

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4187

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit former Members and elected officers of Congress from lobbying Congress at any time after leaving office.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 31, 2017

Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit former Members and elected officers of Congress from lobbying Congress at any time after leaving office.

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 “Banning Lobbying and  
5 Safeguarding Trust Act” or the “BLAST Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITING FORMER MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**  
7 **OF CONGRESS FROM LOBBYING CONGRESS.**

8 (a) PROHIBITION.—Section 207(e)(1) of title 18,  
9 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

1           “(1) MEMBERS AND ELECTED OFFICERS OF  
2 CONGRESS.—Any person who is a Senator, a Mem-  
3 ber of the House of Representatives, or an elected  
4 officer of the Senate or the House of Representa-  
5 tives and who, after that person leaves office, know-  
6 ingly makes, with the intent to influence, any com-  
7 munication to or appearance before any Member, of-  
8 ficer, or employee of either House of Congress or  
9 any employee of any other legislative office of the  
10 Congress, on behalf of any other person (except the  
11 United States) in connection with any matter on  
12 which such former Senator, Member, or elected offi-  
13 cial seeks action by a Member, officer, or employee  
14 of either House of Congress, in his or her official ca-  
15 pacity, shall be punished as provided in section 216  
16 of this title.”.

17           (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 207(e)(2)  
18 of such title is amended—

19           (1) in the heading, by striking “OFFICERS AND  
20 STAFF” and inserting “STAFF”;

21           (2) by striking “an elected officer of the Senate,  
22 or”;

23           (3) by striking “leaves office or employment”  
24 and inserting “leaves employment”; and

25           (4) by striking “former elected officer or”.

1       (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
2 this section shall apply with respect to an individual who  
3 leaves office on or after the date of the enactment of this  
4 Act.

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