



Legislative Bulletin.....May 24, 2007

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H.R. 2316 — Amendments to Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007

H.R. 2316, the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, is scheduled to be considered on the House floor today, May 24, 2007, subject to a structured rule ([H.Res. 437](#)), providing for one hour of debate (equally divided), one motion to recommit with or without instructions, and making in order the following five (5) amendments (only those amendments preprinted in the Rules Committee report). Note: 48 amendments were submitted to the Rules Committee.

“The House of Representatives is supposed to be a marketplace of ideas, and any debate on open government must not restrict the discussion of serious proposals...I am calling on you to you use your authority as Speaker to direct the Rules Committee to report an unrestricted rule on lobby reform.”
--Then Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Letter to the Speaker, 4/21/06.

The rule waives all points of order except for clauses 9 and 10 of Rule XXI (regarding PAYGO and earmarks/limited tax benefits) and allows the Chair to postpone consideration of the legislation at any time during its consideration. **The rule also modifies the reported text by an amendment printed in the rule (see below) regarding attendance at charitable events.**

Note: The summaries below are based on RSC staff’s review of actual amendment text and may therefore differ substantially from the summaries on the Rules Committee website. For a summary of the underlying bill, see a separate RSC document released earlier today.

Rules Committee Amendment: The rule adopts the following amendment as part of the underlying bill being considered:

Sec. 4. Subparagraph (3)(Q) of clause 5(a) of rule XXV is amended to read as follows:
“(Q) Free attendance at an event permitted under subparagraph (4).”

This amendment would modify the House Rule XXV regarding exceptions to the Gift Rules. Specifically, this amendment would change the current exception allowing “free attendance at a widely attended event” to “free attendance at an event.” Thus, the charitable event in question would no longer have to be “widely attended” to be allowable. The term “widely attended” is further defined in the [110th Congress House Rules, page 41](#).

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1. Conyers (D-MI). Manager's Amendment. Makes several technical corrections to the bill, and also allows House Members (including Delegates and Resident Commissioners) to omit “personally identifiable information” not required to be disclosed on the reports posted on a public internet site (such as “home address, Social Security number, bank account numbers, home telephone,” etc.) prior to posting the report on the internet (by the Clerk of the House).

2. Dreier (R-CA). Requires the Clerk of the House and in consultation with the Ethics Committee, upon a Member’s departure from office or a House employee’s termination of employment, to notify the Member, officer, or employee of the beginning and ending date of the prohibitions that apply to that Member, officer, or employee regarding the post employment restrictions contained in the bill. It requires that the Clerk notify each House office to which the restriction applies regarding the prohibition dates (i.e. – the Clerk must notify each office that may not be lobbied by its former employee and when that restriction ends). It also requires the Clerk to post this information on a public internet site in a searchable, sortable, and downloadable format.

3. Abercrombie (D-HI). Prohibits any person who is a general or flag officer of the Armed Forces, within one (1) year of the officer’s retirement or separation, from receiving compensation from any entity under contract with the Department of Defense if the contract in effect at the time of the officer’s compensation is over \$50 million. This provision goes into effect 120 days after enactment.

4. Castle (R-DE). States a Sense of Congress that “the use of a family relationship by a lobbyist who is an immediate family member of a Member of Congress to gain special advantages over other lobbyists is inappropriate.”

5. Cardoza (D-CA). Allows the sentencing judge in any federal criminal case in which a public official is convicted of a certain offense against the U.S. to double the prison sentence, so long as the sentence is not increased by more than 2 years. Specifically, whenever the offense involves a) conduct during the course of official duty, intended to enrich that official, and b) bribery, fraud, extortion, or theft of public funds greater than \$10,000, the sentence may be increased by 2 years by the sentencing judge.

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