

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3606

To increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 8, 2011

Mr. FINCHER (for himself, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. KIND, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. POLIS, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. HIMES, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. PETERS, Mr. GRIMM, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. HENSARLING, and Ms. ESHOO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies.

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 “Reopening American  
5 Capital Markets to Emerging Growth Companies Act of  
6 2011”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 (a) SECURITIES ACT OF 1933.—Section 2(a) of the  
3 Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77b(a)) is amended by  
4 adding at the end the following:

5 “(19) The term ‘emerging growth company’  
6 means an issuer that had total annual gross reve-  
7 nues of less than \$1,000,000,000 during its most re-  
8 cently completed fiscal year. An issuer that is an  
9 emerging growth company as of the first day of that  
10 fiscal year shall continue to be deemed an emerging  
11 growth company until the earliest of—

12 “(A) the last day of the fiscal year of the  
13 issuer during which it had total annual gross  
14 revenues of \$1,000,000,000 or more;

15 “(B) the last day of the fiscal year of the  
16 issuer following the fifth anniversary of the date  
17 of the first sale of common equity securities of  
18 the issuer pursuant to an effective registration  
19 statement under this title; and

20 “(C) the date on which such issuer is  
21 deemed to be a ‘large accelerated filer’, as de-  
22 fined in section 240.12b–2 of title 17 of the  
23 Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor  
24 thereto.”.

1 (b) SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934.—Section  
2 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C.  
3 78c(a)) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating paragraph (77), as added  
5 by section 941(a) of the Investor Protection and Se-  
6 curities Reform Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–203,  
7 124 Stat. 1890), as paragraph (79); and

8 (2) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(80) The term ‘emerging growth company’  
10 means an issuer that had total annual gross reve-  
11 nues of less than \$1,000,000,000 during its most re-  
12 cently completed fiscal year. An issuer that is an  
13 emerging growth company as of the first day of that  
14 fiscal year shall continue to be deemed an emerging  
15 growth company until the earliest of—

16 “(A) the last day of the fiscal year of the  
17 issuer during which it had total annual gross  
18 revenues of \$1,000,000,000 or more;

19 “(B) the last day of the fiscal year of the  
20 issuer following the fifth anniversary of the date  
21 of the first sale of common equity securities of  
22 the issuer pursuant to an effective registration  
23 statement under the Securities Act of 1933;  
24 and

1           “(C) the date on which such issuer is  
2           deemed to be a ‘large accelerated filer’, as de-  
3           fined in section 240.12b–2 of title 17 of the  
4           Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor  
5           thereto.”.

6           (c) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—As used in this title, the  
7           following definitions shall apply:

8           (1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”  
9           means the Securities and Exchange Commission.

10          (2) INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING DATE.—The  
11          term “initial public offering date” means the date of  
12          the first sale of common equity securities of an  
13          issuer pursuant to an effective registration state-  
14          ment under the Securities Act of 1933.

15 **SEC. 3. DISCLOSURE OBLIGATIONS.**

16          (a) EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION.—

17               (1) EXEMPTION.—Section 14A(e) of the Securi-  
18               ties Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78n–1(e)) is  
19               amended—

20                       (A) by inserting “An emerging growth  
21                       company shall be exempt from the requirements  
22                       of subsections (a) and (b).” before “The Com-  
23                       mission may”; and

24                       (B) by striking “an issuer” and inserting  
25                       “any other issuer”.

1           (2) PROXIES.—Section 14(i) of the Securities  
2 Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78n(i)) is amend-  
3 ed by inserting “, for any issuer other than an  
4 emerging growth company,” after “including”.

5           (3) COMPENSATION DISCLOSURES.—Section  
6 953(b)(1) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform  
7 and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (Public Law  
8 111–203; 124 Stat. 1904) is amended by inserting  
9 “, other than an emerging growth company, as that  
10 term is defined in section 3(a) of the Securities Ex-  
11 change Act of 1934,” after “require each issuer”.

12           (b) FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES.—

13           (1) SECURITIES ACT OF 1933.—Section 7(a) of  
14 the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77g(a)) is  
15 amended by adding at the end the following: “An  
16 emerging growth company need not present more  
17 than 2 years of audited financial statements in order  
18 for the registration statement of such emerging  
19 growth company with respect to an initial public of-  
20 fering of its common equity securities to be effective,  
21 and in any other registration statement to be filed  
22 with the Commission, an emerging growth company  
23 need not present financial data for any period prior  
24 to the earliest audited period presented in connection  
25 with its initial public offering.”.

1           (2) SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934.—Sec-  
2           tion 13(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
3           (15 U.S.C. 78m(a)) is amended by adding at the  
4           end the following: “In any registration statement,  
5           periodic report, or other reports to be filed with the  
6           Commission, an emerging growth company need not  
7           present financial data for any period prior to the  
8           earliest audited period presented in connection with  
9           its initial public offering.”.

10          (c) NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS.—Section  
11          19(b)(1)(A) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C.  
12          77s(b)(1)(A)) is amended—

13                 (1) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at the end;  
14                 and

15                 (2) by adding at the end the following:

16                         “(vi) has not established any account-  
17                         ing principles that would require an emerg-  
18                         ing growth company to comply with any  
19                         new or revised financial accounting stand-  
20                         ard as of an effective date that is earlier  
21                         than the effective date that applies to a  
22                         company that is not an issuer, as defined  
23                         in section 2(a)(7) of the Sarbanes-Oxley  
24                         Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 7201(a)(7)); and”.

1 (d) OTHER DISCLOSURES.—An emerging growth  
2 company may comply with section 229.303(a) of title 17  
3 of the Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor  
4 thereto, by providing information required by such section  
5 with respect to the financial statements of the emerging  
6 growth company for each period presented pursuant to  
7 subsection (b). An emerging growth company may comply  
8 with section 229.402 of title 17 of the Code of Federal  
9 Regulations, or any successor thereto, by disclosing the  
10 same information as any issuer with a market value of  
11 outstanding voting and nonvoting common equity held by  
12 non-affiliates of less than \$75,000,000.

13 **SEC. 4. INTERNAL CONTROLS AUDIT.**

14 Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002  
15 (15 U.S.C. 7262(b)) is amended by inserting “, other than  
16 an issuer that is an emerging growth company (as defined  
17 in section 3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934),”  
18 before “shall attest to”.

19 **SEC. 5. AUDITING STANDARDS.**

20 Section 103(a)(3) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002  
21 (15 U.S.C. 7213(a)(3)) is amended by adding at the end  
22 the following:

23 “(C) TRANSITION PERIOD FOR EMERGING  
24 GROWTH COMPANIES.—Any rules of the Board  
25 requiring mandatory audit firm rotation or a

1 supplement to the auditor’s report in which the  
2 auditor would be required to provide additional  
3 information about the audit and the financial  
4 statements of the issuer (auditor discussion and  
5 analysis) shall not apply to an emerging growth  
6 company, as defined in section 3 of the Securi-  
7 ties Exchange Act of 1934. Any additional rules  
8 adopted by the Board after the date of enact-  
9 ment of this subparagraph shall not apply to  
10 any emerging growth company, unless the Com-  
11 mission determines that the application of such  
12 additional requirements to emerging growth  
13 companies is necessary or appropriate in the  
14 public interest, after considering the protection  
15 of investors and whether the action will promote  
16 efficiency, competition, and capital formation.”.

17 **SEC. 6. AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION ABOUT EMERGING**  
18 **GROWTH COMPANIES.**

19 (a) PROVISION OF RESEARCH.—Section 2(a)(3) of  
20 the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77b(a)(3)) is  
21 amended by adding at the end the following: “The publica-  
22 tion or distribution by a broker or dealer of a research  
23 report about an emerging growth company that is the sub-  
24 ject of a proposed public offering of the common equity  
25 securities of such emerging growth company pursuant to

1 a registration statement that the issuer proposes to file,  
2 or has filed, or that is effective shall be deemed for pur-  
3 poses of paragraph (10) of this subsection and section 5(c)  
4 not to constitute an offer for sale or offer to sell a security,  
5 even if the broker or dealer is participating or will partici-  
6 pate in the registered offering of the securities of the  
7 issuer. As used in this paragraph, the term “research re-  
8 port” means a written, electronic, or oral communication  
9 that includes information, opinions, or recommendations  
10 with respect to securities of an issuer or an analysis of  
11 a security or an issuer, whether or not it provides informa-  
12 tion reasonably sufficient upon which to base an invest-  
13 ment decision.”.

14 (b) SECURITIES ANALYST COMMUNICATIONS.—Sec-  
15 tion 15D of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15  
16 U.S.C. 78o–6) is amended—

17 (1) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-  
18 section (d); and

19 (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-  
20 lowing:

21 “(c) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a)  
22 or any other provision of law, neither the Commission nor  
23 any national securities association registered under section  
24 15A may adopt or maintain any rule or regulation in con-

1 nection with an initial public offering of the common eq-  
2 uity of an emerging growth company—

3 “(1) restricting, based on functional role, which  
4 associated persons of a broker, dealer, or member of  
5 a national securities association, may arrange for  
6 communications between a securities analyst and a  
7 potential investor; or

8 “(2) restricting a securities analyst from par-  
9 ticipating in any communications with the manage-  
10 ment of an emerging growth company that is also  
11 attended by any other associated person of a broker,  
12 dealer, or member of a national securities associa-  
13 tion whose functional role is other than as a securi-  
14 ties analyst.”.

15 (c) EXPANDING PERMISSIBLE COMMUNICATIONS.—  
16 Section 5 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1933 (15  
17 U.S.C. 77e) is amended—

18 (1) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-  
19 section (e); and

20 (2) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-  
21 lowing:

22 “(d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
23 sion of this section, an emerging growth company or any  
24 person authorized to act on behalf of an emerging growth  
25 company may engage in oral or written communications

1 with potential investors that are qualified institutional  
2 buyers or institutions that are accredited investors, as  
3 such terms are respectively defined in section 230.144A  
4 and section 230.501(a) of title 17 of the Code of Federal  
5 Regulations, or any successor thereto, to determine wheth-  
6 er such investors might have an interest in a contemplated  
7 securities offering, either prior to or following the date of  
8 filing of a registration statement with respect to such se-  
9 curities with the Commission, subject to the requirement  
10 of subsection (b)(2).”.

11 (d) POST OFFERING COMMUNICATIONS.—Neither  
12 the Commission nor any national securities association  
13 registered under section 15A of the Securities Exchange  
14 Act of 1934 may adopt or maintain any rule or regulation  
15 prohibiting any broker, dealer, or member of a national  
16 securities association from publishing or distributing any  
17 research report or making a public appearance, with re-  
18 spect to the securities of an emerging growth company,  
19 either—

20 (1) within any prescribed period of time fol-  
21 lowing the initial public offering date of the emerg-  
22 ing growth company; or

23 (2) within any prescribed period of time prior  
24 to the expiration date of any agreement between the  
25 broker, dealer, or member of a national securities as-

1       society and the emerging growth company or its  
2       shareholders that restricts or prohibits the sale of  
3       securities held by the emerging growth company or  
4       its shareholders after the initial public offering date.

5       **SEC. 7. OTHER MATTERS.**

6       Section 6 of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C.  
7       77f) is amended by adding at the end the following:

8       “(e) EMERGING GROWTH COMPANIES.—

9               “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any emerging growth com-  
10       pany, prior to its initial public offering date, may  
11       confidentially submit to the Commission a draft reg-  
12       istration statement, for confidential nonpublic review  
13       by the staff of the Commission prior to public filing,  
14       provided that the initial confidential submission and  
15       all amendments thereto shall be publicly filed with  
16       the Commission not later than 21 days before the  
17       date on which the issuer conducts a road show, as  
18       such term is defined in section 230.433(h)(4) of title  
19       17 of the Code of Federal Regulations, or any suc-  
20       cessor thereto.

21               “(2) CONFIDENTIALITY.—Notwithstanding any  
22       other provision of this title, the Commission shall  
23       not be compelled to disclose any information pro-  
24       vided to or obtained by the Commission pursuant to  
25       this subsection. For purposes of section 552 of title

1       5, United States Code, this subsection shall be con-  
2       sidered a statute described in subsection (b)(3)(B)  
3       of such section 552. Information described in or ob-  
4       tained pursuant to this subsection shall be deemed  
5       to constitute confidential information for purposes of  
6       section 24(b)(2) of the Securities Exchange Act of  
7       1934.”.

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