

112TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 3898

To amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and the Rules of the House of Representatives to strengthen financial disclosures by Members, officers, and employees of Congress, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 3, 2012

Mr. KING of Iowa introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 and the Rules of the House of Representatives to strengthen financial disclosures by Members, officers, and employees of Congress, and for other purposes.

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 “Sunlight Act of 2012”.

1 **SEC. 2. DOLLAR AMOUNTS REQUIRED FOR ANNUAL FINAN-**
2 **CIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS.**

3 (a) FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES.—Section 102(d) of the
4 Ethics in Government Act of 1978 is amended by adding
5 at the end the following new paragraph:

6 “(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act,
7 in the case of reports of Members of Congress and officers
8 and employees of Congress filed pursuant to sections
9 101(d) and (e), references to the categories for reporting
10 the amount or value of the items covered in paragraphs
11 (3), (4), (5), and (8) of subsection (a) shall be deemed
12 to be exact dollar amounts.”.

13 (b) AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS ON THE INTER-
14 NET.—Section 103 of the Ethics in Government Act of
15 1978 is amended by adding at the end the following new
16 subsection:

17 “(l) A copy of each report filed under this title with
18 the Clerk of the House of Representatives or the Secretary
19 of the Senate shall be made available as soon as prac-
20 ticable to the general public on the Internet in a format
21 that is searchable and sortable.”.

22 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
23 subsection (a) shall apply to reports filed for calendar
24 years beginning after the date of enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 3. PUBLIC DISPLAY OF THE SUBJECT MATTER OF DE-**
2 **BATES.**

3 Clause 2 of rule II of the Rules of the House of Rep-
4 resentatives is amended by adding at the end the following
5 new paragraph:

6 “(1) During general debate on any measure, the Clerk
7 shall project on a wall of the Hall of the House the subject
8 matter of that debate so that it is visible to Members and
9 to visitors in the gallery.”.

10 **SEC. 4. AVAILABILITY OF BILLS, CONFERENCE REPORTS,**
11 **AND AMENDMENTS ON THE INTERNET BE-**
12 **FORE VOTING.**

13 Clause 11 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of
14 Representatives is amended to read as follows:

15 “11. It shall not be in order to consider any bill or
16 joint resolution, or conference report thereon, or amend-
17 ment thereto, unless—

18 “(1) in the case of a bill, joint resolution, or
19 conference report, such measure is made available to
20 Members and the general public on the Internet for
21 at least 48 hours before its consideration; or

22 “(2)(A) in the case of an amendment made in
23 order by a rule, it is made available to Members and
24 the general public on the Internet within one hour
25 after the rule is filed; or

1 “(B) in the case of an amendment under an
2 open rule, it is made available to Members and the
3 general public on the Internet immediately after
4 being offered;
5 in a format that is searchable and sortable.”.

6 **SEC. 5. PROMOTING EXPEDITED AVAILABILITY OF FEC RE-**
7 **PORTS.**

8 (a) MANDATORY ELECTRONIC FILING FOR ALL RE-
9 PORTS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 304(a)(11) of the
11 Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C.
12 434(a)(11)) is amended—

13 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “a
14 person required to file—” and all that follows
15 and inserting the following: “each person re-
16 quired to file a report under this Act shall be
17 required to maintain and file such report in
18 electronic form accessible by computers.”;

19 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “des-
20 ignations, statements, and reports” and insert-
21 ing “documents”; and

22 (C) in subparagraph (D), by striking
23 “means, with respect to” and all that follows
24 and inserting the following: “means any report,
25 designation, statement, or notification required

1 by this Act to be filed with the Commission or
2 the Secretary of the Senate.”.

3 (2) PLACEMENT OF ALL REPORTS ON INTER-
4 NET.—Section 304(a)(11)(B) of such Act (2 U.S.C.
5 434(a)(11)(B)) is amended—

6 (A) by striking “a designation, statement,
7 report, or notification” and inserting “each re-
8 port”; and

9 (B) by striking “the designation, state-
10 ment, report, or notification” and inserting
11 “the report”.

12 (3) SEARCHABLE AND SORTABLE MANNER OF
13 INFORMATION.—Section 304(a)(11)(B) of such Act
14 (2 U.S.C. 434(a)(11)(B)) is amended by inserting
15 “in a format that is searchable and sortable” after
16 “Internet”.

17 (4) SOFTWARE FOR FILING OF ALL REPORTS.—
18 Section 304(a)(12) of such Act (2 U.S.C.
19 434a(a)(12)) is amended—

20 (A) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking
21 “each person required to file a designation,
22 statement, or report in electronic form” and in-
23 serting “each person required to file a report
24 (as defined in paragraph (11)(D))”; and

1 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “any
2 designation, statement, or report” and inserting
3 “any report (as defined in paragraph
4 (11)(D))”.

5 (b) REQUIRING REPORTS FOR ALL CONTRIBUTIONS
6 MADE TO ANY POLITICAL COMMITTEE WITHIN 30 DAYS
7 OF ELECTION; REQUIRING REPORTS TO BE MADE WITH-
8 IN 24 HOURS.—Section 304(a)(6)(A) of such Act (2
9 U.S.C. 434(a)(6)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

10 “(A) Each political committee shall notify the Sec-
11 retary or the Commission, and the Secretary of State, as
12 appropriate, in writing, of any contribution received by the
13 committee during the period which begins on the 30th day
14 before an election and ends at the time the polls close for
15 such election. This notification shall be made within 24
16 hours (or, if earlier, by midnight of the day on which the
17 contribution is deposited) after the receipt of such con-
18 tribution and shall include the name of the candidate in-
19 volved (as appropriate) and the office sought by the can-
20 didate, the identification of the contributor, and the date
21 of receipt and amount of the contribution.”.

22 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
23 this section shall apply with respect to reports for periods
24 beginning on or after January 1, 2013.

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