

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. \_\_\_\_\_

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MEEHAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# 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 Dislo-  
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 redesi-  
8 gnating 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”;

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

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

4 “(B) a separate good faith estimate of the  
5 total amount of income relating specifically to  
6 paid communications campaigns to influence  
7 the general public to lobby Congress, if such in-  
8 come from the client exceeds \$50,000 during  
9 the quarterly filing period; and”;

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.”.