

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3837

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require the Federal Election Commission to establish and operate a website through which members of the public may view the contents of certain political advertisements, to require the sponsors of such advertisements to furnish the contents of the advertisements to the Commission, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

Mr. DEUTCH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require the Federal Election Commission to establish and operate a website through which members of the public may view the contents of certain political advertisements, to require the sponsors of such advertisements to furnish the contents of the advertisements to the Commission, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Campaign Sunlight
3 Act of 2017”.

4 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF WEBSITE OF**
5 **POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENTS.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF WEBSITE.—Section 318 of
7 the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C.
8 30120) is amended by adding at the end the following new
9 subsection:

10 “(e) WEBSITE FOR CONTENTS OF POLITICAL AD-
11 VERTISEMENTS.—

12 “(1) WEBSITE DESCRIBED.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall
14 establish and operate a website, to be known as
15 the ‘Campaign Accountability Site’, through
16 which members of the public may view the con-
17 tents of political advertisements.

18 “(B) FORMAT.—In operating the website
19 under this subsection, the Commission shall—

20 “(i) make the contents of a political
21 advertisement available for viewing in the
22 same format through which the advertise-
23 ment was disseminated; and

24 “(ii) make the sources of the contents
25 of the advertisement available on the
26 website directly or through hyperlinks to

1 the sources, as submitted to the Commis-
2 sion by the sponsor of the advertisement
3 under paragraph (2)(B).

4 “(C) HYPERLINK.—The Commission shall
5 make the website established and operated
6 under this subsection available through a
7 hyperlink on the Commission’s official public
8 website.

9 “(2) REQUIRING SPONSORS OF ADVERTISE-
10 MENTS TO PROVIDE CONTENTS TO COMMISSION.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The sponsor of a po-
12 litical advertisement shall submit the contents
13 of the advertisement to the Commission in such
14 format as the Commission may require to en-
15 able the Commission to include the advertise-
16 ment on the website established and operated
17 under paragraph (1).

18 “(B) INCLUSION OF SOURCES CITED IN
19 CONTENTS.—If the contents of a political ad-
20 vertisement include references to any quotation,
21 article, hyperlink, or other source for any state-
22 ment made in the advertisement, the sponsor of
23 the advertisement shall include the full contents
24 of the source (or a hyperlink to the full con-

1 tents of the source) in the contents submitted
2 to the Commission under this paragraph.

3 “(C) DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION.—The
4 sponsor of a political advertisement shall submit
5 the contents of the advertisement to the Com-
6 mission under subparagraph (A) not later
7 than—

8 “(i) 24 hours after the advertisement
9 is disseminated, in the case of an adver-
10 tisement that is disseminated during the 7-
11 day period that ends on the date of the
12 election involved; or

13 “(ii) 72 hours after the advertisement
14 is disseminated, in the case of an adver-
15 tisement that is disseminated during any
16 other period.

17 “(D) PAYMENT OF FEE.—If the Commis-
18 sion determines that it is appropriate to impose
19 fees on the sponsors of political advertisements
20 in amounts which do not exceed the amount
21 necessary to cover the costs to the Commission
22 of establishing and operating the website under
23 paragraph (1), at the time the sponsor of a po-
24 litical advertisement submits the contents of the
25 advertisement to the Commission under sub-

1 paragraph (A), the sponsor shall pay the Com-
2 mission the amount of any such fee (as deter-
3 mined under a fee schedule established by the
4 Commission).

5 “(E) SPONSOR DEFINED.—For purposes of
6 this subsection, the ‘sponsor’ of a political ad-
7 vertisement is—

8 “(i) in the case of a political adver-
9 tisement that is described in paragraph (1)
10 or (2) of subsection (a), the authorized po-
11 litical committee involved; or

12 “(ii) in the case of a political adver-
13 tisement that is described in paragraph (3)
14 of subsection (a), the person who is re-
15 quired under such paragraph to be identi-
16 fied as the person who paid for the adver-
17 tisement.

18 “(3) POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT DEFINED.—
19 In this subsection, a ‘political advertisement’ means
20 a communication that is subject to subsection (a)
21 that refers to a clearly identified candidate and is
22 disseminated during the 1-year period which ends on
23 the date of the election for the office sought by the
24 candidate.”.

1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
2 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to political adver-
3 tisements disseminated after the expiration of the 120-day
4 period that begins on the date of the enactment of this
5 Act.

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