



Legislative Bulletin.....February 1, 2006

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H.Res. 648—To eliminate floor privileges and access to Member exercise facilities for registered lobbyists who are former Members or officers of the House

Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$0

Effect on Revenue: \$0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 0

Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 0

H.Res. 648—To eliminate floor privileges and access to Member exercise facilities for registered lobbyists who are former Members or officers of the House (Dreier, R-CA)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, February 1st, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 648 would amend Clause 4 of House Rule IV to deny “the privilege of admission to the Hall of the House and rooms leading thereto” to a former Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, Parliamentarian of the House, elected officer of the House, or Minority employee nominated as an elected officer of the House who:

- “is a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal” (as defined in Clause 5 of House Rule XXV);
- “has any direct personal or pecuniary interest in any legislative measure pending before the House or reported by a committee;” or
- “is in the employ of or represents any party or organization for the purpose of influencing, directly or indirectly, the passage, defeat, or amendment of any legislative proposal.”

The Speaker would continue to be allowed to promulgate regulations to exempt ceremonial or educational functions from these prohibitions above. The last two bullets above are already included in current House Rules (see “Additional Background” below).

H.Res. 648 would also prohibit access to any exercise facility that is made available exclusively to House Members, former Members, House officers, former officers, or their spouses, to any former Member, former officer, or spouse who is a lobbyist registered under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 or any successor statute or agent of a foreign principal as defined in Clause 5 of House Rule XXV.

Additional Background: Clause 4 of House Rule IV currently reads as follows:

Former Members, Delegates, and Resident Commissioners; former Parliamentarians of the House; and former elected officers and minority employees nominated as elected officers of the House shall be entitled to the privilege of admission to the Hall of the House and rooms leading thereto only if:

(1) they do not have any direct personal or pecuniary interest in any legislative measure pending before the House or reported by a committee; and

(2) they are not in the employ of, or do not represent, any party or organization for the purpose of influencing, directly or indirectly, the passage, defeat, or amendment of any legislative measure pending before the House, reported by a committee, or under consideration in any of its committees or subcommittees.

Clause 5(e) of House Rule XXV defines the term “registered lobbyist” as a lobbyist registered under the Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act or any successor statute; and defines the term “agent of a foreign principal” as an agent of a foreign principal registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

To learn more about the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (the successor to the Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act of 1946), see this webpage (on-Hill access only): http://www.congress.gov/erp/rl/html/RL31126.html#TOC2_1.

To learn more about the Foreign Agents Registration Act, see this webpage (on-Hill access only): http://www.congress.gov/erp/rl/html/RL31126.html#TOC2_2.

Committee Action: On January 31, 2006, the resolution was introduced and referred to the Rules Committee, which, on the same day, officially reported the rule to the full House.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: Article I, Section 5, Clause 2 provides that “Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.”

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