

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1247

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require reporting to the Federal Election Commission and the Federal Bureau of Investigation of offers by foreign nationals to make prohibited contributions, donations, expenditures, or disbursements, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 30, 2019

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

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## A BILL

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require reporting to the Federal Election Commission and the Federal Bureau of Investigation of offers by foreign nationals to make prohibited contributions, donations, expenditures, or disbursements, 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; FINDINGS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Duty To Report Act”.

1 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
2 ings:

3 (1) Political contributions and express-advocacy  
4 expenditures are an integral aspect of the process by  
5 which Americans elect officials to Federal, State,  
6 and local government offices.

7 (2) It is fundamental to the definition of a na-  
8 tional political community that foreign citizens do  
9 not have a constitutional right to participate in, and  
10 thus may be excluded from, activities of democratic  
11 self-governance.

12 (3) The United States has a compelling interest  
13 in limiting the participation of foreign citizens in ac-  
14 tivities of democratic self-government, and in there-  
15 by preventing foreign influence over the United  
16 States political process.

17 (4) Foreign donations and expenditures have a  
18 corrupting influence on the campaign process and  
19 limiting the activities of foreign citizens in our elec-  
20 tions is necessary to preserve the basic conception of  
21 a political community and democratic self-govern-  
22 ance.

23 **SEC. 2. REPORTING TO THE FEC.**

24 (a) REPORTING OFFERS OF PROHIBITED CONTRIBU-  
25 TIONS, DONATIONS, EXPENDITURES, OR DISBURSEMENTS

1 BY FOREIGN NATIONALS.—Section 304 of the Federal  
 2 Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104) is  
 3 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
 4 section:

5       “(j) DISCLOSURE OF OFFERS OF PROHIBITED CON-  
 6 TRIBUTIONS, DONATIONS, EXPENDITURES, OR DISBURSE-  
 7 MENTS BY FOREIGN NATIONALS.—If a political com-  
 8 mittee, an agent of the committee, or in the case of an  
 9 authorized committee of a candidate for Federal office, a  
 10 candidate, receives an offer (orally, in writing, or other-  
 11 wise) of a prohibited contribution, donation, expenditure,  
 12 or disbursement (as defined in section 3(c) of the Duty  
 13 To Report Act), the committee shall, within 24 hours of  
 14 receiving the offer, report to the Commission—

15               “(1) to the extent known, the name, address,  
 16               and nationality of the foreign national (as defined in  
 17               section 319(b)) making the offer; and

18               “(2) the amount and type of contribution, dona-  
 19               tion, expenditure, or disbursement offered.”.

20       (b) REPORTING MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN GOVERN-  
 21 MENTS OR THEIR AGENTS.—Section 304 of the Federal  
 22 Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104), as  
 23 amended by subsection (a), is amended by adding at the  
 24 end the following new subsection:

1       “(k) DISCLOSURE OF MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN  
2 GOVERNMENTS OR THEIR AGENTS.—

3               “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
4 graph (2), if a political committee, an agent of the  
5 committee, or in the case of an authorized com-  
6 mittee of a candidate for Federal office, a candidate,  
7 meets with a foreign government or an agent of a  
8 foreign principal, as defined in section 1 of the For-  
9 eign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C.  
10 611), the committee shall, within 24 hours of meet-  
11 ing, report to the Commission—

12                       “(A) to the extent known, the identity of  
13 each individual at the meeting and the foreign  
14 government involved; and

15                       “(B) the purpose of the meeting.

16               “(2) EXCEPTION FOR MEETINGS IN OFFICIAL  
17 CAPACITY.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with re-  
18 spect to a meeting with a foreign government or an  
19 agent of a foreign principal by an elected official or  
20 as an employee of an elected official in their official  
21 capacity as such an official or employee.”.

22       (c) PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS.—Not later  
23 than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
24 Federal Election Commission shall promulgate regulations  
25 providing additional indicators beyond the pertinent facts

1 described in section 110.20(a)(5) of title 11, Code of Fed-  
2 eral Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment  
3 of this Act) that may lead a reasonable person to conclude  
4 that there is a substantial probability that the source of  
5 the funds solicited, accepted, or received is a foreign na-  
6 tional, as defined in section 319(b) of the Federal Election  
7 Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121(b)), or to inquire whether  
8 the source of the funds solicited, accepted, or received is  
9 a foreign national, as so defined. Regulations promulgated  
10 under the proceeding sentence shall also provide guidance  
11 to political committees and campaigns to not engage in  
12 racial or ethnic profiling in making such a conclusion or  
13 inquiry.

14 **SEC. 3. REPORTING OFFERS OF PROHIBITED CONTRIBU-**  
15 **TIONS, DONATIONS, EXPENDITURES, OR DIS-**  
16 **BURSEMENTS BY FOREIGN NATIONALS TO**  
17 **THE FBI.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—If a political committee or an ap-  
19 plicable individual (as defined in subsection (c)) receives  
20 an offer (orally, in writing, or otherwise) of a prohibited  
21 contribution, donation, expenditure, or disbursement, the  
22 committee or applicable individual shall, within 24 hours  
23 of receiving the offer, report to the Federal Bureau of In-  
24 vestigation—

1           (1) to the extent known, the name, address, and  
 2           nationality of the foreign national making the offer;  
 3           and

4           (2) the amount and type of contribution, dona-  
 5           tion, expenditure, or disbursement offered.

6           (b) OFFENSE.—

7           (1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful to know-  
 8           ingly and willfully fail to comply with subsection (a).

9           (2) PENALTY.—Any person who violates para-  
 10          graph (1) shall be fined under title 18, United  
 11          States Code, imprisoned not more than 2 years, or  
 12          both.

13          (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14          (1) APPLICABLE INDIVIDUAL.—

15           (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “applicable  
 16           individual” means—

17           (i) an agent of a political committee;

18           (ii) a candidate;

19           (iii) an individual who is an imme-  
 20           diate family member of a candidate; or

21           (iv) any individual affiliated with a  
 22           campaign of a candidate.

23          (B) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER; INDI-  
 24          VIDUAL AFFILIATED WITH A CAMPAIGN.—For  
 25          purposes of subparagraph (A)—

1 (i) the term “immediate family mem-  
2 ber” means, with respect to a candidate, a  
3 parent, parent in law, spouse, adult child,  
4 or sibling; and

5 (ii) the term “individual affiliated  
6 with a campaign” means, with respect to a  
7 candidate, an employee of any organization  
8 legally authorized under Federal, State, or  
9 local law to support the candidate’s cam-  
10 paign for nomination for, or election to,  
11 any Federal, State, or local public office,  
12 as well as any independent contractor of  
13 such an organization and any individual  
14 who performs services for the organization  
15 on an unpaid basis (including an intern or  
16 volunteer).

17 (2) FOREIGN NATIONAL.—The term “foreign  
18 national” has the meaning given that term in section  
19 319(b) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of  
20 1971(52 U.S.C. 30121(b)).

21 (3) KNOWINGLY.—The term “knowingly” has  
22 the meaning given that term in section 110.20(a)(4)  
23 of title 11, Code of Federal Regulations (or any suc-  
24 cessor regulations).

1           (4) PROHIBITED CONTRIBUTION, DONATION,  
2 EXPENDITURE, OR DISBURSEMENT.—

3           (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “prohibited  
4 contribution, donation, expenditure, or disburse-  
5 ment” means a contribution, donation, expendi-  
6 ture, or disbursement prohibited under section  
7 319(a) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of  
8 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121(a)).

9           (B) CLARIFICATION.—Such term includes,  
10 with respect to a candidate or election, any in-  
11 formation—

12           (i) regarding any of the other can-  
13 didates for election for that office;

14           (ii) that is not in the public domain;

15           and

16           (iii) which could be used to the advan-  
17 tage of the campaign of the candidate.

18           (5) OTHER TERMS.—Any term used in this sec-  
19 tion which is defined in section 301 of the Federal  
20 Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101)  
21 and which is not otherwise defined in this section  
22 shall have the meaning given such term under such  
23 section 301.



1 **SEC. 4. CLARIFICATION REGARDING USE OF INFORMATION**  
2 **REPORTED.**

3 Information reported under subsection (j) or (k) of  
4 section 304 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971  
5 (52 U.S.C. 30104), as added by section 2, or under section  
6 3(a), may not be used to enforce the provisions under  
7 chapter 4 of title II of the Immigration and Nationality  
8 Act (8 U.S.C. 1221 et seq.) relating to the removal of un-  
9 documented aliens.

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