

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2860

To amend the Budget Control Act of 2011 to require members and staff of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction to disclose lobbying activities and campaign or member-designated political action committee contributions, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

Mr. LOEBSACK (for himself, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. RENACCI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

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## A BILL

To amend the Budget Control Act of 2011 to require members and staff of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction to disclose lobbying activities and campaign or member-designated political action committee contributions, 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 “Deficit Committee  
5 Transparency Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS**  
2 **AND STAFF OF THE JOINT SELECT COM-**  
3 **MITTEE ON DEFICIT REDUCTION.**

4 Section 401 of the Budget Control Act of 2011 is  
5 amended by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (h)  
6 and by adding after subsection (c) the following new sub-  
7 sections:

8 “(d) DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES AND  
9 MEETINGS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any member of the joint  
11 committee, and any individual who is on the staff of  
12 the committee or on the personal staff of a member  
13 of the committee, shall disclose any meeting with  
14 any other individual relating to matters before the  
15 committee if such individual—

16 “(A) is a registered lobbyist or agent of a  
17 foreign principal as those terms are defined in  
18 clause 5 of rule XXV of the Rules of the House  
19 of Representatives;

20 “(B) has any direct personal or pecuniary  
21 interest in any legislative measure pending be-  
22 fore the House of Representatives or the Senate  
23 or reported by a committee of either House; or

24 “(C) is in the employ of or represents any  
25 party or organization for the purpose of influ-

1           encing, directly or indirectly, the passage, de-  
2           feat, or amendment of any legislative proposal.

3           “(2) TIMING OF DISCLOSURE.—A meeting shall  
4           be disclosed under paragraph (1) within 48 hours  
5           after such meeting is held, subject to subsection  
6           (f)(2).

7           “(e) DISCLOSURE OF CAMPAIGN OR MEMBER-DES-  
8           IGNATED POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE CONTRIBU-  
9           TIONS.—

10           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any member of the joint  
11           committee who is a candidate with an authorized  
12           committee or who is a candidate or an individual  
13           holding Federal office affiliated with a leadership  
14           PAC shall disclose any contribution such committee  
15           or such leadership PAC receives from an individual,  
16           or any entity, which—

17                   “(A) is a registered lobbyist or agent of a  
18                   foreign principal;

19                   “(B) the authorized committee or leader-  
20                   ship PAC, using the best efforts of such com-  
21                   mittee or PAC, determines is in the employ of  
22                   or represents any party or organization for the  
23                   purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the  
24                   passage, defeat, or amendment of any legisla-  
25                   tive proposal; or

1           “(C) makes a single contribution in excess  
2           of \$500.

3           “(2) TIMING OF DISCLOSURE.—The disclosure  
4           required under paragraph (1) shall be made not  
5           later than 48 hours after the receipt of the contribu-  
6           tion described in such paragraph.

7           “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

8           “(A) AUTHORIZED COMMITTEE, CAN-  
9           DIDATE, AND CONTRIBUTION.—The terms ‘au-  
10          thorized committee’, ‘candidate’, and ‘contribu-  
11          tion’ have the meaning given such terms in sec-  
12          tion 301 of the Federal Election Campaign Act  
13          of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431).

14          “(B) FOREIGN PRINCIPAL, LOBBYIST.—  
15          The terms ‘foreign principal’ and ‘registered  
16          lobbyist’ have the meaning given such terms in  
17          clause 5 of rule XXV of the Rules of the House  
18          of Representatives.

19          “(C) LEADERSHIP PAC.—The term ‘leader-  
20          ship PAC’ has the meaning given such term in  
21          section 304(i)(8) of the Federal Election Cam-  
22          paign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 434(i)(8)).

23          “(f) FINAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES & CAMPAIGN OR  
24          MEMBER-DESIGNATED POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE  
25          CONTRIBUTIONS.—

1           “(1) CONTENTS OF FINAL REPORT.—Not later  
2 than December 2, 2011, the joint committee shall  
3 submit a report to both Houses of Congress dis-  
4 closing all information required under subsections  
5 (d) and (e) in a final report.

6           “(2) CERTAIN ACTIVITIES POSTED ON  
7 WEBSITE.—(A) Any meeting described under sub-  
8 section (d) that occurs in the 48-hour period imme-  
9 diately preceding the vote required under subsection  
10 (b)(3)(B)(i) shall be posted on the official website of  
11 the joint committee before such meeting is held and  
12 before such vote may occur.

13           “(B) Any meeting described under subsection  
14 (d) that occurs in the 48-hour period immediately  
15 preceding the submission of the report and legisla-  
16 tive language required under subsection (b)(3)(B)(ii)  
17 shall be posted to the website before such meeting  
18 is held and before such submission may occur.

19           “(g) OFFICIAL WEBSITE.—

20           “(1) CREATION OF JOINT COMMITTEE  
21 WEBSITE.—Before the first meeting of the joint  
22 committee, the Co-Chairs shall establish and main-  
23 tain a website for the joint committee that is avail-  
24 able to the public and the contents of which are  
25 searchable and sortable.

1           “(2) CONTENT.—The website shall contain in-  
2           formation required under subsections (d), (e), and  
3           (f) and shall contain such other information the  
4           joint committee or its staff deems necessary and  
5           beneficial to inform the public of the committee’s  
6           proceedings, deliberations, and deadlines of the joint  
7           committee.

8           “(3) POSTING REQUIREMENTS.—Information  
9           required to be disclosed under subsections (d), (e),  
10          and (f) shall be posted to the website within the  
11          timeframe required for disclosure under such sub-  
12          sections.”.

13 **SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF REPORT AND LEGISLATIVE LAN-**  
14 **GUAGE PROPOSED BY JOINT COMMITTEE.**

15          Section 401(b)(3)(B)(iv) of the Budget Control Act  
16 of 2011 is amended by inserting before the first sentence  
17 the following new sentence: “The proposed joint com-  
18 mittee report and proposed legislative language shall be  
19 made available to the public on the website of the joint  
20 committee at least 72 hours before the vote on such meas-  
21 ures.”.

1 **SEC. 4. AUDIO AND VISUAL COVERAGE OF JOINT COM-**  
2 **MITTEE HEARINGS.**

3 Section 401(b)(5)(F) of the Budget Control Act of  
4 2011 is amended by adding at the end thereof the fol-  
5 lowing new clause:

6 “(iii) AUDIO AND VISUAL COV-  
7 ERAGE.—Whenever a hearing conducted by  
8 the joint committee is open to the public,  
9 those proceedings shall be open to coverage  
10 by audio and visual means, including in a  
11 format that is streaming on the Internet  
12 via the website of the joint committee.”.

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