

THE LOBBY CHANNEL
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EVERYBODY LOBBIES -

THE LOBBYIST'S **NEWS LETTER**

ETHICAL LOBBYING IS EFFECTIVE LOBBYING

LOBBY REFORM PROMISED BY CONGRESS-
passed missing some contentious items

The very same legislators who vowed to tighten up on lobbying practices and in turn, “clean up their own act” came to an embarrassing halt, forcing them to cast an official vote.

Many voting Aye reluctantly or Nay belligerently

Many of these same Congressional “campaign promise makers” are now balking at suggested changes which assured **reasonable reform** and are quietly hoping the public will forget and forgive before the next election.

Their goal seems to be that nothing should be allowed to pass that would hinder the political lifestyle to which they have become accustomed.

Here is an interesting quote:

Rep. Michael E. Capuano (D-Mass) said a “**revolving door**” provision extending the waiting period before former members can lobby Congress **placed unfair limits on his future “job options”** and he didn’t like it at all. Another member derided the ethics bill on the House Floor as “**total crap**”

Statistic show that the number of members who have turned in their **congressional title** for that of **a lobbyist** is staggering. Their names read like “who’s who” in the Congressional Record. **More than 50% of retiring members in the past few years are now lobbyists. Amazing, isn’t it?**

ALL through 2006 there was the call for **more transparency** and an end to the **“culture of corruption** which has led to committee hearings and subsequent trials and convictions. Some members were removed from Congress.

Transparency Reform, Culture of Corruption, where are they now?

All ethical lobbyists and lobbying firms have a gigantic stake in this palpable **relationship**.

Ethical lobbyists are tired of being damaged by those who refuse to play by the rules. Those who practice lobbying honestly and ethically can be hurt again if the public draws the conclusion that all lobbyists are the same. We’ve been through that and it is in our best interest to insist that a fair and even playing field exists when it comes to changing, adding to or eliminating laws which affect the public good.

Where this bill will wind up in the U.S. Senate and what they do with it,
ie how they change or delete important parts is anyone’s guess.

On page three We offer a current summary of where the ethics bill stands today:

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Legislative Summary

Provisions in lobbying bills passed by the *House and Senate would:*

- ✓ *Require lobbyists to report when they “bundle” campaign contributions from multiple donors into one package.*
- ✓ *Bar lawmakers from pressuring lobbying firms to fire employees based on political affiliations.*

Provisions approved by the Senate but but rejected by the House would:

- ✓ *Require former lawmakers to wait two years, rather than one, before becoming lobbyists.*
- ✓ *Ban lobbyists from throwing parties for lawmakers at national conventions.*

Provisions in the House bill but not in the Senate version would:

- ✓ *Require lobbyists who try to place “earmarks”, special homes-state projects in spending bills to identify their efforts.*
- ✓ *Require lobbyists to report bundled donations given to PACs.*

Personal note to our friends and readers: Lets hope we don't have the same problem with the Internet post office that we did last month. IF YOU FAIL TO RECEIVE IT, THOUGH, E-MAIL ME AND A NEW COPY WILL BE SENT. REGARDS. STAN.