

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to prohibit transactions involving certain financial instruments by Members of Congress.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HAWLEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to prohibit transactions involving certain financial instruments by Members of Congress.

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 “Preventing Elected
5 Leaders from Owning Securities and Investments
6 (PELOSI) Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. BANNING INSIDER TRADING IN CONGRESS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Ethics in Government Act of
9 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by inserting after title
10 I the following:

1 “(ii) a diversified exchange-traded
2 fund;

3 “(iii) a United States Treasury bill,
4 note, or bond; or

5 “(iv) compensation from the primary
6 occupation of a spouse or dependent of a
7 Member of Congress.

8 “(2) MEMBER OF CONGRESS.—The term ‘Mem-
9 ber of Congress’ has the meaning given the term in
10 section 109.

11 “(3) QUALIFIED BLIND TRUST.—The term
12 ‘qualified blind trust’ has the meaning given the
13 term in section 102(f)(3).

14 “(4) SUPERVISING ETHICS COMMITTEE.—The
15 term ‘supervising ethics committee’ means, as appli-
16 cable—

17 “(A) the Select Committee on Ethics of
18 the Senate; and

19 “(B) the Committee on Ethics of the
20 House of Representatives.

21 **“SEC. 202. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS AND**
22 **HOLDINGS INVOLVING COVERED FINANCIAL**
23 **INSTRUMENTS.**

24 “(a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in sub-
25 section (b), a Member of Congress, or any spouse of a

1 Member of Congress, may not, during the term of service
2 of the Member of Congress, hold, purchase, or sell any
3 covered financial instrument.

4 “(b) EXCEPTIONS.—The prohibition under sub-
5 section (a) shall not apply to—

6 “(1) a sale by a Member of Congress, or a
7 spouse of a Member of Congress, that is completed
8 by the date that is—

9 “(A) for a Member of Congress serving on
10 the date of enactment of the Preventing Elected
11 Leaders from Owning Securities and Invest-
12 ments (PELOSI) Act, 180 days after that date
13 of enactment; and

14 “(B) for any Member of Congress who
15 commences service as a Member of Congress
16 after the date of enactment of the Preventing
17 Elected Leaders from Owning Securities and
18 Investments (PELOSI) Act, 180 days after the
19 first date of the initial term of service; or

20 “(2) a covered financial instrument held in a
21 qualified blind trust operated on behalf of, or for the
22 benefit of, the Member of Congress or spouse of the
23 Member of Congress.

24 “(c) PENALTIES.—

1 “(1) DISGORGEMENT.—A Member of Congress
2 shall disgorge to the Treasury of the United States
3 any profit from a transaction or holding involving a
4 covered financial instrument that is conducted in
5 violation of this section.

6 “(2) INCOME TAX.—A loss from a transaction
7 or holding involving a covered financial instrument
8 that is conducted in violation of this section may not
9 be deducted from the amount of income tax owed by
10 the applicable Member of Congress or spouse of a
11 Member of Congress.

12 “(3) FINES.—A Member of Congress who holds
13 or conducts a transaction involving, or whose spouse
14 holds or conducts a transaction involving, a covered
15 financial instrument in violation of this section may
16 be subject to a civil fine assessed by the supervising
17 ethics committee under section 204.

18 **“SEC. 203. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE.**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than annu-
20 ally, each Member of Congress shall submit to the applica-
21 ble supervising ethics committee a written certification
22 that the Member of Congress has achieved compliance
23 with the requirements of this title.

1 “(3) assessing civil fines against any Member of
2 Congress who is in violation of this title, subject to
3 subsection (b).

4 “(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR CIVIL FINES.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Before imposing a fine pur-
6 suant to this section, a supervising ethics committee
7 shall provide to the applicable Member of Con-
8 gress—

9 “(A) a written notice describing each cov-
10 ered financial instrument transaction for which
11 a fine will be assessed; and

12 “(B) an opportunity, with respect to each
13 such covered financial instrument transaction—

14 “(i) for a hearing; and

15 “(ii) to achieve compliance with the
16 requirements of this title.

17 “(2) PUBLICATION.—Each supervising ethics
18 committee shall publish on a publicly available
19 website a description of—

20 “(A) each fine assessed by the supervising
21 ethics committee pursuant to this section;

22 “(B) the reasons why each such fine was
23 assessed; and

1 “(C) the result of each assessment, includ-
2 ing any hearing under paragraph (1)(B)(i) re-
3 lating to the assessment.

4 “(3) APPEAL.—A Member of Congress may ap-
5 peal the assessment of a fine under this section to
6 a vote on the floor of the Senate or the House of
7 Representatives, as applicable, as a privileged mo-
8 tion.

9 **“SEC. 205. AUDIT BY GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OF-**
10 **FICE.**

11 “Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
12 of the Preventing Elected Leaders from Owning Securities
13 and Investments (PELOSI) Act, the Comptroller General
14 of the United States shall—

15 “(1) conduct an audit of the compliance by
16 Members of Congress with the requirements of this
17 title; and

18 “(2) submit to the supervising ethics commit-
19 tees a report describing the results of the audit con-
20 ducted under paragraph (1).”.

21 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

22 (1) Section 109 of the Ethics in Government
23 Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

1 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
2 by striking “For the purposes of this title, the
3 term—” and inserting “In this title.”;

4 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “means”
5 and all that follows through “Representatives;”
6 and inserting the following: “means, as applica-
7 ble—

8 “(A) the Select Committee on Ethics of
9 the Senate; and

10 “(B) the Committee on Ethics of the
11 House of Representatives.”;

12 (C) in each of paragraphs (2) through
13 (17), by striking the semicolon at the end of the
14 paragraph and inserting a period;

15 (D) in paragraph (18)—

16 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
17 “Standards of Official Conduct” and in-
18 serting “Ethics”; and

19 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking
20 “; and” at the end and inserting a period;

21 (E) in each of paragraphs (1) through
22 (19)—

23 (i) by inserting “The term” after the
24 paragraph designation; and

1 (ii) by inserting a paragraph heading,
2 the text of which is comprised of the term
3 defined in that paragraph; and

4 (F) by redesignating paragraphs (8) and
5 (9) as paragraphs (9) and (8), respectively, and
6 moving the paragraphs so as to appear in nu-
7 merical order.

8 (2) Section 101(f) of the Ethics in Government
9 Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

10 (A) in paragraph (9), by striking “as de-
11 fined under section 109(12)”;

12 (B) in paragraph (10), by striking “as de-
13 fined under section 109(13)”;

14 (C) in paragraph (11), by striking “as de-
15 fined under section 109(10)”;

16 (D) in paragraph (12), by striking “as de-
17 fined under section 109(8)”.

18 (3) Section 111(2) of the Ethics in Government
19 Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by striking
20 “Standards of Official Conduct” and inserting “Eth-
21 ics”.

22 (4) Section 402 of the Ethics in Government
23 Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

24 (A) in subsection (b), by striking “title II
25 of” each place it appears; and

1 (B) in subsection (f)(2)(B)—

2 (i) by striking “Subject to clause (iv)
3 of this subparagraph, before” each place it
4 appears and inserting “Before”; and

5 (ii) by striking clause (iv).

6 (5) Section 503(1)(A) of the Ethics in Govern-
7 ment Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by
8 striking “Standards of Official Conduct” and insert-
9 ing “Ethics”.

10 (6) Section 3(4)(D) of the Lobbying Disclosure
11 Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1602(4)(D)) is amended by
12 striking “legislative branch employee serving in a po-
13 sition described under section 109(13) of the Ethics
14 in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.)” and
15 inserting “officer or employee of the Congress (as
16 defined in section 109 of the Ethics in Government
17 Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.))”.

18 (7) Section 21A of the Securities Exchange Act
19 of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78u-1) is amended—

20 (A) in subsection (g)(2)(B)(ii), by striking
21 “section 109(11) of the Ethics in Government
22 Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 109(11))” and in-
23 sserting “section 109 of the Ethics in Govern-
24 ment Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.)”; and

25 (B) in subsection (h)(2)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
2 “section 109(8) of the Ethics in Govern-
3 ment Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 109(8))”
4 and inserting “section 109 of the Ethics in
5 Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.)”;
6 and
7 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
8 “under section 109(10) of the Ethics in
9 Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.
10 109(10))” and inserting “in section 109 of
11 the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5
12 U.S.C. App.)”.