

Ban Congressional Stock Trading Act

The *Ban Congressional Stock Trading Act*:

- **Requires all Members of Congress, and their spouses and dependent children, to put certain investments into a qualified blind trust or divest them within 120 days after the enactment of this legislation.** New Members of Congress, and their spouses and dependent children, would be required to do the same within 120 days of assuming office. Covered investments that cannot be moved into a blind trust must be divested.
 - **Requires Members, within 30 days of enactment or swearing in, to certify that they either: 1) will establish a blind trust to include covered investments or 2) do not own any covered investments.** The status of these certifications would be made publicly available.
 - **Defines covered investments as the following:** a security, commodity, future, or any comparable economic interest acquired through synthetic means such as the use of a derivative.
 - **Clarifies that the following do not qualify as covered investments:** diversified mutual funds, diversified exchange-traded funds, and primary compensation from a spouse or dependent, and well as U.S. Treasury bills, notes and bonds. These investments would not have to be placed in a blind trust.
 - Permits Members to seek a limited number of extensions from their respective House or Senate Ethics Committees.
 - Permits affected individuals to remove assets from or dissolve the blind trust 180 days after the Member leaves Congress.
- **Prohibits Members, their spouses, and dependent children from personally acquiring covered investments during the Member's period of service.**
- **Includes reporting requirements to ensure accountability and public visibility into the holdings of Members' blind trusts.**
 - Trustees must provide written notice if they divest any initial property of the blind trust. (Trustees must already provide this

notice to trust beneficiaries. This bill ensures the public has this information, as well.)

- Members must provide to their respective Ethics Committees a copy of any executed blind trust agreement and a schedule of assets transferred into the trust.
- **House and Senate Ethics Committees must make publicly available key documents**, including a copy each blind trust agreement, the schedule of assets transferred into each trust, and a description of any extensions granted or penalties imposed.
- **Clarifies the treatment of inheritances.** Inheritances that are covered investments must be divested or placed into a blind trust not later than 120 days after the receipt.
- Provides for enforcement through financial penalties.
- Authorizes the House and Senate Ethics Committees to establish rules and guidelines in accordance with the bill.