H. R. 6699

To extend protections to part-time workers in the areas of family and medical leave and pension plans, and to ensure equitable treatment in the workplace.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 9, 2022

Ms. Schakowsky (for herself, Ms. Delauro, Ms. Pressley, Ms. Porter, Ms. Lee of California, Mr. Doggett, Mr. García of Illinois, Mr. Torres of New York, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Jayapal, and Ms. Norton) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, Oversight and Reform, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To extend protections to part-time workers in the areas of family and medical leave and pension plans, and to ensure equitable treatment in the workplace.

- 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 "Part-Time Worker Bill
- 5 of Rights Act".

1 SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

- 2 The table of contents is as follows:
 - Sec. 1. Short title.
 - Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—EXPANDING ACCESS TO BENEFITS FOR PART-TIME WORKERS

- Sec. 101. Elimination of hours of service requirement for FMLA leave.
- Sec. 102. Improving coverage for long-term part-time workers.

TITLE II—ENSURING FAIR TREATMENT FOR PART-TIME WORKERS

- Sec. 201. Definitions.
- Sec. 202. Elimination of discrimination on the basis of hours worked.
- Sec. 203. Offer of work to existing employees.
- Sec. 204. Prohibited acts.
- Sec. 205. Remedies and enforcement.
- Sec. 206. Regulations.

3 TITLE I—EXPANDING ACCESS TO

4 BENEFITS FOR PART-TIME

5 **WORKERS**

- 6 SEC. 101. ELIMINATION OF HOURS OF SERVICE REQUIRE-
- 7 MENT FOR FMLA LEAVE.
- 8 (a) AMENDMENT.—Section 101(2)(A) of the Family
- 9 and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2611(2)(A))
- 10 is amended to read as follows:
- 11 "(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'eligible em-
- ployee' means an employee who has been em-
- ployed for at least 12 months by the employer
- with respect to whom leave is requested under
- 15 section 102.".
- 16 (b) Conforming Amendments.—

| 1 | (1) Section 101(2) of such Act (29 U.S.C. |
|--|---|
| 2 | 2611(2)) is amended— |
| 3 | (A) by striking subparagraphs (C) and |
| 4 | (D); and |
| 5 | (B) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as |
| 6 | subparagraph (C). |
| 7 | (2) Section 102(a) of such Act (29 U.S.C. |
| 8 | 2612(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (5). |
| 9 | (c) Effective Date.—The amendments made by |
| 10 | subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect beginning on the |
| 11 | date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this |
| 12 | Act. |
| 10 | CEC 100 IMPROVING COVERAGE FOR LONG WERM DARK |
| 13 | SEC. 102. IMPROVING COVERAGE FOR LONG-TERM PART- |
| 13 14 | TIME WORKERS. |
| 14 | |
| | TIME WORKERS. |
| 14 15 | TIME WORKERS. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1052) |
| 14 15 16 17 | TIME WORKERS. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1052) |
| 14 15 16 17 | TIME WORKERS. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1052) is amended by adding at the end the following new sub- |
| 14 15 16 17 18 | TIME WORKERS. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1052) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection: |
| 14 15 16 17 18 | TIME WORKERS. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1052) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection: "(c) Special Rule for Certain Part-Time Em- |
| 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 | TIME WORKERS. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1052) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection: "(c) Special Rule for Certain Part-Time Employees.— |
| 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 | TIME WORKERS. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1052) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection: "(c) Special Rule for Certain Part-Time Employees.— "(1) In General.—A pension plan that in- |
| 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 | tirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1052) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection: "(c) Special Rule for Certain Part-Time Employees.— "(1) In General.—A pension plan that includes either a qualified cash or deferred arrange- |

| 1 | shall not require, as a condition of participation in |
|----|--|
| 2 | the arrangement or agreement, that an employee |
| 3 | complete a period of service with the employer (or |
| 4 | employers) maintaining the plan extending beyond |
| 5 | the close of the earlier of— |
| 6 | "(A) the period permitted under subsection |
| 7 | (a)(1) (determined without regard to subpara- |
| 8 | graph (B)(i) thereof) and section 410(a)(1) of |
| 9 | such Code (determined without regard to sub- |
| 10 | paragraph (B)(i) thereof); or |
| 11 | "(B) the first 24-month period— |
| 12 | "(i) consisting of 2 consecutive 12- |
| 13 | month periods during each of which the |
| 14 | employee has at least 500 hours of service; |
| 15 | and |
| 16 | "(ii) by the close of which the em- |
| 17 | ployee has attained the age of 21. |
| 18 | "(2) Exception.—Paragraph (1)(B) shall not |
| 19 | apply to employees who are included in a unit of em- |
| 20 | ployees covered by an agreement which the Secretary |
| 21 | finds to be a collective bargaining agreement be- |
| 22 | tween employee representatives and one or more em- |
| 23 | ployers, if there is evidence that retirement benefits |
| 24 | were the subject of good faith bargaining between |

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

such employee representatives and such employer or employers.

"(3) COORDINATION WITH OTHER RULES.—In the case of employees who are not highly compensated employees (within the meaning of section 414(q) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) and who are eligible to participate in the arrangement or agreement solely by reason of paragraph (1)(B):

EXCLUSIONS.—An employer may elect to exclude such employees from the determination of whether the plan that includes the arrangement or agreement satisfies the requirements of subsections (a)(4), (k)(3), (k)(12), (k)(13), (m)(2), (m)(11), and (m)(12) of section 401 of such Code, section 410(b) of such Code, and section 416 of such Code. If the employer so excludes such employees with respect to the requirements of any such provision, such employees shall be excluded with respect to the requirements of all such provisions. This subparagraph shall cease to apply to any employee as of the first plan year beginning after the plan year in which the employee completes 1 year of service (without regard to paragraph (1)(B) of this subsection).

1 "(B) TIME OF PARTICIPATION.—The rules 2 of subsection (a)(4) and section 410(a)(4) of 3 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall apply 4 to such employees. 5 "(4) 12-MONTH PERIOD.—For purposes of this 6 subsection, 12-month periods shall be determined in 7 the same manner as under the last sentence of sub-8 section (a)(3)(A), except that 12-month periods be-9 ginning before January 1, 2022, shall not be taken 10 into account.". 11 (b) Vesting.—Section 203(b) of the Employee Re-12 tirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1053(b)) is amended by redesignating paragraph (4) as 13 paragraph (5) and by inserting after paragraph (3) the 14 15 following new paragraph: 16 "(4) Part-Time Employees.—For purposes of determining whether an employee who is eligible to partici-18 pate in a qualified cash or deferred arrangement or a sal-19 ary reduction agreement under a plan solely by reason of 20 section 202(c)(1)(B) has a nonforfeitable right to em-21 ployer contributions— 22 "(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), 23 each 12-month period for which the employee has at 24 least 500 hours of service shall be treated as a year 25 of service; and

- 1 "(B) 12-month periods occurring before the 24-
- 2 month period described in section 202(c)(1)(B) shall
- 3 not be treated as years of service.
- 4 For purposes of this paragraph, 12-month periods shall
- 5 be determined in the same manner as under the last sen-
- 6 tence of section 202(a)(3)(A), except that 12-month peri-
- 7 ods beginning before January 1, 2022, shall not be taken
- 8 into account.".
- 9 (c) Penalty.—Section 502 of the Employee Retire-
- 10 ment Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1132) is
- 11 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
- 12 section:
- 13 "(n) Requirements Relating to Part-Time Em-
- 14 PLOYEES.—In the case of a plan that fails to permit par-
- 15 ticipation as required by section 202(c), the Secretary may
- 16 assess a civil penalty against the plan sponsor in an
- 17 amount equal to \$10,000 per year per employee to whom
- 18 such failure relates. The Secretary may, in the Secretary's
- 19 sole discretion, waive or reduce the penalty under this sub-
- 20 section if the Secretary determines that the plan sponsor
- 21 acted reasonably and in good faith.".

II—ENSURING TITLE FAIR 1 TREATMENT FOR PART-TIME 2 WORKERS 3 4 SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS. 5 In this title: (1) Employ.—The term "employ" has the 6 7 meaning given the term in section 3(g) of the Fair 8 Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(g)). 9 (2) Employee.—The term "employee" means 10 an individual who is— 11 (A) an employee, as defined in section 3(e) 12 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 13 U.S.C. 203(e)), who is not covered under any of 14 subparagraphs (B) through (G), except that a 15 reference in such section to an employer shall 16 be considered to be a reference to a person in 17 commerce described in paragraph (3)(A): 18 (B) a State employee described in section 19 304(a) of the Government Employee Rights Act 20 of 1991 (42 U.S.C. 2000e–16c(a)); 21 (C) a covered employee, as defined in sec-22 tion 101 of the Congressional Accountability 23 Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301), except that such 24 term shall not include an applicant for employ-25 ment;

| 1 | (D) a covered employee, as defined in sec- |
|----|--|
| 2 | tion 411(c) of title 3, United States Code; |
| 3 | (E) a Federal officer or employee covered |
| 4 | under subchapter V of chapter 63 of title 5, |
| 5 | United States Code; or |
| 6 | (F) an employee of the Government Ac- |
| 7 | countability Office. |
| 8 | (3) Employer.—The term "employer"— |
| 9 | (A)(i) means any person in commerce |
| 10 | that— |
| 11 | (I) employs more than 15 employees |
| 12 | described in paragraph (2)(A), which shall |
| 13 | be calculated by including all employees de- |
| 14 | scribed in paragraph (2)(A) performing |
| 15 | work for compensation on a full-time, part- |
| 16 | time, or temporary basis, except that if the |
| 17 | number of such employees who perform |
| 18 | work for such a person for compensation |
| 19 | fluctuates, the number may be determined |
| 20 | for a calendar year based upon the average |
| 21 | number of such employees who performed |
| 22 | work for the person for compensation dur- |
| 23 | ing the preceding calendar year; or |
| 24 | (II) is part of an integrated enter- |
| 25 | prise, chain of businesses, group of fran- |

| 1 | chises associated with a franchisor, or net- |
|----|---|
| 2 | work of franchises that, in the aggregate, |
| 3 | employs more than 15 employees, cal- |
| 4 | culated in accordance with subclause (I); |
| 5 | (ii) includes— |
| 6 | (I) any person who acts, directly or |
| 7 | indirectly, in the interest of such an em- |
| 8 | ployer to any of the employees (described |
| 9 | in clause (i)) of such employer; and |
| 10 | (II) any successor in interest of such |
| 11 | an employer; and |
| 12 | (iii) includes an agency described in sub- |
| 13 | paragraph (A)(iii) of section 101(4) of the |
| 14 | Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 |
| 15 | U.S.C. 2611(4)), to which subparagraph (B) of |
| 16 | such section shall apply; |
| 17 | (B) is an entity employing a State em- |
| 18 | ployee described in section 304(a) of the Gov- |
| 19 | ernment Employee Rights Act of 1991 (42 |
| 20 | U.S.C. 2000e–16c(a)); |
| 21 | (C) is an employing office, as defined in |
| 22 | section 101 of the Congressional Accountability |
| 23 | Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301); |
| 24 | (D) is an employing office, as defined in |
| 25 | section 411(c) of title 3. United States Code: |

| 1 | (E) is an employing agency covered under |
|----|--|
| 2 | subchapter V of chapter 63 of title 5, United |
| 3 | States Code; or |
| 4 | (F) is the Comptroller General of the |
| 5 | United States. |
| 6 | (4) Person.—The term "person", except as |
| 7 | used with the term "person in commerce", has the |
| 8 | meaning given the term in section 3(a) of the Fair |
| 9 | Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(a)). |
| 10 | (5) Person in Commerce.— |
| 11 | (A) In general.—The term "person in |
| 12 | commerce" means any person who is engaged |
| 13 | in commerce, in any industry or activity affect- |
| 14 | ing commerce, or in the production of goods for |
| 15 | commerce. |
| 16 | (B) Commerce.—In subparagraph (A), |
| 17 | the term "commerce" includes government. |
| 18 | (6) Secretary.—The term "Secretary" means |
| 19 | the Secretary of Labor. |
| 20 | SEC. 202. ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS |
| 21 | OF HOURS WORKED. |
| 22 | (a) Rule.— |
| 23 | (1) In general.—An employer shall not dis- |
| 24 | criminate against an employee on the basis that |
| 25 | such employee is scheduled to work fewer hours per |

1 week, or is employed for a shorter expected duration, 2 than another employee of the employer if the jobs of 3 such employees require substantially equal skill, effort, responsibility, and duties and such jobs are performed under similar working conditions. 5 6 (2) Examples.—Discrimination described in paragraph (1) shall include differential treatment 7 8 with respect to— 9 (A) rate of compensation; 10 (B) notice of, and input into, work hours; 11 (C) eligibility to accrue, on a pro rata 12 basis, employer-provided paid and unpaid time 13 off and other benefits; 14 (D) promotion opportunities; or 15 (E) other terms, conditions, or privileges of 16 employment. 17 (b) DISTINCTIONS PERMITTED.—This section shall not be construed to prohibit differences in rate of com-18 19 pensation, or other conditions, terms, or privileges of employment, of employees of an employer for reasons other 21 than the number of hours the employees are scheduled to work per week, or the expected duration of employment 23 of the employees, including for reasons such as— 24 (1) the date on which the employees are hired; 25 (2) a merit system; or

| 1 | (3) a system that measures earnings by quan- |
|----|---|
| 2 | tity per hour or quality of production. |
| 3 | SEC. 203. OFFER OF WORK TO EXISTING EMPLOYEES. |
| 4 | (a) Written Statements Required.— |
| 5 | (1) In General.—Upon hiring an employee, an |
| 6 | employer shall— |
| 7 | (A) obtain a written statement of the em- |
| 8 | ployee's desired number of weekly work hours |
| 9 | and the days and times the employee is avail- |
| 10 | able to work; |
| 11 | (B) notify the employee that this written |
| 12 | statement may be modified in writing at any |
| 13 | time during employment; and |
| 14 | (C) specify the process to modify the writ- |
| 15 | ten statement. |
| 16 | (b) Offer of Desired Weekly Work Hours to |
| 17 | EXISTING EMPLOYEES.— |
| 18 | (1) In general.—Except as provided in para- |
| 19 | graph (2), an employer shall schedule an employee |
| 20 | of the employer to work the number of weekly hours |
| 21 | identified by the employee as desired weekly hours in |
| 22 | a written statement under subsection (a) prior to |
| 23 | hiring any new employee from an external applicant |
| 24 | pool, including hiring through the use of a tem- |
| 25 | porary services or staffing agency, or contracting |

| 1 | with a contractor or subcontractor, to work such |
|----|--|
| 2 | hours. |
| 3 | (2) Exceptions.—An employer may hire an |
| 4 | individual as a new employee, or engage a contractor |
| 5 | or subcontractor, to perform work for the employer |
| 6 | if— |
| 7 | (A) the employer needs to fill hours for |
| 8 | which no employees of the employer who have |
| 9 | provided written statements under subsection |
| 10 | (a) are available based on such written state- |
| 11 | ments; |
| 12 | (B) all employees of the employer who |
| 13 | have provided written statements under sub- |
| 14 | section (a) lack, and cannot obtain with reason- |
| 15 | able training, the qualifications necessary to |
| 16 | perform the work; or |
| 17 | (C) scheduling any such employee to per- |
| 18 | form the work would require providing such em- |
| 19 | ployee overtime compensation at a rate not less |
| 20 | than one and one half times the regular rate at |
| 21 | which the employee is employed, in accordance |
| 22 | with section 7 of the Fair Labor Standards Act |
| 23 | of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207) or any State law. |
| | |

(c) Compensation Required.—

- (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), an employee (referred to in this subsection as an "existing employee") who is not scheduled for the desired number of total weekly work hours identified by the employee in a written statement under subsection (a) shall be compensated for each hour worked by a newly hired employee, contractor, or subcontractor hired after the existing employee so identified such number of hours, during an hour that such existing employee identified in a written statement under such subsection as an hour for which the employee is available to work.
 - (2) EXCEPTION.—An employer shall not be required to compensate an existing employee under paragraph (1) for any hour of work for which—
 - (A) the employee lacks, or cannot obtain with reasonable training, the qualifications necessary to perform the work;
 - (B) scheduling such employee to perform the work would require providing the employee overtime compensation as described in subsection (b)(2)(C);
 - (C) the employer made a reasonable attempt to contact the employee to work such hour and was unable to reach the employee; or

| 1 | (D) the employee was otherwise no longer |
|----|---|
| 2 | available. |
| 3 | (d) Definition.—For purposes of this section, the |
| 4 | terms "written", with respect to a statement, and "writ- |
| 5 | ing" mean a printed or printable communication in phys- |
| 6 | ical or electronic form. |
| 7 | SEC. 204. PROHIBITED ACTS. |
| 8 | (a) Interference With Rights.—It shall be un- |
| 9 | lawful for any employer to interfere with, restrain, or deny |
| 10 | the exercise or the attempt to exercise, any rights set forth |
| 11 | under this title. |
| 12 | (b) Retaliation Prohibited.—It shall be unlawful |
| 13 | for any employer to discharge, threaten to discharge, de- |
| 14 | mote, suspend, reduce work hours of, or otherwise dis- |
| 15 | criminate (including taking any other adverse employment |
| 16 | action) against any person because of an employee of the |
| 17 | employer exercising the rights of the employee under this |
| 18 | title or opposing any practice made unlawful by this title. |
| 19 | (c) Interference With Proceedings or Inquir- |
| 20 | IES.—It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or |
| 21 | in any other manner discriminate against an individual be- |
| 22 | cause such individual— |
| 23 | (1) has filed any charge, or has instituted or |
| 24 | caused to be instituted any proceeding, under or re- |
| 25 | lated to this title; |

- 1 (2) has given, or is about to give, any informa-2 tion in connection with any inquiry or proceeding re-3 lating to any right provided under this title; or
- 4 (3) has testified, or is about to testify, in any inquiry or proceeding relating to any right provided under this title.

7 SEC. 205. REMEDIES AND ENFORCEMENT.

(a) Investigative Authority.—

- (1) IN GENERAL.—To ensure compliance with this title, including any regulation or order issued under this title, the Secretary shall have, subject to paragraph (3), the investigative authority provided under section 11(a) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 211(a)).
- (2) Obligation to keep and preserve records.—
 - (A) IN GENERAL.—Each employer shall maintain for a period of not less than 3 years, or for the duration of any claim (including the duration of a related civil action or investigation) pending pursuant to this title, whichever is longer, all records necessary to demonstrate compliance with this title, including compliance with the requirements of regulations issued by the Secretary under section 206. Such records

- shall include documentation of offers of hours of work to employees and responses to such offers.
 - (B) Copies.—Each employer shall, upon a reasonable request of an employee of the employer, provide the employee with a copy of the records described in subparagraph (A) relating to the employee.
 - (3) Required submissions generally limited to an annual basis.—The Secretary shall not require, under the authority of this subsection, any employer to submit to the Secretary any books or records more than once during any 12-month period, unless the Secretary has reasonable cause to believe there may exist a violation of this title, including any regulation or order issued pursuant to this title, or is investigating a charge pursuant to subsection (c).
 - (4) Subpoena Powers.—For the purposes of any investigation provided for in this subsection, the Secretary shall have the subpoena authority provided for under section 9 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 209).
- 24 (b) CIVIL ACTION BY EMPLOYEES.—
- 25 (1) Liability.—

| 1 | (A) IN GENERAL.—Any employer who vio- |
|----|--|
| 2 | lates section 202, 203, or 204 (each such provi- |
| 3 | sion referred to in this section as a "covered |
| 4 | provision") shall be liable to any person af- |
| 5 | fected for— |
| 6 | (i) damages equal to the amount of— |
| 7 | (I) any wages, salary, employ- |
| 8 | ment benefits (as defined in section |
| 9 | 101 of the Family and Medical Leave |
| 10 | Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2611)), or |
| 11 | other compensation denied, lost, or |
| 12 | owed to such employee by reason of |
| 13 | the violation; or |
| 14 | (II) in a case in which wages, |
| 15 | salary, employment benefits (as so de- |
| 16 | fined), or other compensation have |
| 17 | not been denied, lost, or owed to the |
| 18 | employee, any actual monetary losses |
| 19 | sustained by the employee as a direct |
| 20 | result of the violation; |
| 21 | (ii) interest on the amount described |
| 22 | in clause (i) calculated at the prevailing |
| 23 | rate; |
| 24 | (iii) except as provided in subpara- |
| 25 | graph (B), an additional amount as lig- |

| 1 | uidated damages equal to the sum of the |
|----|---|
| 2 | amount described in clause (i) and the in- |
| 3 | terest described in clause (ii); and |
| 4 | (iv) such equitable relief as may be |
| 5 | appropriate, including employment, rein- |
| 6 | statement, and promotion. |
| 7 | (B) Exception for liquidated dam- |
| 8 | AGES.—If an employer who has violated a cov- |
| 9 | ered provision proves to the satisfaction of the |
| 10 | court that the act or omission which violated |
| 11 | the covered provision was in good faith and that |
| 12 | the employer had reasonable grounds for believ- |
| 13 | ing that the act or omission was not a violation |
| 14 | of a covered provision, such court may, in the |
| 15 | discretion of the court, reduce the amount of li- |
| 16 | ability under subparagraph (A) to the amount, |
| 17 | interest, and equitable relief determined under |
| 18 | clauses (i), (ii), and (iv), respectively. |
| 19 | (2) RIGHT OF ACTION.—An action to recover |
| 20 | the damages, interest, or equitable relief set forth in |
| 21 | paragraph (1) may be maintained against any em- |
| 22 | ployer (including a public agency) in any Federal or |
| 23 | State court of competent jurisdiction by any one or |
| 24 | more employees for and on behalf of— |
| 25 | (A) such employees; or |

- 1 (B) such employees and any other employ-2 ees similarly situated.
 - (3) FEES AND COSTS.—The court in such an action shall, in addition to any judgment awarded to the plaintiff, allow a reasonable attorney's fee, reasonable expert witness fees, and other costs of the action to be paid by the defendant.
 - (4) LIMITATIONS.—The right provided by paragraph (2) to bring an action by or on behalf of any employee shall terminate on the filing of a complaint by the Secretary in an action under subsection (c)(4) in which a recovery is sought of the damages, interest, or equitable relief described in paragraph (1)(A) owing to an employee by an employer liable under paragraph (1) unless the action is dismissed without prejudice on motion of the Secretary.

(c) ACTIONS BY THE SECRETARY.—

(1) Administrative action.—The Secretary shall receive, investigate, and attempt to resolve complaints of violations of this title in the same manner that the Secretary receives, investigates, and attempts to resolve complaints of violations of sections 6 and 7 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206 and 207), and may issue an order making determinations, and assessing a civil

| 1 | penalty described in paragraph (3) (in accordance |
|----|---|
| 2 | with paragraph (3)), with respect to such an alleged |
| 3 | violation. |
| 4 | (2) Administrative review.—An affected |
| 5 | person who takes exception to an order issued under |
| 6 | paragraph (1) may request review of and a decision |
| 7 | regarding such an order by an administrative law |
| 8 | judge. In reviewing the order, the administrative law |
| 9 | judge may hold an administrative hearing con- |
| 10 | cerning the order, in accordance with the require- |
| 11 | ments of sections 554, 556, and 557 of title 5, |
| 12 | United States Code. Such hearing shall be conducted |
| 13 | expeditiously. |
| 14 | (3) Civil Penalty.— |
| 15 | (A) IN GENERAL.—An employer who will- |
| 16 | fully and repeatedly violates— |
| 17 | (i) section 204(a) shall be subject to |
| 18 | a civil penalty in an amount to be deter- |
| 19 | mined by the Secretary, but not to exceed |
| 20 | \$100 per violation (subject to subpara- |
| 21 | graph (B)); or |
| 22 | (ii) subsection (b) or (c) of section |
| 23 | 204 shall be subject to a civil penalty in an |
| 24 | amount to be determined by the Secretary, |

| 1 | but not to exceed \$1,100 per violation |
|----|--|
| 2 | (subject to subparagraph (B)). |
| 3 | (B) Inflation.—The Secretary shall, for |
| 4 | each year beginning with calendar year 2024, |
| 5 | increase the maximum amounts for the pen- |
| 6 | alties described in clauses (i) and (ii) of sub- |
| 7 | paragraph (A) by a percentage equal to the per- |
| 8 | centage increase in the Consumer Price Index |
| 9 | for All Urban Consumers, published by the De- |
| 10 | partment of Labor, between December 2022 |
| 11 | and the December prior to the year for which |
| 12 | the increase takes effect. |
| 13 | (4) CIVIL ACTION.— |
| 14 | (A) In General.—The Secretary may |
| 15 | bring an action in any court of competent juris- |
| 16 | diction on behalf of aggrieved employees to— |
| 17 | (i) restrain violations of this title; |
| 18 | (ii) obtain such equitable relief as may |
| 19 | be appropriate, including employment, re- |
| 20 | instatement, and promotion; and |
| 21 | (iii) in the case of a violation of a cov- |
| 22 | ered provision, recover the damages, inter- |
| 23 | est, and equitable relief described in |
| 24 | clauses (i) through (iv) of subsection |
| 25 | (b)(1)(A). |

(B) Recovery on Behalf of Employ-EES.—Any sums recovered by the Secretary under subparagraph (A) on behalf of an em-ployee shall be held in a special deposit account and shall be paid, on order of the Secretary, di-rectly to the employee affected. Any such sums not paid to an employee because of inability to do so within a period of three years shall be de-posited in the Treasury and credited to mis-cellaneous receipts.

(d) Limitation.—

- (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), an action may be brought under this section not later than 2 years after the date of the last event constituting the alleged violation for which the action is brought.
- (2) WILLFUL VIOLATION.—In the case of such action brought for a willful violation of section 204, such action may be brought within 3 years of the date of the last event constituting the alleged violation for which such action is brought.
- (3) COMMENCEMENT.—In determining when an action is commenced by the Secretary or by an employee under this section for the purposes of this

subsection, it shall be considered to be commenced on the date when the complaint is filed.

(e) OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS.—

- (1) Employees covered by congressional Accountance accountability act of 1995.—The powers and procedures provided in the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.) to the Board (as defined in section 101 of that Act (2 U.S.C. 1301)), or any person, alleging a violation of section 202(a)(1) of that Act (2 U.S.C. 1312(a)(1)) shall be the powers and procedures this title provides to that Board, or any person, alleging a violation of this title against an employee described in section 201(2)(C).
- (2) EMPLOYEES COVERED BY CHAPTER 5 OF TITLE 3, UNITED STATES CODE.—The powers and procedures provided in chapter 5 of title 3, United States Code, to the President, the Merit Systems Protection Board, or any person, alleging a violation of section 412(a)(1) of that title, shall be the powers and procedures this title provides to the President, that Board, or any person, respectively, alleging a violation of this title against an employee described in section 201(2)(D).

- 1 (3) Employees covered by chapter 63 of 2 TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.—The powers and 3 procedures provided in title 5, United States Code, 4 to an employing agency, provided in chapter 12 of 5 that title to the Merit Systems Protection Board, or 6 provided in that title to any person, alleging a viola-7 tion of chapter 63 of that title, shall be the powers 8 and procedures this title provides to that agency, 9 that Board, or any person, respectively, alleging a 10 violation of this title against an employee described 11 in section 201(2)(E).
- (4) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—In the case of employees of the Government Accountability Office, the authority of the Secretary under this title shall be exercised by the Comptroller General of the United States.

17 SEC. 206. REGULATIONS.

- 18 (a) Secretary of Labor.—Except as provided in 19 subsections (b) through (e), not later than 180 days after 20 the date of enactment of this title, the Secretary shall 21 issue such regulations as may be necessary to implement 22 this title.
- 23 (b) Board.—
- 24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days 25 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board

- of Directors of the Office of Congressional Work-place Rights shall issue such regulations as may be necessary to implement this title with respect to employees described in section 201(2)(C). The proce-dures applicable to regulations of the Board issued for the implementation of the Congressional Ac-countability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.), prescribed in section 304 of that Act (2 U.S.C. 1384), shall be the procedures applicable to regula-tions issued under this subsection.
 - (2) Consideration.—In prescribing the regulations, the Board shall take into consideration the enforcement and remedies provisions concerning the Office and applicable to rights and protections under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.), under the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.).
 - (3) Modifications.—The regulations issued under paragraph (1) to implement this title shall be the same as substantive regulations issued by the Secretary to implement this title, except to the extent that the Board may determine, for good cause shown and stated together with the regulations issued by the Board, that a modification of such substantive regulations would be more effective for

the implementation of the rights and protectionsunder this title.

(c) President.—

- (1) In GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall issue such regulations as may be necessary to implement this title with respect to employees described in section 201(2)(D).
- (2) Consideration.—In prescribing the regulations, the President shall take into consideration the enforcement and remedies provisions concerning the President and the Merit Systems Protection Board, and applicable to rights and protections under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, under chapter 5 of title 3, United States Code.
- (3) Modifications.—The regulations issued under paragraph (1) to implement this title shall be the same as substantive regulations issued by the Secretary to implement this title, except to the extent that the President may determine, for good cause shown and stated together with the regulations issued by the President, that a modification of such substantive regulations would be more effective for the implementation of the rights and protections under this title.

(d) Office of Personnel Management.—

- 2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
 3 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office
 4 of Personnel Management shall issue such regula5 tions as may be necessary to implement this title
 6 with respect to employees described in section
 7 201(2)(E).
 - (2) Consideration.—In prescribing the regulations, the Office shall take into consideration the enforcement and remedies provisions concerning an employing agency and the Merit Systems Protection Board under subchapter V of chapter 63 of title 5, United States Code.
 - (3) Modifications.—The regulations issued under paragraph (1) to implement this title shall be the same as substantive regulations issued by the Secretary to implement this title, except to the extent that the Office may determine, for good cause shown and stated together with the regulations issued by the Office, that a modification of such substantive regulations would be more effective for the implementation of the rights and protections under this title.
- 24 (e) Comptroller General.—

- (1) In General.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall issue such regulations as may be necessary to implement this title with respect to employees of the Government Accountability Office.
 - (2) Consideration.—In prescribing the regulations, the Comptroller General shall take into consideration the enforcement and remedies provisions concerning the Comptroller General under title I of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2611 et seq.).
 - (3) Modifications.—The regulations issued under paragraph (1) to implement this title shall be the same as substantive regulations issued by the Secretary to implement this title, except to the extent that the Comptroller General may determine, for good cause shown and stated together with the regulations issued by the Comptroller General, that a modification of such substantive regulations would be more effective for the implementation of the rights and protections under this title.

 \bigcirc