

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4712

To improve the procedures of the Federal Communications Commission in the conduct of congressional communications.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 21, 2000

Mr. OXLEY (for himself, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. LARGENT, and Mr. PICKERING) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To improve the procedures of the Federal Communications Commission in the conduct of congressional communications.

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 “FCC De-Politicization
5 Act of 2000”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CONGRES-**
7 **SIONAL COMMUNICATIONS.**

8 Section 4(j) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
9 U.S.C. 154(j)) is amended—

10 (1) by inserting “(1)” after “(j)”; and

1 (2) by adding at the end the following new
2 paragraph:

3 “(2)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (C), no
4 member (including the chairman), officer, or employee of
5 the Commission shall take any action—

6 “(i) to express the support or opposition of the
7 Commission for any legislation or appropriation, or

8 “(ii) to request or suggest on behalf of the
9 Commission that any organization, entity, or person
10 should communicate to any Member of Congress the
11 support or opposition of the organization, entity, or
12 person for any legislation or appropriation,

13 unless such action has been approved by majority vote of
14 the Commission.

15 “(B) After an action described in clause (i) or (ii)
16 of subparagraph (A) has been approved by majority vote,
17 such action may only be carried out by the members of
18 the Commission (including the chairman) and the staffs
19 in the offices of such members, and may not be carried
20 out by the officers or employees of any other bureau, of-
21 fice, or other component of the Commission.

22 “(C) Subparagraph (A) shall not prohibit any mem-
23 ber of the Commission (including the chairman) from ex-
24 pressing the individual opinion of such member with re-
25 spect to any legislation or appropriation.

1 “(D) Nothing in this paragraph authorizes any con-
2 duct in violation of section 1913 of title 18, United States
3 Code.”.

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