

**Prepared by the Campaign Legal Center
Current As of July 21, 2006
Comparison of Lobbying Reform Legislation**

	Current Law	S. 2349 (Passed 3/29/06, 90-8)	H.R. 4975 (Passed 5/3/06, 217- 213)	H.R. 5677 (Introduced 6/22/06) Shays-Meehan	S. Res. 525* (Introduced 6/29/06) Feingold-Obama
Enhancing Lobbying Disclosure 2 U.S.C. 1601 (P.L.104-65)	Requires semi-annual filing of lobbying reports in a public database	Requires quarterly electronic filing of lobbying reports in a public database	Requires quarterly electronic filing of lobbying reports in a public database; report must be made available 48 hours after the report is approved by Clerk	Requires semi-annual electronic filing of lobbying reports to be filed with Office of Public Integrity, in addition to other required forms; electronic report must be made available to the public in searchable Internet database	Not Applicable
<i>Penalties for failure to comply with lobbying laws</i>	Provides penalties for failure to comply with all rules and regulations up to \$50,000	Increases penalty for failure to comply with lobbying laws to \$100,000	Increases penalty for failure to comply with lobbying to \$100,000 and adds a criminal penalty including possible imprisonment	Does not address this issue	Not Applicable
<i>Disclosure of agency contacted</i>	Requires disclosure of body or agency contacted	Does not require any further disclosure	Does not require any further disclosure	Does not address this issue	Not Applicable
<i>Disclosure of lobbyists' past employment</i>	Requires lobbyists to disclose legislative and executive employment within the last two years	Requires lobbyists to disclose past legislative and executive employment	Requires lobbyists to disclose past legislative and executive employment within the last seven years	Does not address this issue	Not Applicable
<i>Disclosure of lobbyists' contributions to Members</i>	Does not provide restrictions on campaign contributions or campaign activities by lobbyists	Requires annual reporting of campaign contributions and fundraisers held by lobbyists, but not by employers of lobbyists	Requires lobbyist to disclose on lobby reports all contributions made to candidates, PACs, and any entity established, financed, maintained, or controlled by a Member	Requires lobbyists to disclose on lobby reports all financial contributions made to benefit Members, including campaign contributions, contributions to foundations and other entities controlled by Congress; fundraising events hosted and the amounts raised; and contributions to costs of meetings, conferences, events or retreats for Members' benefit must also be disclosed	Not Applicable

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<i>Disclosure of efforts to stimulate grassroots lobbying</i>	Requires disclosure of financial estimates of amount spent on "lobbying activities"	Requires disclosure of paid efforts to stimulate grassroots lobbying	Does not require any further disclosure	Requires disclosure of paid efforts to stimulate grassroots lobbying by professional lobbying firms; does not apply to organizations' communications with their members to stimulate grassroots lobbying of Congress	Not Applicable
<i>Handling of lobbying reports</i>	Requires Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House to assist, review, verify and provide guidance for all requirements & reports	Does not require any further disclosure	Allows House Inspector General new authority to conduct random audits of lobbyist disclosure reports	Transfers authority to receive, monitor, and oversee financial disclosure and other reports filed by Members to a newly established independent Office of Public Integrity (OPI); OPI has power to conduct investigations of potential ethics violations by Members and present cases of probable ethics violations to congressional ethics committees; OPI also has power to conduct audits of lobbying disclosure reports	Not Applicable
<i>Ethics training for lobbyists</i>	Does not require lobbyists to complete ethics training	Does not require lobbyists to complete ethics training	Requires lobbyists to complete an 8 hour ethics training course each Congress	Does not require lobbyists to complete ethics training	Not Applicable
Slowing the Revolving Door 18 U.S.C. 207	Provides for a 1 year cooling off period before former Members can lobby the legislative branch; staff who make 3/4 of Members' salary may not lobby former office or committee	Increases cooling off period from 1 to 2 years for Members and staff	Maintains 1 year cooling off period for senior executive branch employees, Members of Congress, and senior congressional staff	Increases cooling off period from 1 to 2 years for Members and staff	During 1 year cooling off period, former congressional staff who made more than 3/4 of a Member's salary may not lobby any Member or employee of the Senate; requires Senators to prohibit staff from having official contact with a spouse or immediate family members of the Senator if the family member is a registered

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					lobbyist
<i>Cooling off</i>	Bans further involvement in particular matters; 2 year cooling off on matters under supervision, 1 year ban on employment for trade matters	Does not require anything further	Does not require anything further	Does not require anything further	Does not require anything further
<i>Members' private sector employment negotiations</i>	Does not require disclosure	Requires disclosure to the Secretary of the Senate when a Member is negotiating future private-sector employment	Requires disclosure to the Ethics Committee when a Member is negotiating future private-sector employment	Does not require disclosure	Prohibits Senators from directly negotiating prospective private employment until after the election of his or her successor, unless the Member files a statement with the Secretary of the Senate publicly disclosing such negotiations
<i>Floor privileges for former Members who are lobbyists</i>	All former Members have floor privileges	Eliminates floor privileges for former Members who are lobbyists	Does not eliminate floor privileges for former Members who are lobbyists	Does not eliminate floor privileges for former Members who are lobbyists	Eliminates floor privileges for former Members who are lobbyists
<i>Cooling off period notification</i>	Does not require notification	Does not require notification	Requires Clerk of the House to notify retiring public officials of the start-date and end-date of the cooling off period	Does not require notification	Does not require notification
<i>K Street Project: Members influencing hiring decisions of private entities</i>	Does not eliminate K street project	Members prohibited from influencing hiring decisions of private entities	Members prohibited from influencing hiring decisions of private entities	Does not eliminate K street project	Members prohibited from influencing hiring decisions of private entities
Privately Funded Travel and Lobbyist Gifts 5 U.S.C. 7353	Does not allow Members to solicit or accept anything of value unless the gift is pursuant to rules or regulations established by supervising ethics office; no gift may be accepted in	Does not fine lobbyists for offering an illegal gift	Fines lobbyist up to \$50,000 for offering an illegal gift	Bans all gifts to Members and staff, subject to existing gift rule exceptions; definition of gifts to Members expanded to include events and parties honoring Members held at national	Bans all gifts over \$50 in value from lobbyists to Members

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	return for being influenced in the performance of any official act			party conventions	
<i>Corporate jets</i>	Allows Members to take flights on corporate jets with lobbyists and reimburse corporations at the price of a first class ticket	Discloses Members' flights on corporate jets, including destination, date and purpose of flight, owner of the aircraft, and other people on board; such flights must be disclosed within 30 days of travel	Does not amend reimbursement rates or disclosure requirements; lobbyists not allowed on corporate flights with members; does not require disclosure of	Requires Members to pay fair market value of charter flights; candidates must reimburse for such flights within 7 days of flight; requires Members to file report for public disclosure of flight destination, date, purpose of flight and all other persons on board within 10 days after flight	Does not address this issue
<i>Gift limits</i>	Members and staff may accept gifts valued up to \$50; \$100 aggregate gift limit from same source in one year; no disclosure of gifts required	Bans gifts from lobbyists to Members and staff, including meals and tickets, but does not ban gifts from organizations that employ lobbyists	Does not amend existing gift rules, but requires tickets to sports events or entertainment to be valued at their face value	Bans all gifts to Members and staff; definition of gifts to Members expanded to include events and parties honoring Members held at national party conventions	
<i>Privately funded travel</i>	Allows Members to go on privately funded travel, but they must disclose each trip	Requires Members to obtain written approval from the Ethics Committee for privately funded travel; Member must file a description of travel and post on their website within 30 days after traveling	Suspends privately funded travel until June 15 th when the Ethics Committee will have a new policy regarding privately-sponsored travel	Prohibits Members and staff from: accepting privately funded travel from organizations that retain lobbyists or travel that is planned, organized, requested, arranged or financed by a lobbyist; to take a privately financed trip; Member must obtain written certification from trip organizer that no lobbyist will participate and provide description of meetings and events attended during such travel and sponsoring organizations must certify travel complies with	Members and staff must gain pre-approval from the Ethics Committee for any trip and certify that transportation and lodging are not financed by, arranged by or provided at the request of a lobbyist; travel must be disclosed on the Member's website within 30 days after traveling

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				regulations	
<i>Lobbyist attendance on privately funded trips</i>	Permits lobbyists to attend privately funded travel	Prohibits lobbyists from attending privately funded travel	Permits lobbyists to attend privately funded travel	Prohibits lobbyists from attending privately funded travel	Not applicable
<i>Members' travel to charity events</i>	Allows Members to attend charity events at the bequest of event sponsor; also allows reimbursement for transportation and lodging in certain cases	Does not change current law	Does not change current law	Does not change current law	Not applicable
Changes in Congressional Ethics	Does not require mandatory ethics training for Members	Requires mandatory ethics training for Senators and staff	Requires mandatory ethics training for all staff or withholding of salary until completed; encourages Members to attend training by publishing online and in the Congressional Record the names of Members who have and have not completed ethics training	Office of Public Integrity to develop and carry out periodic educational ethics briefings for Members and staff	Does not require mandatory ethics training for Members or staff
<i>Enforcement of ethics rules</i>	Requires ethics rules to be enforced by the ethics committee in each chamber	Requires annual Ethics Committee reports	Requires biennial publication of ethics manual and annual report from the Inspector General	OPI to assist congressional ethics committees in overseeing and enforcing ethics rules; OPI authorized to conduct investigations of Members potential ethics violations and present cases to ethics committees, which would recommend appropriate sanctions	Does not address ethics enforcement
<i>Member pensions</i>	Allows Members convicted of a crime that occurred during congressional service	Allows Members convicted of a crime that occurred during congressional service	Takes away pension for Members convicted of a crime that occurred during	Does not address Member pensions	Does not address Member pensions

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	to keep his or her pension	to keep his or her pension	congressional service		
Other Key Provisions <i>Earmarks</i>	Current law does not address earmarks	Requires sponsors of earmarks in any Senate bill, Senate amendment or conference report to be disclosed	Requires disclosure of earmark sponsors in general appropriations bill and their conference; earmarks for federal entities are exempt	Does not address earmarks	Not applicable
<i>Ethics bodies</i>	Ethics committees in each chamber control the ethics process	Establishes Commission to Strengthen Confidence in Congress to evaluate effectiveness of congressional ethics requirements	Does not change current law	Establishes an independent Office of Public Integrity	Not applicable
<i>527s</i>	Does not address 527s	Does not address 527s	Subjects 527s to the reporting requirements and contribution limits of federal campaign finance law, repeals the limit on party expenditures on behalf of candidates in general elections	Does not address 527s	Not applicable
<i>Leadership PACs</i>	Does not address Leadership PACs	Does not address Leadership PACs	Requires leadership PACs to use their funds only for 1) campaign activities; 2) charitable contributions; or 3) transfers to national, state or local party committees	Does not address Leadership PACs	Not applicable

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