

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8696

To amend title 18, United States Code, to establish a uniform 2-year post-employment ban on the lobbying of any officer or employee of the executive branch or any Member, officer, or employee of Congress by former executive branch officials and former Members, officers, and employees of Congress, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2024

Ms. PORTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to establish a uniform 2-year post-employment ban on the lobbying of any officer or employee of the executive branch or any Member, officer, or employee of Congress by former executive branch officials and former Members, officers, and employees of Congress, 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 “Block the Revolving
5 Door Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. 2-YEAR POST-EMPLOYMENT BAN ON LOBBYING OF**
2 **EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCH BY**
3 **ALL FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.**

4 (a) 2-YEAR POST-EMPLOYMENT BAN ON LOBBYING
5 OF EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCH.—

6 (1) LOBBYING BY FORMER EXECUTIVE BRANCH
7 OFFICIALS.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of sec-
9 tion 207(c) of title 18, United States Code, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 “(1) RESTRICTIONS.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the re-
13 strictions set forth in subsections (a) and (b),
14 any person who is an officer or employee (in-
15 cluding any special Government employee) of
16 the executive branch of the United States (in-
17 cluding an independent agency), who is referred
18 to in paragraph (2), and who, within 2 years
19 after the termination of his or her service or
20 employment as such officer or employee, know-
21 ingly makes, with the intent to influence, any
22 communication to or appearance before any in-
23 dividual described in subparagraph (B) on be-
24 half of any other person (except the United
25 States) in connection with any matter on which
26 such other person seeks official action by such

individual, shall be punished as provided in section 216 of this title.

“(B) INDIVIDUALS DESCRIBED.—An individual described in this subparagraph is any of the following:

“(i) An officer or employee of the executive branch of the United States (including an independent agency).

“(ii) A Member of Congress.

“(iii) An elected officer of the Senate or an employee of the Senate.

“(iv) An elected officer of the House of Representatives or an employee of the House of Representatives.

“(v) An employee of any other legislative office of the Congress.”.

(B) DESCRIPTION OF FORMER EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICIALS SUBJECT TO BAN.—Subparagraph (A) of section 207(c)(2) of such title is amended—

(i) by striking “or” at the end of clause (iv);

(ii) by striking the period at the end of clause (v) and inserting a semicolon; and

1 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
 2 lowing new clauses:

3 “(vi) serves in the position of Vice Presi-
 4 dent of the United States;

5 “(vii) is employed in a position in the exec-
 6 utive branch of the United States (including
 7 any independent agency) at a rate of pay pay-
 8 able for level I of the Executive Schedule or em-
 9 ployed in a position in the Executive Office of
 10 the President at a rate of pay payable for level
 11 II of the Executive Schedule; or

12 “(viii) is appointed by the President to a
 13 position under section 105(a)(2)(A) of title 3 or
 14 by the Vice President to a position under sec-
 15 tion 106(a)(1)(A) of title 3.”.

16 (C) ELIMINATION OF SEPARATE 2-YEAR
 17 BAN FOR SENIOR EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFI-
 18 CIALS.—Section 207 of such title is amended by
 19 striking subsection (d).

20 (D) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section
 21 207 of such title is amended—

22 (i) in subparagraph (A) of subsection
 23 (c)(2), by striking “(other than a person
 24 subject to the restrictions of subsection
 25 (d))”;

1 (ii) in paragraph (9) of subsection (e),
 2 by striking “As used in this subsection”
 3 and inserting “As used in this section”;

4 (iii) in paragraph (1) of subsection
 5 (f), by striking “subsection (c), (d), or (e)”
 6 and inserting “subsection (c) or (e)”;

7 (iv) in subparagraph (A) of subsection
 8 (i)(1), by striking “subsections (a), (c),
 9 and (d),” and inserting “subsections (a)
 10 and (c),”;

11 (v) in subsection (j), by striking “sub-
 12 sections (c), (d), and (e)” each place it ap-
 13 pears in paragraph (2), subparagraph (A)
 14 of paragraph (7), and subparagraph (B)(ii)
 15 of paragraph (7) and inserting “sub-
 16 sections (c) and (e)” ; and

17 (vi) in paragraph (5) of subsection (j),
 18 by striking “subsections (a), (c), and (d)”
 19 and inserting “subsections (a) and (c)”.

20 (2) LOBBYING BY FORMER MEMBERS AND EM-
 21 PLOYEES OF CONGRESS AND OTHER LEGISLATIVE
 22 BRANCH OFFICIALS.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—Section 207(e) of such
 24 title is amended by striking paragraphs (1)
 25 through (6) and inserting the following:

1 “(1) RESTRICTIONS DESCRIBED.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any person who is a
3 covered legislative branch official and who,
4 within 2 years after leaving office or the termi-
5 nation of his or her service or employment as
6 such an official, knowingly makes, with the in-
7 tent to influence, any communication to or ap-
8 pearance before any individual described in sub-
9 paragraph (C) on behalf of any other person
10 (except the United States) in connection with
11 any matter on which such other person seeks
12 official action by such individual, shall be pun-
13 ished as provided in section 216 of this title.

14 “(B) COVERED LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF-
15 FICIAL DESCRIBED.—In this paragraph, a ‘cov-
16 ered legislative branch official’ is any of the fol-
17 lowing individuals:

18 “(i) A Member of Congress.

19 “(ii) An elected officer of the Senate
20 or an elected officer of the House of Rep-
21 resentatives.

22 “(iii) An employee of the Senate or an
23 employee of the House of Representatives
24 to whom paragraph (2)(A) applies.

1 “(iv) An employee of any other legis-
2 lative office of the Congress to whom para-
3 graph (2)(B) applies.

4 “(C) INDIVIDUALS DESCRIBED.—An indi-
5 vidual described in this subparagraph is any of
6 the following:

7 “(i) An officer or employee of the ex-
8 ecutive branch of the United States (in-
9 cluding an independent agency).

10 “(ii) A Member of Congress.

11 “(iii) An elected officer of the Senate
12 or an employee of the Senate.

13 “(iv) An elected officer of the House
14 of Representatives or an employee of the
15 House of Representatives.

16 “(v) An employee of any other legisla-
17 tive office of the Congress.”.

18 (B) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section
19 207(e) of such title is amended—

20 (i) by redesignating paragraphs (7),
21 (8), and (9) as paragraphs (2), (3), and
22 (4);

23 (ii) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph
24 (2) (as so redesignated), by striking “The
25 restrictions contained in paragraphs (2),

1 (3), (4), and (5) apply only to acts by a
2 former employee” and inserting the fol-
3 lowing: “The restrictions contained in
4 paragraph (1) apply only to acts by a
5 former employee of the Senate or a former
6 employee of the House of Representa-
7 tives”;

8 (iii) in subparagraph (B) of para-
9 graph (2) (as so redesignated), by striking
10 “The restrictions contained in paragraph
11 (6) apply only to acts by a former em-
12 ployee” and inserting the following: “The
13 restrictions contained in paragraph (1)
14 apply only to acts by a former employee of
15 any other legislative office of the Con-
16 gress”; and

17 (iv) in subparagraph (G) of paragraph
18 (4) (as so redesignated), by striking “any
19 other agency, entity, or office in the legis-
20 lative branch not covered by paragraph
21 (1), (2), (3), (4), or (5) of this subsection”
22 and inserting the following: “and any other
23 officer or employee of the legislative
24 branch who is not an employee of the

1 House of Representatives or an employee
2 of the Senate”.

3 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO OTHER POST-
4 EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS.—

5 (1) AIDING AND ADVISING ON TRADE OR TREA-
6 TY NEGOTIATION.—Section 207(b) of such title is
7 amended—

8 (A) in the heading, by striking “ONE-
9 YEAR” and inserting “TWO-YEAR”;

10 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “1-year
11 period” and inserting “2-year period”; and

12 (C) in paragraph (1), by striking “a period
13 of 1 year” and inserting “a period of 2 years”.

14 (2) REPRESENTATION OF FOREIGN ENTITIES.—
15 Paragraph (1) of section 207(f) of such title is
16 amended by striking “within 1 year” and inserting
17 “within 2 years”.

18 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
19 this section shall apply with respect to any individual who,
20 on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, leaves
21 a position to which subsection (a), (b), (c), or (e) of section
22 207 of title 18, United States Code, as amended by this
23 section, applies.

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