

this section, shall be construed to create any inference with respect to whether the activity described in section 226 of title 18, United States Code, was already a criminal or civil offense prior to the enactment of this Act, including sections 201(b), 201(c), and 216 of title 18, United States Code.

(c) CHAPTER ANALYSIS.—The chapter analysis for chapter 11 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“226. Wrongfully influencing a private entity’s employment decisions by a Member of Congress.”.

**SEC. 304. BAN ON GIFTS FROM LOBBYISTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph 1(a)(2) of rule XXXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by adding at the end the following: “This clause shall not apply to a gift from a lobbyist.”.

(b) RULES COMMITTEE REVIEW.—The Committee on Rules and Administration shall review the present exceptions to the Senate gift rule and make recommendations to the Senate not later than 3 months after the date of enactment of this Act on eliminating all but those which are absolutely necessary to effectuate the purpose of the rule.

(c) APPLICATION.—This section shall apply in lieu of section 106 of this Act.

**SEC. 305. PROHIBITION ON PRIVATELY FUNDED TRAVEL.**

Paragraph 2(a)(1) of rule XXXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by striking “an individual” and inserting “an organization recognized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that is not affiliated with any group that lobbies before Congress”.

**SEC. 306. PROHIBITING LOBBYIST ORGANIZATION AND PARTICIPATION IN CONGRESSIONAL TRAVEL.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph 2 of rule XXXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) A Member, officer, or employee may not accept transportation or lodging on any trip sponsored by an organization recognized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 covered by this paragraph that is planned, organized, requested, arranged, or financed in whole, or in part by a lobbyist or foreign agent, or in which a lobbyist participates.

“(h) Before a Member, officer, or employee may accept transportation or lodging otherwise permissible under this paragraph from any person, such Member, officer, or employee shall obtain a written certification from such person (and provide a copy of such certification to the Select Committee on Ethics) that—

“(1) the trip was not planned, organized, requested, arranged, or financed in whole, or in part by a registered lobbyist or foreign agent and was not organized at the request of a registered lobbyist or foreign agent;

“(2) registered lobbyists will not participate in or attend the trip; and

“(3) the person did not accept, from any source, funds specifically earmarked for the purpose of financing the travel expenses. The Select Committee on Ethics shall make public information received under this subparagraph as soon as possible after it is received.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Paragraph 2(c) of rule XXXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended—

(1) by striking “of expenses reimbursed or to be reimbursed”;

(2) in clause (5), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(3) in clause (6), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) a description of meetings and events attended during such travel, except when

disclosure of such information is deemed by the Member or supervisor under whose direct supervision the employee works to jeopardize the safety of an individual or otherwise interfere with the official duties of the Member, officer, or employee.”.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Paragraph 2(e) of rule XXXV is amended to read as follows:

“(e) The Secretary of the Senate shall make available to the public all advance authorizations, certifications, and disclosures filed pursuant to subparagraphs (a) and (h) as soon as possible after they are received.”.

(d) APPLICATION.—The provisions of this section shall apply in addition to the requirements of section 107(a).

**SEC. 307. ADDITIONAL LOBBYING DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5(b) of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1604(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(8) a certification that the lobbying firm or registrant has not provided, requested, or directed a gift, including travel, to a Member or employee of Congress in violation of rule XXXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The requirements of this Act shall not apply to the activities of any political committee described in section 301(4) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971.

**SEC. 308. PENALTY FOR FALSE CERTIFICATION IN CONNECTION WITH CONGRESSIONAL TRAVEL.**

(a) CIVIL FINE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Whoever makes a false certification in connection with the travel of a Member, officer, or employee of either House of Congress (within the meaning given those terms in section 207 of title 18, United States Code), under paragraph 2(h) of rule XXXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, shall, upon proof of such offense by a preponderance of the evidence, be subject to a civil fine depending on the extent and gravity of the violation.

(2) MAXIMUM FINE.—The maximum fine per offense under this section depends on the number of separate trips in connection with which the person committed an offense under this subsection, as follows:

(A) FIRST TRIP.—For each offense committed in connection with the first such trip, the amount of the fine shall be not more than \$100,000 per offense.

(B) SECOND TRIP.—For each offense committed in connection with the second such trip, the amount of the fine shall be not more than \$300,000 per offense.

(C) ANY OTHER TRIPS.—For each offense committed in connection with any such trip after the second, the amount of the fine shall be not more than \$500,000 per offense.

(3) ENFORCEMENT.—The Attorney General may bring an action in United States district court to enforce this subsection.

(b) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Whoever knowingly and willfully fails to comply with any provision of this section shall be imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or fined under title 18, United States Code, or both.

(2) CORRUPTLY.—Whoever knowingly, willfully, and corruptly fails to comply with any provision of this section shall be imprisoned for not more than 10 years, or fined under title 18, United States Code, or both.

**SEC. 309. INCREASED CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH LOBBYING DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.**

Section 7 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1606) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(a) CIVIL PENALTY.—” before “Whoever”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Whoever knowingly and willfully fails to comply with any provision of this section shall be imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or fined under title 18, United States Code, or both.

“(2) CORRUPTLY.—Whoever knowingly, willfully, and corruptly fails to comply with any provision of this section shall be imprisoned for not more than 10 years, or fined under title 18, United States Code, or both.”.

**SEC. 310. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON CONFERENCE COMMITTEE PROTOCOLS.**

It is the sense of Senate that—

(1) conference committees should hold regular, formal meetings of all conferees that are open to the public;

(2) all conferees should be given adequate notice of the time and place of all such meetings;

(3) all conferees should be afforded an opportunity to participate in full and complete debates of the matters that such conference committees may recommend to their respective Houses;

(4) all matters before a conference committee should be resolved in conference by votes on the public record; and

(5) existing rules should be enforced and new rules adopted in the Senate to shine the light on special interest legislation that is enacted in the dead of night.

**SEC. 311. ACTUAL VOTING REQUIRED IN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS.**

Rule XXVIII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by adding at the end the following:

“8. Each Senate member of a conference committee shall be afforded an opportunity at an open meeting of the conference to vote on the full text of the proposed report of the conference.”.

**NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS**

**COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I wish to inform Members that the Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship will hold a public hearing to consider, “The President’s fiscal year 2007 Budget Request and Legislative Proposals for the SBA” on Thursday, March 9, 2006 at 10 a.m., in room 428A Russell Senate Office Building. The Honorable Hector Barreto, SBA Administrator, will testify.

The Chair urges every member to attend.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS**

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on National Parks.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 14th, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to review the President’s proposed budget for the National Park Service fiscal year 2007.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Tom Lillie, David Szymanski, or Sara Zecher.

## PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs will hold a hearing on March 14, 2006, entitled "GSA Contractors Who Cheat on Their Taxes and What Should Be Done About It." The March 14 hearing will be the third hearing on Federal contractors with unpaid tax debt. In February 2004, the subcommittee held a hearing entitled "DOD Contractors Who Cheat on Their Taxes, which examined the IRS' failure to collect \$3 billion in unpaid taxes owed by contractors doing business with the Department of Defense, DOD, and getting paid with taxpayer dollars. In June 2005, the Subcommittee held a hearing entitled "Civilian Contractors Who Cheat on Their Taxes", which identified an additional \$3.3 billion in unpaid taxes and demonstrated that the problem of tax delinquent Federal contractors is not confined to DOD. Because of the potential revenue that could be collected by the Federal Payment Levy Program from non-DOD contractors, the subcommittee expanded the coverage of the investigation to include contractors at other Federal agencies who receive Federal contract payments and are delinquent in paying their taxes. In the continuing investigation of Federal contractors who do not pay their taxes, the subcommittee plans to hold a hearing on March 14 on the General Service Administration's contractors who are tax delinquent. Federal contractors who owe taxes are still allowed to do business with the Federal Government. The hearing will explore the extent to which these contractors are tax delinquent and what can be done about it.

The subcommittee hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Raymond V. Shepherd, III, Staff Director and Chief Counsel to the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 7, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., to receive testimony from combatant commanders on their military strategy and operational requirements, in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the Future Years Defense Program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 7, 2006, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on "Assessing the Current Oversight and Operation of Credit Rating Agencies."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Tuesday, March 7, 2006, at 10 a.m. on Rural Telecom.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate and on Tuesday, March 7 at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this oversight hearing is to discuss the goal of energy independence.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 7, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing on nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 7, 2006, at 10 a.m. in SD-430.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 7, 2006, to hear the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The hearing will take place in room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 7, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sub-

committee on Strategic Forces be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 7, 2006, at 2:45 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on the nuclear weapons and defense environmental cleanup activities of the Department of Energy in review of the Defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years nuclear security program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 8. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then proceed to a period of morning business for up to 30 minutes, with the first 15 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the final 15 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee; further, that the Senate then resume consideration of S. 2349, the lobbying reform bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Senate will resume consideration of the lobbying reform bill tomorrow. Senators who have amendments to this bill should be working with bill managers, as they are trying to expedite the amendment process. Senators should expect full days this week as we work toward passage of this bill.

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FRIST. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it be in order for the Democratic leader to offer an amendment to the lobbying reform bill, and following his statement, the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### LEGISLATIVE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2006—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business. The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2349) to provide greater transparency in the legislative process.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 2932 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2349 (Purpose: To provide additional transparency in the legislative process)

Mr. REID. I send an amendment to the desk.