

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 140

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to promote the disclosure of contributions and expenditures made with respect to campaigns for election for Federal office, to ban the use of soft money with respect to such campaigns, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 1997

Mr. DINGELL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on House Oversight

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## A BILL

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to promote the disclosure of contributions and expenditures made with respect to campaigns for election for Federal office, to ban the use of soft money with respect to such campaigns, 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 “Federal Election Cam-  
5 paign Reform Act of 1997”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROMOTING DISCLOSURE OF CAMPAIGN CON-**  
2 **TRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES.**

3 (a) LOWERING THRESHOLD FOR REPORTING.—

4 (1) RESPONSIBILITIES OF POLITICAL COMMIT-  
5 TEES.—Section 302(c) of the Federal Election Cam-  
6 paign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 432(c)) is amended by  
7 striking “\$200” each place it appears in paragraphs  
8 (3) and (5) and inserting “\$20”.

9 (2) CONTENTS OF REPORTS.—Section 304(b) of  
10 such Act (2 U.S.C. 434(b)) is amended as follows:

11 (A) In paragraph (3), by striking “\$200”  
12 each place it appears in subparagraphs (A),  
13 (F), and (G) and inserting “\$20”.

14 (B) In paragraph (5)(A), by striking  
15 “\$200” and inserting “\$20”.

16 (C) In paragraph (6), by striking “\$200”  
17 each place it appears in subparagraphs (A),  
18 (B)(iii), and (B)(v) and inserting “\$20”.

19 (3) REPORTS ON INDEPENDENT EXPENDI-  
20 TURES.—Section 304(c) of such Act (2 U.S.C.  
21 434(c)) is amended—

22 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$250”  
23 and inserting “\$20”; and

24 (B) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking  
25 “\$200” and inserting “\$20”.

1 (b) INCREASE PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF DISCLO-  
2 SURE REQUIREMENTS.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 309(a) of such Act  
4 (2 U.S.C. 437g(a)) is amended by inserting after  
5 “\$5,000” each place it appears in paragraphs  
6 (5)(A), (6)(A), and (6)(B) the following: “(or  
7 \$10,000 in the case of a violation of any provision  
8 relating to the reporting of contributions or expendi-  
9 tures)”.

10 (2) KNOWING AND WILLFUL VIOLATIONS.—Sec-  
11 tion 309(a) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 437g(a)) is  
12 amended by inserting after “\$10,000” each place it  
13 appears in paragraphs (5)(B) and (6)(C) the follow-  
14 ing: “(or \$20,000 in the case of a violation of any  
15 provision relating to the reporting of contributions  
16 or expenditures)”.

17 **SEC. 3. BAN ON SOFT MONEY.**

18 Title III of the Federal Election Campaign Act of  
19 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431 et seq.) is amended by adding at the  
20 end the following new section:

21 “LIMITATIONS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR  
22 AMOUNTS PAID FOR MIXED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

23 “SEC. 323. (a) IN GENERAL.—Any payment by the  
24 national committee of a political party or a State commit-  
25 tee of a political party for a mixed political activity—

1           “(1) shall be subject to limitation and reporting  
2           under this Act as if such payment were an expendi-  
3           ture; and

4           “(2) may be paid only from an account that is  
5           subject to the requirements of this Act.

6           “(b) MIXED POLITICAL ACTIVITY DEFINED.—As  
7           used in this section, the term ‘mixed political activity’  
8           means, with respect to a payment by the national commit-  
9           tee of a political party or a State committee of a political  
10          party, an activity (such as a voter registration program,  
11          a get-out-the-vote drive, or general political advertising)  
12          that is both for the purpose of influencing an election for  
13          Federal office and for any purpose unrelated to influenc-  
14          ing an election for Federal office.”.

15       **SEC. 4. TREATMENT OF LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF CON-**  
16                               **TRIBUTIONS.**

17          (a) REDUCTION IN AMOUNT OF LIMITATION ON CON-  
18          TRIBUTIONS BY PACs.—Section 315(a)(2) of the Federal  
19          Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 441a(a)(2)) is  
20          amended—

21               (1) by striking “\$5,000” each place it appears  
22               in subparagraphs (A) and (C) and inserting  
23               “\$4,000”; and

24               (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “\$15,000”  
25               and inserting “\$12,000”.

1 (b) INDEXING OF AMOUNTS.—Section 315(c) of the  
2 Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C.  
3 441a(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following  
4 new paragraph:

5 “(3)(A) The amount of each limitation established  
6 under subsection (a) shall be adjusted as follows:

7 “(i) For calendar year 1999, each such amount  
8 shall be equal to the amount described in such sub-  
9 section, increased (in a compounded manner) by the  
10 percentage increase in the price index (as defined in  
11 subsection (c)(2)) for 1997 and 1998.

12 “(ii) For calendar year 2001 and each second  
13 subsequent year, each such amount shall be equal to  
14 the amount for the second previous year (as ad-  
15 justed under this subparagraph), increased (in a  
16 compounded manner) by the percentage increase in  
17 the price index for the previous year and the second  
18 previous year.

19 “(B) In the case of any amount adjusted under this  
20 subparagraph which is not a multiple of \$500, the amount  
21 shall be rounded to the nearest highest multiple of \$500.”.

22 **SEC. 5. PROHIBITING CONTRIBUTIONS BY NONCITIZENS.**

23 Section 319(b) of the Federal Election Campaign Act  
24 of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 441e(b)) is amended to read as follows:

1 “(b) In this section, the term ‘foreign national’  
2 means—

3 “(1) in the case of an individual, an individual  
4 who is not a citizen of the United States; or

5 “(2) in the case of any other person, a person  
6 who makes a contribution any portion of which is at-  
7 tributable to funds of individuals who are not citi-  
8 zens of the United States.”.

9 **SEC. 6. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN EXPENDITURES AS INDE-  
10 PENDENT EXPENDITURES FOR PURPOSES OF  
11 DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.**

12 Section 301(17) of the Federal Election Campaign  
13 Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431(17)) is amended by inserting  
14 after “clearly identified candidate” the following: “(to-  
15 gether with, in the case of an expenditure made during  
16 the 120-day period ending on the date of an election, any  
17 expenditure made with respect to any written or broadcast  
18 material which includes the name or likeness of a can-  
19 didate in that election)”.

20 **SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

21 The amendments made by this Act shall apply with  
22 respect to elections occurring after 1996.

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