

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 554

To suspend the authority of a State to administer funds under Federal block grant programs if the State does not enact certain conflict of interest protections, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 13, 2017

Mr. KILDEE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Financial Services, Homeland Security, the Judiciary, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To suspend the authority of a State to administer funds under Federal block grant programs if the State does not enact certain conflict of interest protections, and for other purposes.

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 “Make State Govern-
5 ments More Open, Honest, and Transparent Act of
6 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL STANDARDS RELATING TO STATE CON-**
2 **FLICT OF INTEREST PROTECTIONS.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The head of a Federal agency
4 that administers a Federal block grant program in a fiscal
5 year shall take the following actions with respect to a
6 State that is in noncompliance as described in subsection
7 (b) on the first day of the fiscal year:

8 (1) Suspend the authority of the State or any
9 political subdivision of the State to administer funds
10 made available to the State or subdivision under the
11 Federal block grant program in that fiscal year.

12 (2) Exercise the authority of the State de-
13 scribed in paragraph (1) in that fiscal year, includ-
14 ing the selection of the projects to be carried out in
15 the State or subdivision under the Federal block
16 grant program.

17 (b) **REQUIREMENT.**—A State shall be treated as
18 being in noncompliance as described in this subsection
19 with respect to a fiscal year if the Director of the Office
20 of Government Ethics determines that the State has not
21 enacted or is not enforcing one or more of the following
22 laws on the first day of the fiscal year:

23 (1) A law that requires an individual serving as
24 a member of the legislature of the State to prepare
25 and make available to the public an annual report

1 disclosing the financial interests of the individual
2 during the preceding year.

3 (2) A law that prohibits an individual serving
4 as a member of the legislature of the State to solicit
5 or require, either directly or indirectly, an employee
6 of the individual to make a financial or in-kind con-
7 tribution to a political party or a political campaign.

8 (3) A law that makes it unlawful for any per-
9 son—

10 (A) who enters into any contract with the
11 State (including any department or agency of
12 the State) either for the rendition of personal
13 services or furnishing any material, supplies, or
14 equipment to the State or for selling any land
15 or building to the State, if payment for the per-
16 formance of such contract or payment for such
17 material, supplies, equipment, land, or building
18 is to be made in whole or in part from funds
19 appropriated by the State, at any time between
20 the commencement of negotiations for and the
21 later of (i) the completion of performance
22 under, or (ii) the termination of negotiations
23 for, such contract or furnishing of material,
24 supplies, equipment, land, or buildings, directly
25 or indirectly to make any contribution of money

1 or other things of value, or to promise expressly
2 or impliedly to make any such contribution to
3 any political party, committee, or candidate for
4 State public office or to any person for any po-
5 litical purpose or use; or

6 (B) knowingly to solicit any such contribu-
7 tion from any such person for any such purpose
8 during any such period.

9 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following defi-
10 nitions apply:

11 (1) FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.—The
12 term “Federal block grant program” means each of
13 the following:

14 (A) The Innovative Education Program
15 Strategies Block Grant program of the Depart-
16 ment of Education.

17 (B) The Energy Efficiency and Conserva-
18 tion Block Grant program of the Department of
19 Energy.

20 (C) The following programs of the Depart-
21 ment of Health and Human Services:

22 (i) The Child Care and Development
23 Block Grant program.

24 (ii) The Community Mental Health
25 Services Block Grant program.

1 (iii) The Community Services Block
2 Grant program.

3 (iv) The Low Income Home Energy
4 Assistance Block Grant program.

5 (v) The Maternal and Child Health
6 Services Block Grant program.

7 (vi) The Preventive Health and
8 Health Services Block Grant program.

9 (vii) The Social Services Block Grant
10 program.

11 (viii) The Substance Abuse Prevention
12 and Treatment Block Grant program.

13 (ix) The Temporary Assistance to
14 Needy Families program.

15 (x) The Title V Abstinence Education
16 Block Grant program.

17 (D) The Homeland Security Grant Pro-
18 grams (State Homeland Security Programs,
19 Urban Area Security Initiative Grant, and Op-
20 eration Stonegarden) of the Department of
21 Homeland Security.

22 (E) The following programs of the Depart-
23 ment of Housing and Urban Development:

24 (i) The Community Development
25 Block Grant program.

1 (ii) The Indian Community Develop-
2 ment Block Grant program.

3 (iii) The Emergency Solutions Grant
4 Program.

5 (iv) The HOME Investment Partner-
6 ships Program.

7 (v) The Indian Housing Block Grant
8 program.

9 (vi) The Native Hawaiian Housing
10 Block Grant program.

11 (F) The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice
12 Assistance Grant program of the Department of
13 Justice.

14 (G) The Workforce Investment Act (Youth,
15 Adult, and Dislocated Workers) program of the
16 Department of Labor.

17 (H) The following programs of the Depart-
18 ment of Transportation:

19 (i) The Federal Aviation Administra-
20 tion Airport Improvement State Block
21 Grant Program.

22 (ii) The Surface Transportation Block
23 Grant Program.

1 (2) STATE.—The term “State” means any of
2 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, or Puerto
3 Rico.

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