ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1978


TITLE I—FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL PERSONNEL

Sec. 101. Persons required to file.
102. Contents of reports.
103. Filing of reports.
104. Failure to file or filing false reports.
105. Custody of and public access to reports.
106. Review of reports.
107. Confidential reports and other additional requirements.
108. Authority of Comptroller General.
110. Notice of actions taken to comply with ethics agreements.
111. Administration of provisions.

[TITLE II—REPEALED]

[TITLE III—REPEALED]

TITLE IV—OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS

401. Establishment; appointment of Director.
402. Authority and functions.
403. Administrative provisions.
404. Rules and regulations.
405. Authorization of appropriations.
406. Omitted.
407. Annual pay of Director.
408. Reports to Congress.

TITLE V—GOVERNMENT-WIDE LIMITATIONS ON OUTSIDE EARNED INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

501. Outside earned income limitation.
502. Limitations on outside employment.
503. Administration.

Sec. 504. Civil Penalties.
505. Definitions.

TITLE I—FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL PERSONNEL

CONFIRMATION


§ 101. Persons required to file

(a) Within thirty days of assuming the position of an officer or employee described in subsection (f), an individual shall file a report containing the information described in section 102(b) unless the individual has left another position described in subsection (f) within thirty days prior to assuming such new position or has already filed a report under this title with respect to nomination for the new position or as a candidate for the position.

(b)(1) Within five days of the transmittal by the President to the Senate of the nomination of an individual (other than an individual nominated for appointment to a position as a Foreign Service Officer or a grade or rank in the uniformed services for which the pay grade prescribed by section 201 of title 37, United States Code, is O–6 or below) to a position, appointment
§ 101

(8) Any civilian employee not described in paragraph (3), employed in the Executive Office of the President (other than a special government employee) who holds a commission of appointment from the President;

(9) A Member of Congress as defined under section 109(12);

(10) An officer or employee of the Congress as defined under section 109(13);

(11) A judicial officer as defined under section 109(10); and

(12) A judicial employee as defined under section 109(8).

(g)(1) Reasonable extensions of time for filing any report may be granted under procedures prescribed by the supervising ethics office for each branch, but the total of such extensions shall not exceed ninety days.

(2)(A) In the case of an individual who is serving in the Armed Forces, or serving in support of the Armed Forces, in an area while that area is designated by the President by Executive order as a combat zone for purposes of section 112 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the date for the filing of any report shall be extended so that the date is 180 days after the later of—

(i) the last day of the individual's service in such area during such designated period; or

(ii) the date which occurs five days before the date of the first hearing to consider the nomination of such individual, make current the report filed pursuant to this paragraph by filing the information required by section 102(a)(1)(A) with respect to income and honoraria received as of the date which occurs five days before the date of such hearing. Nothing in this Act shall prevent any Congressional committee from requesting, as a condition of confirmation, any additional financial information from any Presidential nominee whose nomination has been referred to that committee.

(2) An individual whom the President or the President-elect has publicly announced he intends to nominate to a position may file the report required by paragraph (1) at any time after that public announcement, but not later than is required under the first sentence of such paragraph.

(c) Within thirty days of becoming a candidate as defined in section 301 of the Federal Campaign Act of 1971, in a calendar year for nomination or election to the office of President, Vice President, or Member of Congress, or on or before May 15 of that calendar year, whichever is later, but in no event later than 90 days before the election, and on or before May 15 of each successive year an individual continues to be a candidate, an individual other than an incumbent President, Vice President, or Member of Congress shall file a report containing the information described in section 102(b). Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, in any calendar year in which an individual continues to be a candidate for any office but all elections for such office relating to such candidacy were held in prior calendar years, such individual need not file a report unless he becomes a candidate for another vacancy in that office or another office during that year.

(d) Any individual who is an officer or employee described in subsection (f) during any calendar year and performs the duties of his position or office for a period in excess of sixty days in that calendar year shall file on or before May 15 of the succeeding year a report containing the information described in section 102(a).

(e) Any individual who occupies a position described in subsection (f) shall, on or before the thirtieth day after termination of employment in such position, file a report containing the information described in section 102(a) covering the preceding calendar year if the report required by subsection (d) has not been filed and covering the portion of the calendar year in which such termination occurs up to the date the individual left such office or position, unless such individual has accepted employment in another position described in subsection (f).

(f) The officers and employees referred to in subsections (a), (d), and (e) are—

(1) the President;

(2) the Vice President;

(3) each officer or employee in the executive branch, including a special Government employee as defined in section 202 of title 18, United States Code, who occupies a position classified above GS–15 of the General Schedule or, in the case of positions not under the General Schedule, for which the rate of basic pay is equal to or greater than 120 percent of the minimum rate of basic pay payable for GS–15 of the General Schedule; each member of a uniformed service whose pay grade is at or in excess of O–7 under section 201 of title 37, United States Code; and each officer or employee in any other position determined by the Director of the Office of Government Ethics to be of equal classification;

(4) each employee appointed pursuant to section 3105 of title 5, United States Code;

(5) any employee not described in paragraph (3) who is in a position in the executive branch which is excepted from the competitive service by reason of being of a confidential or policymaking character, except that the Director of the Office of Government Ethics may, by regulation, exclude from the application of this paragraph any individual, or group of individuals, who are in such positions, but only in cases in which the Director determines such exclusion would not affect adversely the integrity of the Government or the public's confidence in the integrity of the Government;

(6) the Postmaster General, the Deputy Postmaster General, each Governor of the Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service and each officer or employee of the Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service or Postal Regulatory Commission who occupies a position for which the rate of basic pay is equal to or greater than 120 percent of the minimum rate of basic pay payable for GS–15 of the General Schedule;

(7) the Director of the Office of Government Ethics and each designated agency ethics official;

(8) any civilian employee not described in paragraph (3), employed in the Executive Office of the President (other than a special government employee) who holds a commission of appointment from the President;

(9) a Member of Congress as defined under section 109(12);

(10) an officer or employee of the Congress as defined under section 109(13);

(11) a judicial officer as defined under section 109(10); and

(12) a judicial employee as defined under section 109(8).

1So in original. Probably should be capitalized.
(ii) the last day of the individual’s hospitalization as a result of injury received or disease contracted while serving in such area.

(B) The Office of Government Ethics, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, may prescribe procedures under this paragraph.

(h) The provisions of subsections (a), (b), and (e) shall not apply to an individual who, as determined by the designated agency ethics official or Secretary concerned (or in the case of a Presidential appointee under subsection (b), the Director of the Office of Government Ethics), the congressional ethics committees, or the Judicial Conference, is not reasonably expected to perform the duties of his office or position for more than sixty days in a calendar year, except that if such individual performs the duties of his office or position for more than sixty days in a calendar year—

(1) the report required by subsections (a) and (b) shall be filed within fifteen days of the sixty-eighth day, and

(2) the report required by subsection (e) shall be filed as provided in such subsection.

(i) The supervising ethics office for each branch may grant a publicly available request for a waiver of any reporting requirement under this section for an individual who is expected to perform or has performed the duties of his office or position less than one hundred and thirty days in a calendar year, but only if the supervising ethics office determines that—

(1) such individual is not a full-time employee of the Government,

(2) such individual is able to provide services specially needed by the Government,

(3) it is unlikely that the individual’s outside employment or financial interests will create a conflict of interest, and

(4) public financial disclosure by such individual is not necessary in the circumstances.


REFERENCES IN TEXT


The General Schedule, referred to in subsection (f)(3), (6), is set out under section 5332 of this title.

Section 112 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, referred to in subsection (g)(2), is classified to section 112 of Title 26, Internal Revenue Code.

AMENDMENTS


1992—Subsec. (f)(3). Pub. L. 102–378, § 4(a)(1)(A), substituted “who occupies a position classified above GS–15 of the General Schedule or, in the case of positions not under the General Schedule, for which the rate of basic pay is equal to or greater than 120 percent of the minimum rate of basic pay payable for GS–15 of the General Schedule” for “whose position is classified at GS–14 or above of the General Schedule prescribed by section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, or the rate of basic pay for which is fixed (other than under the General Schedule) at a rate equal to or greater than the minimum rate of basic pay fixed for GS–16”.

Subsec. (f)(6). Pub. L. 102–378, § 4(a)(1)(B), substituted “who occupies a position for which the rate of basic pay is equal to or greater than 120 percent of the minimum rate of basic pay payable for GS–15 of the General Schedule” for “whose basic rate of pay is equal to or greater than the minimum rate of basic pay fixed for GS–16”.

1991—Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 102–25 designated existing provisions as par. (1) and added par. (2).

1990—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 101–280, § 3(2), struck out “the later of May 15 or” after “shall, on or before”.


1989—Pub. L. 101–194 substituted “Persons required to file” for “Legislative personnel financial disclosure” as section catchline and amended text generally, substituting subsecs. (a) to (i) relating to filing of financial disclosure reports by Federal personnel for former subsecs. (a) to (h) relating to filing of financial disclosure reports by legislative personnel.

1979—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 96–19, §§ 2(b), 4(d), (e), designated existing provisions as par. (1), substituted “described in subsection (e)” for “designated in subsection (e)” and “information described in section 102(a) if such individual is or will be such an officer or employee on such May 15” for “information as described in section 102(a)”, and added par. (2).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 96–19, §§ 2(a)(1), 4(d), (f), inserted provisions relating to an individual who is not reasonably expected to perform the duties of his office or position for more than sixty days in a calendar year and substituted “described” for “designated” and “, other than an individual who was employed in the legislative branch immediately before he assumed such position,” for “other than an individual employed in the legislative branch upon assuming such position”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 96–19, § 4(f), inserted provision that in any calendar year in which an individual continues to be a candidate for any office but all elections for such office relating to that candidacy were held in prior calendar years, that individual need not file a report unless he becomes a candidate for another vacancy in that office or another office during that year.


EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1991 AMENDMENT

Section 605(b) of Pub. L. 102–25 provided that: “The amendments made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall apply with respect to reports required to be filed after January 17, 1991.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Section 11 of Pub. L. 101–280 provided that: “Except as otherwise provided in this joint resolution, this Act and the amendments made by this joint resolution [amending sections 101 to 106, 109 to 111, former section 202, and sections 501 to 503 of Pub. L. 95–521, set out in this Appendix, sections 5330, 5331, 5332, and 761 of this title, sections 31–1, 31–2, and 411 of Title 2, The Congress, sections 1661 and 2397 of Title 10, Armed Forces, sections 202, 203, 205, 207, 208, and 216 of Title 18, Crimes
and Criminal Procedure, section 3945 of Title 22, Foreign Relations and Intercourse, section 1043 of Title 26, Internal Revenue Code, and sections 3553 and 3730 of Title 31, Money and Finance, renumbering section 1352 of Title 31 as section 1353, repealing section 112 of Pub. L. 95–521, set out in this Appendix, enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 101 and 105 of Pub. L. 95–521, set out in this Appendix, section 2297a of Title 10, and section 1043 of Title 26, and amending provisions set out as notes under section 207 and 208 of Title 18 and section 1344 of Title 31 take effect on the date of the enactment of this joint resolution (May 4, 1990).

**Effective Date of 1989 Amendment**


**Short Title of 2007 Amendment**


**Short Title of 2002 Amendment**


**Short Title of 1996 Amendment**

Pub. L. 104–179, § 1, Aug. 6, 1996, 110 Stat. 1566, provided that: "This Act [amending sections 401, 403, 405, and 408 of Pub. L. 95–521, set out in this Appendix, sections 1822 of Title 12, Banks and Banking, and section 207 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure, and repealing provisions set out as a note under section 7301 of Title 26, Internal Revenue Code, may be cited as the 'Office of Government Ethics Authorization Act of 1996'.''

**Short Title of 1992 Amendment**


**Short Title of 1990 Amendment**


**Short Title of 1989 Amendment**

Section 1 of Pub. L. 101–194 provided that: "This Act [see Tables for classification] may be cited as the 'Ethics Reform Act of 1989'.''

**Rulemaking Power of Congress**


**Declaration of Purpose of 1990 Amendments**

Section 1 of Pub. L. 101–280 provided that: "It is the purpose of this joint resolution to make technical corrections in the Ethics Reform Act of 1989 [Pub. L. 101–194, see Tables for classification]."
§ 102. Contents of reports

(a) Each report filed pursuant to section 101(d) and (e) shall include a full and complete statement with respect to the following:

(1)(A) The source, type, and amount or value of income (other than income referred to in subparagraph (B) from any source (other than from current employment by the United States Government), and the source, date, and amount of honoraria from any source, received during the preceding calendar year, aggregating $200 or more in value and, effective January 1, 1991, the source, date, and amount of payments made to charitable organizations in lieu of honoraria, and the reporting individual shall simultaneously file with the applicable supervising ethics office, on a confidential basis, a corresponding list of recipients of all such payments, together with the dates and amounts of such payments.

(B) The source and type of income which consists of dividends, rents, interest, and capital gains, received during the preceding calendar year which exceeds $200 in amount or value, and an indication of which of the following categories the amount or value of such item of income is within:

(i) not more than $1,000,
(ii) greater than $1,000 but not more than $2,500,
(iii) greater than $2,500 but not more than $5,000,
(iv) greater than $5,000 but not more than $15,000,
(v) greater than $15,000 but not more than $50,000,
(vi) greater than $50,000 but not more than $100,000,
(vii) greater than $100,000 but not more than $1,000,000,
(viii) greater than $1,000,000 but not more than $5,000,000, or
(ix) greater than $5,000,000.

(2)(A) The identity of the source, a brief description, and the value of all gifts aggregating more than the minimal value as established by section 7342(a)(5) of title 5, United States Code, or $250, whichever is greater, received from any source other than a relative of the reporting individual during the preceding calendar year, except that any food, lodging, or entertainment received as personal hospitality of an individual need not be reported, and any gift with a fair market value of $100 or less, as adjusted at the same time and by the same percentage as the minimal value is adjusted, need not be aggregated for purposes of this subparagraph.

(B) The identity of the source and a brief description (including a travel itinerary, dates, and nature of expenses provided) of reimbursement received from any source aggregating more than the minimal value as established by section 7342(a)(5) of title 5, United States Code, or $250, whichever is greater and received during the preceding calendar year.

(C) In an unusual case, a gift need not be aggregated under subparagraph (A) if a publicly available request for a waiver is granted.

(3) The identity and category of value of any interest in property held during the preceding calendar year in a trade or business, or for investment or the production of income, which has a fair market value which exceeds $1,000 as of the close of the preceding calendar year, excluding any personal liability owed to the reporting individual by a spouse, or by a parent, brother, sister, or child of the reporting individual or of the reporting individual’s spouse, or any deposits aggregating $5,000 or less in a personal savings account. For purposes of this paragraph, a personal savings account shall include any certificate of deposit or any other form of deposit in a bank, savings and loan association, credit union, or similar financial institution.

(4) The identity and category of value of the total liabilities owed to any creditor other than a spouse, or a parent, brother, sister, or child of the reporting individual or of the reporting individual’s spouse which exceed $10,000 at any time during the preceding calendar year, excluding—

(A) any mortgage secured by real property which is a personal residence of the reporting individual or his spouse; and
(B) any loan secured by a personal motor vehicle, household furniture, or appliances, which loan does not exceed the purchase price of the item which secures it.

With respect to revolving charge accounts, only those with an outstanding liability which exceeds $10,000 as of the close of the preceding calendar year need be reported under this paragraph.

(5) Except as provided in this paragraph, a brief description, the date, and category of value of any purchase, sale or exchange during the preceding calendar year which exceeds $1,000—

(A) in real property, other than property used solely as a personal residence of the reporting individual or his spouse; or
(B) in stocks, bonds, commodities futures, and other forms of securities.

Reporting is not required under this paragraph of any transaction solely by and between the reporting individual, his spouse, or dependent children.

(6)(A) The identity of all positions held on or before the date of filing during the current calendar year (and, for the first report filed by an individual, during the two-year period preceding such calendar year) as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, representative, employee, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business enterprise, any nonprofit organization, any labor organization, or any educational or other institution other than the United States. This subparagraph shall not require the reporting of positions held in any religious, social, fraternal, or political entity and positions solely of an honorary nature.

1So in original.