

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 309

To prohibit earmarks.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 29, 2015

Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. FLAKE, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. LEE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

A BILL

To prohibit earmarks.

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 “Earmark Elimination
5 Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON EARMARKS.**

7 (a) **BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS, AMENDMENTS,**
8 **AMENDMENTS BETWEEN THE HOUSES, AND CON-**
9 **FERENCE REPORTS.—**

10 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—It shall not be in order in
11 the Senate to consider a bill or resolution introduced

1 in the Senate or the House of Representatives,
2 amendment, amendment between the Houses, or
3 conference report that includes an earmark.

4 (2) PROCEDURE.—Upon a point of order being
5 made by any Senator pursuant to paragraph (1)
6 against an earmark, and such point of order being
7 sustained, such earmark shall be deemed stricken.

8 (b) CONFERENCE REPORT AND AMENDMENT BE-
9 TWEEN THE HOUSES PROCEDURE.—When the Senate is
10 considering a conference report on, or an amendment be-
11 tween the Houses, upon a point of order being made by
12 any Senator pursuant to subsection (a), and such point
13 of order being sustained, such material contained in such
14 conference report shall be deemed stricken, and the Senate
15 shall proceed to consider the question of whether the Sen-
16 ate shall recede from its amendment and concur with a
17 further amendment, or concur in the House amendment
18 with a further amendment, as the case may be, which fur-
19 ther amendment shall consist of only that portion of the
20 conference report or House amendment, as the case may
21 be, not so stricken. Any such motion in the Senate shall
22 be debatable under the same conditions as was the con-
23 ference report. In any case in which such point of order
24 is sustained against a conference report (or Senate amend-

1 ment derived from such conference report by operation of
2 this subsection), no further amendment shall be in order.

3 (c) WAIVER.—A point of order under subsection (a)
4 may be waived only by an affirmative vote of two-thirds
5 of the Senators, duly chosen and sworn.

6 (d) DEFINITIONS.—

7 (1) EARMARK.—For the purpose of this section,
8 the term “earmark” means a provision or report
9 language included primarily at the request of a Sen-
10 ator or Member of the House of Representatives as
11 certified under paragraph 1(a)(1) of rule XLIV of
12 the Standing Rules of the Senate—

13 (A) providing, authorizing, or recom-
14 mending a specific amount of discretionary
15 budget authority, credit authority, or other
16 spending authority for a contract, loan, loan
17 guarantee, grant, loan authority, or other ex-
18 penditure with or to an entity, or targeted to a
19 specific State, locality or Congressional district,
20 other than through a statutory or administra-
21 tive formula-driven or competitive award proc-
22 ess;

23 (B) that—

24 (i) provides a Federal tax deduction,
25 credit, exclusion, or preference to a par-

1 particular beneficiary or limited group of
2 beneficiaries under the Internal Revenue
3 Code of 1986; and

4 (ii) contains eligibility criteria that are
5 not uniform in application with respect to
6 potential beneficiaries of such provision; or

7 (C) modifying the Harmonized Tariff
8 Schedule of the United States in a manner that
9 benefits 10 or fewer entities.

10 (2) DETERMINATION BY THE SENATE.—In the
11 event the Chair is unable to ascertain whether or not
12 the offending provision constitutes an earmark as
13 defined in this subsection, the question of whether
14 the provision constitutes an earmark shall be sub-
15 mitted to the Senate and be decided without debate
16 by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Senators,
17 duly chosen and sworn.

18 (e) APPLICATION.—This section shall not apply to
19 any authorization of appropriations to a Federal entity if
20 such authorization is not specifically targeted to a State,
21 locality or congressional district.

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