

Transparency in Secret Society Affiliations Act (TSSAA)

Preamble

Whereas the integrity of public office is essential to the health of a democratic republic;

And whereas undisclosed affiliations with organizations that maintain secrecy may compromise public trust and present conflicts of interest;

Therefore, Congress enacts this legislation to promote transparency, uphold ethical standards, and safeguard the impartiality of public officials.

1 Definitions

1.1 **Public Official:** Any individual serving in an elected, appointed, or career position within the executive, legislative, or judicial branches of the federal government, or in state or local government.

1.2 **Secret Society:** Any organization that:

1.21. maintains secrecy regarding membership or practices,

1.22. restricts access or participation through non-public selection,

1.23. and conducts rituals or internal governance not subject to public accountability.

2 Disclosure Requirements

2.1 Public officials must disclose any active or former affiliations with secret societies upon assuming office and annually thereafter.

2.2 Disclosures must include:

- 2.21. the name of the organization,
- 2.22. the nature of the affiliation (e.g., member, officer, advisor),
- 2.23. and the duration of involvement.

3 Submission and Registry

- 3.1 Disclosures shall be submitted to the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) or applicable state-level ethics commission within 30 days of taking office.
- 3.2 Annual disclosures shall be filed by April 30 of each year.
- 3.3 A centralized, publicly accessible registry shall be maintained, publishing the names of public officials and disclosed affiliations, with redactions as necessary for national security or personal safety.

4 Exemptions and Appeals

- 4.1 Officials may request partial exemptions if full disclosure would:
 - 4.11. endanger personal or public safety,
 - 4.12. or violate legally binding confidentiality clauses.
- 4.2 The OGE shall determine exemptions on a case-by-case basis and issue redacted public disclosures where appropriate.

5 Enforcement and Penalties

- 5.1 Non-compliance may result in administrative sanctions including fines, suspension, or referral for removal under relevant statutory authority.
- 5.2 Repeated or willful violations may be prosecuted under applicable ethics or anti-corruption laws.

6 Whistleblower Protections

- 6.1 Individuals who report violations in good faith are protected under the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989.
- 6.2 Retaliation against whistleblowers shall be subject to investigation and sanction.

7 Constitutional Safeguards

- 7.1 This Act shall be interpreted in accordance with the First Amendment and other constitutional protections.
- 7.2 Nothing herein shall prohibit lawful private association unless it conflicts with the duties or impartiality required of public office.

8 Effective Date

- 8.1 This Act shall take effect 180 days after enactment.
- 8.2 The OGE shall develop and publish compliance guidelines within 90 days of enactment.