lowing:

20 **“SEC. 6A. REPORTING BY SUBSTANTIAL LOBBYING ENTI-**
 21 **TIES.**

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A substantial lobbying entity
 23 shall file on an annual basis with the Clerk of the House
 24 of Representatives and the Secretary of the United States
 25 Senate a list of any employee, individual under contract,

1 or individual who provides paid consulting services who
2 is—

3 “(1) a former United States Senator or a
4 former Member of the United States House of Rep-
5 resentatives; or

6 “(2) a former congressional staff person who—

7 “(A) made at least \$100,000 in any 1 year
8 as a congressional staff person;

9 “(B) worked for a total of 4 years or more
10 as a congressional staff person; or

11 “(C) had a job title at any time while em-
12 ployed as a congressional staff person that con-
13 tained any of the following terms: ‘Chief of
14 Staff’, ‘Legislative Director’, ‘Staff Director’,
15 ‘Counsel’, ‘Professional Staff Member’, ‘Com-
16 munications Director’, or ‘Press Secretary’.

17 “(b) CONTENTS OF FILING.—The filing required by
18 this section shall contain a brief job description of each
19 such employee, individual under contract, or individual
20 who provides paid consulting services, and an explanation
21 of their work experience under subsection (a) that requires
22 this filing.

23 “(c) IMPROVED REPORTING OF SUBSTANTIAL LOB-
24 BYING ENTITIES.—The Joint Web site being maintained
25 by the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House

1 of Representatives, known as lobbyists.gov, shall include
 2 an easily searchable database entitled ‘Substantial Lob-
 3 bying Entities’ that includes qualifying employees, individ-
 4 uals under contract, or individuals who provide paid con-
 5 sulting services, under subsection (a).

6 “(d) LAW ENFORCEMENT OVERSIGHT.—The Clerk
 7 of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the
 8 Senate shall provide a copy of the filings of substantial
 9 lobbying entities to the District of Columbia United States
 10 Attorney, to allow the District of Columbia United States
 11 Attorney to determine whether any such entities are
 12 underreporting the Federal lobbying activities of its em-
 13 ployees, individuals under contract, or individuals who
 14 provide paid consulting services.

15 “(e) SUBSTANTIAL LOBBYING ENTITY.—In this sec-
 16 tion, the term ‘substantial lobbying entity’ means an incor-
 17 porated entity that employs more than 3 federally reg-
 18 istered lobbyists during a filing period.”.

19 **SEC. 7. ENHANCED PENALTIES.**

20 Section 7(a) of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995
 21 (2 U.S.C. 1606(a)) is amended by striking “\$200,000”
 22 and inserting “\$500,000”.

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