

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2003

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require any major or minor party general election candidate who receives amounts from the Presidential Election Campaign Fund to participate in debates with other such candidates.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 5, 1993

Mr. MARKEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require any major or minor party general election candidate who receives amounts from the Presidential Election Campaign Fund to participate in debates with other such candidates.

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 “National Presidential
5 Debates Act of 1993”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEBATES BY GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATES**
2 **WHO RECEIVE AMOUNTS FROM THE PRESI-**
3 **DENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUND.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 95 of the Internal Reve-
5 nue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 9001 et seq.) is amended
6 by inserting after section 9003 the following new section:

7 **“SEC. 9003A. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION DEBATES.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the requirements
9 specified in section 9003, in order to be eligible to receive
10 any payments under section 9006, the candidates of a
11 major or minor political party for the offices of President
12 and Vice President shall agree in writing—

13 “(1) that the candidate for the office of Presi-
14 dent will participate in at least 3 debates, sponsored
15 by a nonpartisan organization, with all other can-
16 didates for that office who are eligible under such
17 section 9006; and

18 “(2) that the major or minor party candidate
19 for the office of Vice President will participate in at
20 least 1 debate, sponsored by a nonpartisan or bipar-
21 tisan organization, with all other candidates for that
22 office who are eligible under such section 9006.

23 “(b) INELIGIBILITY.—If the Commission determines
24 that a major or minor party candidate failed to participate
25 in a debate under subsection (a) and was responsible at

1 least in part for such failure, the candidates of the party
2 involved shall—

3 “(1) be ineligible to receive payments under sec-
4 tion 9006; and

5 “(2) pay to the Secretary of the Treasury an
6 amount equal to the amount of the payments made
7 to such candidates under such section.”.

8 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
9 for chapter 95 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is
10 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
11 9003 the following new item:

“Sec. 9003A. Presidential election debates.”.

12 **SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.**

13 Section 9007(b)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code of
14 1986 (26 U.S.C. 9007(b)(5)) is amended by inserting “or
15 section 9003A(b)” after “this subsection” each place it
16 appears.

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