

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1645

To amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to make improvements to the regulation of consumer reporting agencies and protect consumers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2021

Mr. MCHENRY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to make improvements to the regulation of consumer reporting agencies and protect consumers, and for other purposes.

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 “Protecting Consumer
5 Access to Credit Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CYBERSECURITY SUPERVISION AND EXAMINATION**
2 **OF LARGE CONSUMER REPORTING AGEN-**
3 **CIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Fair Credit Reporting Act
5 (15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
6 the following:

7 **“SEC. 630. CYBERSECURITY SUPERVISION AND EXAMINA-**
8 **TION OF LARGE CONSUMER REPORTING**
9 **AGENCIES.**

10 “Consumer reporting agencies described under sec-
11 tion 603(p) shall be subject to cybersecurity supervision
12 and examination by the Bureau.”.

13 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
14 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act is amended by adding
15 at the end the following:

“630. Cybersecurity supervision and examination of large consumer reporting
agencies.”.

16 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF SOCIAL SECURITY**
17 **NUMBERS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 605 of the Fair Credit
19 Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681c) is amended by adding
20 at the end the following:

21 “(i) PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF SOCIAL SECURITY
22 NUMBERS.—A consumer reporting agency described
23 under section 603(p)—

1 “(1) may not make any consumer report con-
 2 taining a social security number; and

3 “(2) may not use the social security number of
 4 a consumer as a method to verify the consumer.”.

5 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 609(a)(1)
 6 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681g(a)(1))
 7 is amended by striking “except that—” and all that fol-
 8 lows through “(B) nothing” and inserting “except that
 9 nothing”.

10 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 11 this section shall take effect on January 1, 2022.

12 **SEC. 4. EXCLUSION OF PAID MEDICAL DEBT.**

13 Section 605(a) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15
 14 U.S.C. 1681c(a)) is amended, by adding at the end the
 15 following:

16 “(9) Paid debt arising from the receipt of medi-
 17 cally necessary, non-elective medical services, prod-
 18 ucts, or devices which from the date of payment,
 19 antedate the report by more than 1 year.”.

20 **SEC. 5. SECURITY FREEZES FOR PROTECTED CONSUMERS.**

21 (a) PLACEMENT OF FREEZE.—Section 605A(j)(2)(A)
 22 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681c-
 23 1(j)(2)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon receiving a di-
 25 rect request from a protected consumer’s rep-

representative, by mail, toll-free telephone, or secure electronic means, that a consumer reporting agency place a security freeze, and upon receiving sufficient proof of identification and sufficient proof of authority, the consumer reporting agency shall, free of charge, place the security freeze not later than 3 business days after receiving the request directly from the protected consumer's representative.”.

(b) REMOVAL OF FREEZE.—Section 605A(j)(4) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681c–1(j)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(i), by inserting after “Upon the direct request” the following: “, by mail or secure electronic means,”;

(2) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by inserting after “Upon the direct request” the following: “, by mail or secure electronic means,”; and

(3) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) by striking “not later than—” and inserting the “not later than 3 days business days after receiving the request directly from the protected consumer or protected consumer's representative.”; and

(B) by striking clauses (i) and (ii).

1 **SEC. 6. PUBLIC RECORD DATA SOURCES IN CONSUMER RE-**
2 **PORTS.**

3 Section 605(d) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15
4 U.S.C. 1681e(d)) is amended by adding at the end the
5 following:

6 “(3) PUBLIC RECORD DATA.—If a consumer re-
7 porting agency furnishes a consumer report that
8 contains public record data, such consumer reporting
9 agency shall include the source of such public record
10 data in such report.”.

11 **SEC. 7. PROHIBITION ON INCLUDING ADVERSE INFORMA-**
12 **TION RELATED TO PREDATORY MORTGAGE**
13 **LENDING.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Fair Credit Reporting Act
15 (15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) is amended by inserting after
16 section 605B the following:

17 **“§ 605C. Adverse information relating to predatory**
18 **mortgage lending**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A consumer reporting agency
20 may not furnish any consumer report containing any ad-
21 verse item of information relating to a covered residential
22 mortgage loan (including the origination and servicing of
23 such a loan, any loss mitigation activities related to such
24 a loan, and any foreclosure, deed in lieu of foreclosure,
25 or short sale related to such a loan), if the action or inac-
26 tion to which the item of information relates—

1 “(1) resulted from an unfair, deceptive, or abu-
2 sive act or practice, or a fraudulent, discriminatory,
3 or illegal activity of a financial institution, as deter-
4 mined by a court of competent jurisdiction; or

5 “(2) is related to an unfair, deceptive, or abu-
6 sive act or practice, or a fraudulent, discriminatory,
7 or illegal activity of a financial institution that is the
8 subject of a settlement agreement initiated on behalf
9 of a consumer and that is between the financial in-
10 stitution and an agency or department of a local,
11 State, or Federal Government.

12 “(b) COVERED RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE.—In this
13 section, the term ‘covered residential mortgage loan’
14 means any loan made primarily for personal, family, or
15 household use that is secured by a mortgage, deed of trust,
16 or other equivalent consensual security interest on a dwell-
17 ing (as defined in section 103(w) of the Truth in Lending
18 Act), including a loan in which the proceeds will be used
19 for—

20 “(1) a manufactured home (as defined in sec-
21 tion 603 of the Housing and Community Develop-
22 ment Act of 1974);

23 “(2) any installment sales contract, land con-
24 tract, or contract for deed on a residential property;
25 or

1 “(3) a reverse mortgage transaction (as defined
2 in section 103(cc) of the Truth in Lending Act).”.

3 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table
4 of contents of the Fair Credit Reporting Act is amended
5 by inserting after the item relating to section 605B the
6 following new item:

“605C. Adverse information relating to predatory mortgage lending.”.

7 **SEC. 8. PROHIBITION ON INCLUDING ADVERSE INFORMA-**
8 **TION WHEN FINANCIAL ABUSE HAS BEEN DE-**
9 **TERMINED.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Fair Credit Reporting Act
11 (15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.), as amended by section 7, is fur-
12 ther amended by inserting after section 605C the fol-
13 lowing:

14 **“§ 605D. Adverse information in cases of financial**
15 **abuse**

16 “A consumer reporting agency may not furnish a con-
17 sumer report containing any adverse item of information
18 about a consumer that resulted from intentionally abusive
19 or harmful financial behavior if—

20 “(1) a court of competent jurisdiction, in a law-
21 suit that is not a class action lawsuit, has deter-
22 mined that the consumer is a victim of such inten-
23 tionally abusive or harmful financial behavior;

24 “(2) such intentionally abusive or harmful fi-
25 nancial behavior was conducted by a spouse, family

1 or household member, caregiver, or person with
 2 whom such consumer had a dating relationship; and

3 “(3) such consumer did not participate in or
 4 consent to such behavior.”.

5 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table
 6 of contents of the Fair Credit Reporting Act is amended
 7 by inserting after the item relating to section 605C the
 8 following new item:

“605D. Adverse information in cases of financial abuse.”.

9 **SEC. 9. PROHIBITION ON INCLUDING ADVERSE INFORMA-**
 10 **TION WHEN A STUDENT OBLIGOR IS DE-**
 11 **FRAUDED.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Fair Credit Reporting Act
 13 (15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.), as amended by section 8, is fur-
 14 ther amended by inserting after section 605D the fol-
 15 lowing:

16 **“§ 605E. Adverse information in cases of a defrauded**
 17 **student obligor.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A consumer reporting agency
 19 may not furnish a consumer report containing any adverse
 20 item of information about a consumer that resulted from
 21 a private student loan obligation if—

22 “(1) such consumer is a student obligor with
 23 respect to such private education loan; and

24 “(2) a court of competent jurisdiction, in a law-
 25 suit that is not a class action lawsuit, has deter-

1 mined that such consumer is a victim of fraud with
 2 respect to such private education loan.

3 “(b) PRIVATE EDUCATION LOAN DEFINED.—For the
 4 purposes of this section, the term ‘private education loan’
 5 has the meaning given the term in section 140(a) of the
 6 Truth in Lending Act.”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table
 8 of contents of the Fair Credit Reporting Act is amended
 9 by inserting after the item relating to section 605D the
 10 following new item:

“605E. Adverse information in cases of a defrauded student obligor.”.

11 **SEC. 10. BUREAU LIST OF CREDIT REPORTING AGENCIES.**

12 The Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall
 13 maintain a list of credit reporting agencies in the United
 14 States and publish such list of the website on the Bureau
 15 of Consumer Financial Protection.

16 **SEC. 11. STUDY AND REPORT TO CONGRESS ON USE OF**
 17 **NON-TRADITIONAL DATA IN CREDIT SCOR-**
 18 **ING.**

19 (a) STUDY.—The Bureau of Consumer Financial
 20 Protection shall carry out a study about the use of non-
 21 traditional data—

22 (1) by consumer reporting agencies when com-
 23 piling and furnishing consumer reports; and

1 (2) by persons that create, maintain, or pur-
2 chase credit scoring models used in making credit
3 decisions.

4 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
5 date of the enactment of this section, the Bureau of Con-
6 sumer Financial Protection shall issue a report to the
7 Committee on Financial Services of the House of Rep-
8 resentatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
9 Urban Affairs of the Senate containing all findings and
10 determinations, including any recommendations for any
11 legislative or regulatory changes, made in carrying out the
12 study required under subsection (a).

13 (c) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section,
14 the terms “consumer reporting agency” and “consumer
15 report” shall have the meanings given the terms in section
16 603 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

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