

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3549

To amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to require Members of Congress to place their stocks, bonds, commodities futures, and other forms of securities in a blind trust.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 2, 2011

Mr. BACHUS (for himself and Mr. DUFFY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to require Members of Congress to place their stocks, bonds, commodities futures, and other forms of securities in a blind trust.

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 “Congressional Blind
5 Trust Act of 2011”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO USE**
2 **BLIND TRUST.**

3 The Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C.
4 App.) is amended by inserting after section 101 the fol-
5 lowing new section:

6 **“SEC. 101A. MEMBERS OF CONGRESS REQUIRED TO ESTAB-**
7 **LISH A BLIND TRUST.**

8 “(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Each Member of Congress
9 shall place all of such person’s stocks, bonds, commodities
10 futures, and other forms of securities, including securities
11 held jointly with such person’s spouse, in a qualified blind
12 trust (as defined in section 102(f)(3)).

13 “(b) **EXCLUSION.**—Subsection (a) shall not apply to
14 the financial interests or benefits described under section
15 102(i).

16 “(c) **TIMING AND EXTENSION.**—

17 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each Member of Congress
18 shall comply with subsection (a) not later than 30
19 days after taking office, or in the case of a person
20 who is a Member of Congress on the date of enact-
21 ment of the Congressional Blind Trust Act of 2011,
22 not later than 30 days after such date of enactment.

23 “(2) **EXTENSION.**—A Member of Congress may
24 file, with the Clerk of the House of Representatives
25 in the case of a Representative or Delegate of Con-
26 gress and the Resident Commissioner from Puerto

1 Rico, and with the Secretary of the Senate, in the
2 case of a Senator, for an additional 30-day extension
3 to comply with subsection (a).

4 “(d) CIVIL PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY.—
5 The Attorney General may bring a civil action in any ap-
6 propriate United States district court against any Member
7 of Congress who knowingly and willfully fails to comply
8 with subsection (a) by the end of the time period specified
9 in subsection (c). The court in which such action is
10 brought may assess against such person a civil penalty not
11 to exceed \$50,000.”.

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