

118TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H.R.4790

AN ACT

- To amend the Federal securities laws with respect to the materiality of disclosure requirements, to establish the Public Company Advisory Committee, 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,

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

- 2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
- 3 "Prioritizing Economic Growth Over Woke Policies Act".
- 4 (b) Table of Contents for
- 5 this Act is as follows:
 - Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

DIVISION A—GUARDRAIL ACT OF 2023

Sec. 1001. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—MANDATORY MATERIALITY REQUIREMENT

Sec. 1101. Limitation on disclosure requirements.

TITLE II—SEC JUSTIFICATION OF NON-MATERIAL DISCLOSURE MANDATES

Sec. 1201. SEC justification of non-material disclosure mandates.

TITLE III—PUBLIC COMPANY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sec. 1301. Public Company Advisory Committee.

TITLE IV—PROTECTING U.S. BUSINESS SOVEREIGNTY

Sec. 1401. Study on detrimental impact of the Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence and Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive.

DIVISION B—BUSINESSES OVER ACTIVISTS ACT

Sec. 2001. Short title.

Sec. 2002. Limitation with respect to compelling the inclusion or discussion of shareholder proposals.

DIVISION C—PROTECTING AMERICANS' RETIREMENT SAVINGS FROM POLITICS ACT

Sec. 3001. Short title; Table of contents.

TITLE I—PERFORMANCE OVER POLITICS

Sec. 3101. Exclusion of certain substantially similar shareholder proposals.

TITLE II—NO EXPENSIVE, STIFLING GOVERNANCE

Sec. 3201. Exclusion of certain shareholder proposals.

TITLE III—EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN ESG SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS

Sec. 3301. Exclusion of certain ESG shareholder proposals.

TITLE IV—EXCLUSIONS AVAILABLE REGARDLESS OF SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL POLICY ISSUE

Sec. 3401. Exclusions available regardless of significant social policy issue.

TITLE V—CORPORATE GOVERNANCE EXAMINATION

Sec. 3501. Study of certain issues with respect to shareholder proposals, proxy advisory firms, and the proxy process.

TITLE VI—REGISTRATION OF PROXY ADVISORY FIRMS

Sec. 3601. Registration of proxy advisory firms.

TITLE VII—LIABILITY FOR CERTAIN FAILURES TO DISCLOSE MATERIAL INFORMATION OR MAKING OF MATERIAL MISSTATEMENTS

Sec. 3701. Liability for certain failures to disclose material information or making of material misstatements.

TITLE VIII—DUTIES OF INVESTMENT ADVISORS, ASSET MANAGERS, AND PENSION FUNDS

Sec. 3801. Duties of investment advisors, asset managers, and pension funds.

TITLE IX—PROTECTING AMERICANS' SAVINGS

Sec. 3901. Requirements related to proxy voting.

TITLE X—EMPOWERING SHAREHOLDERS

Sec. 3911. Proxy voting of passively managed funds.

TITLE XI—PROTECTING RETAIL INVESTORS' SAVINGS

- Sec. 3921. Best interest based on pecuniary factors.
- Sec. 3922. Study on climate change and other environmental disclosures in municipal bond market.
- Sec. 3923. Study on solicitation of municipal securities business.

DIVISION D—AMERICAN FIRST ACT OF 2023

Sec. 4001. Short title; Table of contents.

TITLE I—STOP EXECUTIVE CAPTURE OF BANKING REGULATORS

Sec. 4101. Report on the implementation of recommendations from the FSOC Chairperson and Executive Orders.

TITLE II—ENSURING U.S. AUTHORITY OVER U.S. BANKING REGULATIONS

- Sec. 4201. Requirements in connection with rulemakings implementing policies of non-governmental international organizations.
- Sec. 4202. Report on certain climate-related interactions with covered international organizations.

TITLE III—BANKING REGULATOR INTERNATIONAL REPORTING

Sec. 4301. Reporting on interactions with non-governmental international organizations.

TITLE IV—SUPERVISION REFORM

Sec. 4401. Removal of the Vice Chairman for Supervision designation.

DIVISION E—LIMITATION ON SEC RESERVE FUND

Sec. 5001. Limitation.

1 DIVISION A—GUARDRAIL ACT OF

2 **2023**

- 3 SEC. 1001. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.
- 4 (a) Short Title.—This division may be cited as the
- 5 "Guiding Uniform and Responsible Disclosure Require-
- 6 ments and Information Limits Act of 2023" or the
- 7 "GUARDRAIL Act of 2023".
- 8 (b) Table of Contents for
- 9 this division is as follows:

Sec. 1001. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—MANDATORY MATERIALITY REQUIREMENT

Sec. 1101. Limitation on disclosure requirements.

TITLE II—SEC JUSTIFICATION OF NON-MATERIAL DISCLOSURE MANDATES

Sec. 1201. SEC justification of non-material disclosure mandates.

TITLE III—PUBLIC COMPANY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sec. 1301. Public Company Advisory Committee.

TITLE IV—PROTECTING U.S. BUSINESS SOVEREIGNTY

Sec. 1401. Study on detrimental impact of the Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence and Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive.

1 TITLE I—MANDATORY 2 MATERIALITY REQUIREMENT

3	SEC. 1101. LIMITATION ON DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.
4	(a) Securities Act of 1933.—Section 2(b) of the
5	Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77b(b)) is amended—
6	(1) in the subsection heading, by inserting ";
7	Limitation on Disclosure Requirements" after
8	"Formation";
9	(2) by striking "Whenever" and inserting the
10	following:
11	"(1) IN GENERAL.—Whenever"; and
12	(3) by adding at the end the following:
13	"(2) Limitation.—
14	"(A) IN GENERAL.—Whenever pursuant to
15	this title the Commission is engaged in rule-
16	making regarding disclosure obligations of
17	issuers, the Commission shall expressly provide
18	that an issuer is only required to disclose infor-
19	mation in response to such disclosure obliga-
20	tions to the extent the issuer has determined
21	that such information is material with respect
22	to a voting or investment decision regarding the
23	securities of such issuer.
24	"(B) Applicability.—Subparagraph (A)
25	shall not apply with respect to the removal of

I	any disclosure requirement with respect to an
2	issuer.
3	"(C) Rule of construction.—For the
4	purposes of this paragraph, information is con-
5	sidered material with respect to a voting or in-
6	vestment decision regarding the securities of an
7	issuer if there is a substantial likelihood that a
8	reasonable investor would view the failure to
9	disclose that information as having significantly
10	altered the total mix of information made avail-
11	able to the investor.".
12	(b) Securities Exchange Act of 1934.—Section
13	3(f) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C.
14	78c(f)) is amended—
15	(1) in the subsection heading, by inserting ";
16	Limitation on Disclosure Requirements" after
17	"Formation";
18	(2) by striking "Whenever" and inserting the
19	following:
20	"(1) In general.—Whenever"; and
21	(3) by adding at the end the following:
22	"(2) Limitation.—
23	"(A) In general.—Whenever pursuant to
24	this title the Commission is engaged in rule-
25	making regarding disclosure obligations of

issuers, the Commission shall expressly provide that an issuer is only required to disclose information in response to such disclosure obligations to the extent the issuer has determined that such information is material with respect to a voting or investment decision regarding the securities of such issuer.

- "(B) APPLICABILITY.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply with respect to the removal of any disclosure requirement with respect to an issuer.
- "(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For the purposes of this paragraph, information is considered material with respect to a voting or investment decision regarding the securities of an issuer if there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable investor would view the failure to disclose that information as having significantly altered the total mix of information made available to the investor.".

1	TITLE II—SEC JUSTIFICATION
2	OF NON-MATERIAL DISCLO-
3	SURE MANDATES
4	SEC. 1201. SEC JUSTIFICATION OF NON-MATERIAL DISCLO-
5	SURE MANDATES.
6	Section 23 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
7	(15 U.S.C. 78w) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
8	lowing:
9	"(e) Non-material Disclosure Mandates.—
10	"(1) Disclosure.—The Commission shall
11	maintain a list on the website of the Commission
12	that contains—
13	"(A) each mandate under the Federal se-
14	curities laws and regulations that requires the
15	disclosure of non-material information; and
16	"(B) for each such disclosure mandate, an
17	explanation of why the mandate is required.
18	"(2) Study and report.—The Commission
19	shall, every 5 years, issue a report to the Congress
20	justifying each disclosure contained on the list re-
21	quired under paragraph (1).
22	"(3) No private liability for failing to
23	MAKE A NON-MATERIAL DISCLOSURE.—A person
24	who fails to disclose non-material information re-
25	quired to be disclosed under the Federal securities

1	laws or regulations shall not be liable for such fail-
2	ure in any private action.".
3	TITLE III—PUBLIC COMPANY
4	ADVISORY COMMITTEE
5	SEC. 1301. PUBLIC COMPANY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.
6	The Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is amended by
7	inserting after section 40 (15 U.S.C. 78qq) the following:
8	"SEC. 40A. PUBLIC COMPANY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.
9	"(a) Establishment and Purpose.—
10	"(1) Establishment.—There is established
11	within the Commission the Public Company Advi-
12	sory Committee (referred to in this section as the
13	'Committee').
14	"(2) Purpose.—The Committee shall—
15	"(A) provide the Commission with advice
16	on its rules, regulations, and policies with re-
17	gard to its mission of protecting investors,
18	maintaining fair, orderly, and efficient markets,
19	and facilitating capital formation, as they relate
20	to—
21	"(i) existing and emerging regulatory
22	priorities of the Commission;
23	"(ii) issues relating to the public re-
24	porting and corporate governance of public
25	companies;

1	"(iii) issues relating to the proxy proc-
2	ess for shareholder meetings held by public
3	companies;
4	"(iv) issues relating to trading in the
5	securities of public companies; and
6	"(v) issues relating to capital forma-
7	tion; and
8	"(B) submit to the Commission such find-
9	ings and recommendations as the Committee
10	determines are appropriate, including rec-
11	ommendations for proposed regulatory and leg-
12	islative changes.
13	"(b) Membership.—
14	"(1) IN GENERAL.—The membership of the
15	Committee shall be not fewer than 10, and not more
16	than 20, members appointed by the Commission
17	from among individuals who—
18	"(A) are officers, directors, or senior offi-
19	cials of public companies registered with the
20	Commission under the Securities Act or 1933
21	and this Act, except for those public companies
22	that own asset management, fixed income, in-
23	vestment advisory, broker-dealer, or proxy serv-
24	ices businesses;

1	"(B) are executives or other individuals
2	with senior managerial responsibility in busi-
3	ness, professional, trade, and industry associa-
4	tions that represent the interests of such public
5	companies; or
6	"(C) are professional advisers and service
7	providers to such public companies (including
8	attorneys, accountants, investment bankers, and
9	financial advisers).
10	"(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—At least 50 percent of
11	the Committee membership shall be drawn from in-
12	dividuals who would qualify for membership under
13	paragraph $(1)(A)$.
14	"(3) TERM.—
15	"(A) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the
16	Committee appointed under paragraph (1) shall
17	serve for a term of 4 years.
18	"(B) Vacancies.—Vacancies among the
19	members, whether caused by the resignation,
20	death, removal, expiration of a term, or other-
21	wise, will be filled consistent with the Commis-
22	sion's procedures then in effect.
23	"(C) Staggered terms.—The members
24	of the Committee shall serve staggered terms.

1	with one-third of the initial members of the
2	Committee each serving for 1, 2, or 3 years.
3	"(4) Members not on other advisory com-
4	MITTEES.—Public companies and other organiza-
5	tions that are currently represented on any other
6	Commission Advisory Committee are not eligible to
7	have representatives also serve on the Public Com-
8	pany Advisory Committee.
9	"(5) Members not commission employ-
10	EES.— Members appointed under paragraph (1)
11	shall not be considered to be employees or agents of
12	the Commission solely because of membership on the
13	Committee.
14	"(c) Chair; Vice Chair; Secretary; Assistant
15	Secretary.—
16	"(1) IN GENERAL.—The members of the Com-
17	mittee shall elect, from among the members of the
18	Committee—
19	"(A) a Chair;
20	"(B) a Vice Chair;
21	"(C) a Secretary; and
22	"(D) an Assistant Secretary.
23	"(2) Term.—Each member elected under para-
24	graph (1) shall serve for a term of two years in the

1	capacity the member was elected under paragraph
2	(1).
3	"(3) Subcommittees.—The Chair may create
4	subcommittees that hold public or non-public meet-
5	ings and provide recommendations to the full Com-
6	mittee.
7	"(d) Meetings.—
8	"(1) Frequency of Meetings.—The Com-
9	mittee shall meet—
10	"(A) not less frequently than twice annu-
11	ally, at the call of the Chair of the Committee;
12	and
13	"(B) from time to time, at the call of the
14	Commission.
15	"(2) NOTICE.—The Chair of the Committee
16	shall give the members of the Committee written no-
17	tice of each meeting, not later than two weeks before
18	the date of the meeting.
19	"(e) Compensation and Travel Expenses.—
20	Each member of the Committee who is not a full-time em-
21	ployee of the United States shall—
22	"(1) be entitled to receive compensation at a
23	rate not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual
24	rate of basic pay in effect for a position at level V
25	of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title

1	5, United States Code, for each day during which
2	the members is engaged in the actual performance
3	of the duties of the Committee; and
4	"(2) while away from the home or regular place
5	of business of the member in the performance of
6	services for the Committee, be allowed travel ex-
7	penses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in
8	the same manner as persons employed intermittently
9	in the Government service are allowed expenses
10	under section 5703(b) of title 5, United States Code.
11	"(f) Staff.—The Commission shall make available
12	to the Committee such staff as the Chair of the Committee
13	determines are necessary to carry out this section.
14	"(g) Review by Commission.—The Commission
15	shall—
16	"(1) review the findings and recommendations
17	of the Committee; and
18	"(2) each time the Committee submits a finding
19	or recommendation to the Commission, promptly
20	issue a public statement—
21	"(A) assessing the finding or recommenda-
22	tion of the Committee; and
23	"(B) disclosing the action, if any, the Com-
24	mission intends to take with respect to the find-
25	ing or recommendation.

1	"(h) Committee Findings.—Nothing in this section
2	shall require the Commission to agree to or act upon any
3	finding or recommendation of the Committee.
4	"(i) Nonapplicability of FACA.—Chapter 10 of
5	part I of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to
6	the Committee and its activities.".
7	TITLE IV—PROTECTING U.S.
8	BUSINESS SOVEREIGNTY
9	SEC. 1401. STUDY ON DETRIMENTAL IMPACT OF THE DI-
10	RECTIVE ON CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY
11	DUE DILIGENCE AND CORPORATE SUSTAIN
12	ABILITY REPORTING DIRECTIVE.
13	(a) Study.—The Securities and Exchange Commis-
14	sion shall conduct a study to examine and evaluate—
15	(1) the detrimental impact and potential detri-
16	mental impact of each of the Directives on—
17	(A) United States companies, consumers
18	and investors; and
19	(B) the economy of the United States;
20	(2) the extent to which each of the Directives
21	aligns with international conventions and declara-
22	tions on human rights and environmental obliga-
23	tions; and
24	(3) the legal basis for the extraterritorial reach
25	of each of the Directives

- 1 (b) Report.—Not later than 1 year after the date
- 2 of the enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange
- 3 Commission shall submit to the Committee on Banking,
- 4 Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, the Committee
- 5 on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, the
- 6 Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, and the
- 7 United States Trade Representative a report that in-
- 8 cludes—
- 9 (1) the results of the study conducted under
- this section; and
- 11 (2) recommendations for policymakers and rel-
- evant stakeholders on potential mitigating measures,
- alternative approaches, or modifications to each of
- the Directives that would address any concerns iden-
- tified in the study.
- 16 (c) Access to Information.—The Securities and
- 17 Exchange Commission may request from private entities
- 18 such relevant data and information as the Securities and
- 19 Exchange Commission determines necessary to carry out
- 20 the study required under this section and such private en-
- 21 tities shall provide such requested data and information
- 22 to the Securities and Exchange Commission.
- 23 (d) DIRECTIVES DEFINED.—In this section the term
- 24 "Directives" means—

1	(1) the proposed directive entitled "Corporate
2	Sustainability Due Diligence" adopted by the Euro-
3	pean Commission on February 23, 2022; and
4	(2) the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Di-
5	rective of the European Commission effective Janu-
6	ary 5, 2023.
7	DIVISION B—BUSINESSES OVER
8	ACTIVISTS ACT
9	SEC. 2001. SHORT TITLE.
10	This division may be cited as the "Businesses Over
11	Activists Act''.
12	SEC. 2002. LIMITATION WITH RESPECT TO COMPELLING
13	THE INCLUSION OR DISCUSSION OF SHARE-
14	HOLDER PROPOSALS.
15	Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
16	(15 U.S.C. 78n(a)) is amended by adding at the end the
17	following:
18	"(3) Limitation with respect to compel-
19	LING INCLUSION OR DISCUSSION OF SHAREHOLDER
20	PROPOSALS.—Except as provided in paragraph (2),
21	the Commission may not compel an issuer to include
22	in a proxy statement of the issuer—
23	"(A) any shareholder proposal; or

1	"(B) any discussion (either from the issuer
2	or otherwise) related to a shareholder proposal
3	contained in the proxy statement.
4	"(4) Rule of construction relating to
5	STATE AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this Act or any
6	other securities law shall be construed to provide the
7	Commission the authority to preempt the State reg-
8	ulation of shareholder proposals or proxy or consent
9	solicitation materials.".
10	DIVISION C—PROTECTING
11	AMERICANS' RETIREMENT
12	SAVINGS FROM POLITICS ACT
13	SEC. 3001. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.
14	(a) Short Title.—This division may be cited as the
15	"Protecting Americans' Retirement Savings from Politics
16	Act".
17	(b) Table of Contents.—The table of contents for
18	
	this division is as follows:
	this division is as follows: Sec. 3001. Short title; Table of contents.
	Sec. 3001. Short title; Table of contents.
	Sec. 3001. Short title; Table of contents. TITLE I—PERFORMANCE OVER POLITICS
	Sec. 3001. Short title; Table of contents. TITLE I—PERFORMANCE OVER POLITICS Sec. 3101. Exclusion of certain substantially similar shareholder proposals.
	Sec. 3001. Short title; Table of contents. TITLE I—PERFORMANCE OVER POLITICS Sec. 3101. Exclusion of certain substantially similar shareholder proposals. TITLE II—NO EXPENSIVE, STIFLING GOVERNANCE

TITLE IV—EXCLUSIONS AVAILABLE REGARDLESS OF SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL POLICY ISSUE

•HR 4790 EH

Sec. 3401. Exclusions available regardless of significant social policy issue.

TITLE V—CORPORATE GOVERNANCE EXAMINATION

Sec. 3501. Study of certain issues with respect to shareholder proposals, proxy advisory firms, and the proxy process.

TITLE VI—REGISTRATION OF PROXY ADVISORY FIRMS

Sec. 3601. Registration of proxy advisory firms.

TITLE VII—LIABILITY FOR CERTAIN FAILURES TO DISCLOSE MATERIAL INFORMATION OR MAKING OF MATERIAL MISSTATEMENTS

Sec. 3701. Liability for certain failures to disclose material information or making of material misstatements.

TITLE VIII—DUTIES OF INVESTMENT ADVISORS, ASSET MANAGERS, AND PENSION FUNDS

Sec. 3801. Duties of investment advisors, asset managers, and pension funds.

TITLE IX—PROTECTING AMERICANS' SAVINGS

Sec. 3901. Requirements related to proxy voting.

TITLE X—EMPOWERING SHAREHOLDERS

Sec. 3911. Proxy voting of passively managed funds.

TITLE XI—PROTECTING RETAIL INVESTORS' SAVINGS

Sec. 3921. Best interest based on pecuniary factors.

Sec. 3922. Study on climate change and other environmental disclosures in municipal bond market.

Sec. 3923. Study on solicitation of municipal securities business.

1 TITLE I—PERFORMANCE OVER 2 POLITICS

- SEC. 3101. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN SUBSTANTIALLY SIMI-
- 4 LAR SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS.
- 5 The Securities and Exchange Commission shall revise
- 6 the resubmission requirements in section 240.14a-8(i)(12)
- 7 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, to provide that
- 8 a shareholder proposal may be excluded by an issuer from
- 9 its proxy or consent solicitation material for a meeting of
- 10 the shareholders of such issuer if the shareholder proposal

1	addresses substantially the same subject matter as a pro-
2	posal, or proposals, previously included in the proxy or
3	consent solicitation material for a meeting of the share-
4	holders of such issuer—
5	(1) for a meeting of the shareholders conducted
6	in the preceding 5 calendar years; and
7	(2) if the most recent vote—
8	(A) occurred in the preceding 3 calendar
9	years; and
10	(B)(i) if voted on once during such 5-year
11	period, received less than 10 percent of the
12	votes cast;
13	(ii) if voted on twice during such 5-year
14	period, received less than 20 percent of the
15	votes cast; or
16	(iii) if voted on three or more times during
17	such 5-year period, received less than 40 per-
18	cent of the votes cast.
19	TITLE II—NO EXPENSIVE,
20	STIFLING GOVERNANCE
21	SEC. 3201. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN SHAREHOLDER PRO-
22	POSALS.
23	(a) Exclusion of Certain Shareholder Pro-
24	POSALS.—A shareholder proposal submitted to an issuer
25	pursuant to section 240.14a-8 of title 17, Code of Federal

- 1 Regulations, may be excluded by an issuer from its proxy
- 2 or consent solicitation material for a meeting of the share-
- 3 holders of such issuer if the shareholder proposal—
- 4 (1) has been substantially implemented by the
- 5 issuer by implementing policies, practices, or proce-
- 6 dures that compare favorably with the guidelines of
- 7 the proposal and address the proposal's underlying
- 8 concerns; or
- 9 (2) substantially duplicates by having the same
- principal thrust or principal focus as another pro-
- posal previously submitted to the issuer by another
- proponent that will be included in such material.
- 13 (b) Nullification of Proposed Rule.—The Se-
- 14 curities and Exchange Commission may not finalize or
- 15 apply the positions contained in the proposed rule entitled
- 16 "Substantial Implementation, Duplication, and Resubmis-
- 17 sion of Shareholder Proposals under Exchange Act Rule
- 18 14a-8" (87 Fed. Reg. 45052), issue any substantially
- 19 similar rule, or apply any substantially similar rule, in-
- 20 cluding with respect to a no-action or other interpretive
- 21 request.

1	TITLE III—EXCLUSION OF CER-
2	TAIN ESG SHAREHOLDER
3	PROPOSALS
4	SEC. 3301. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN ESG SHAREHOLDER
5	PROPOSALS.
6	A shareholder proposal submitted to an issuer pursu-
7	ant to section 240.14a-8 of title 17, Code of Federal Regu-
8	lations, may be excluded by an issuer from its proxy or
9	consent solicitation material for a meeting of the share-
10	holders of such issuer if the subject matter of the share-
11	holder proposal is environmental, social, or political (or a
12	similar subject matter).
13	TITLE IV—EXCLUSIONS AVAIL-
14	ABLE REGARDLESS OF SIG-
15	NIFICANT SOCIAL POLICY
16	ISSUE
17	SEC. 3401. EXCLUSIONS AVAILABLE REGARDLESS OF SIG-
18	NIFICANT SOCIAL POLICY ISSUE.
19	An issuer may exclude a shareholder proposal pursu-
20	ant to section 240.14a-8(i) of title 17, Code of Federal
21	Regulations, without regard to whether such shareholder
22	proposal relates to a significant social policy issue.

1 TITLE V—CORPORATE 2 GOVERNANCE EXAMINATION

3	SEC. 3501. STUDY OF CERTAIN ISSUES WITH RESPECT TO
4	SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS, PROXY ADVI-
5	SORY FIRMS, AND THE PROXY PROCESS.
6	Section 4(j) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
7	(15 U.S.C. 78d(j)) is amended by adding at the end the
8	following:
9	"(10) Study of certain issues with re-
10	SPECT TO SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS, PROXY ADVI-
11	SORY FIRMS, AND THE PROXY PROCESS.—
12	"(A) In General.—Not later than 180
13	days after the date of the enactment of this
14	paragraph, and every 5 years thereafter, the
15	Commission shall conduct a comprehensive
16	study on shareholder proposals, proxy advisory
17	firms, and the proxy process.
18	"(B) Scope of Study.—The studies re-
19	quired under subparagraph (A) shall cover—
20	"(i) the previous 10 years, with re-
21	spect to the initial study; and
22	"(ii) the previous 5 years, with respect
23	to each other study.

1	"(C) Contents.—Each study required
2	under subparagraph (A) shall address the fol-
3	lowing issues:
4	"(i) The financial and other incentives
5	and obligations of all groups involved in
6	the proxy process.
7	"(ii) A consideration of whether finan-
8	cial and other incentives have created a
9	process that no longer serves the economic
10	interests of long-term retail investors.
11	"(iii) An analysis of whether regula-
12	tions and financial incentives have created
13	and protected the outsized influence of
14	proxy advisors or a duopoly in proxy ad-
15	vice, and if so, what are the benefits and
16	costs of that outsized influence or duopoly.
17	"(iv) The costs incurred by issuers in
18	responding to politically-, environmentally-
19	, or socially-motivated shareholder pro-
20	posals.
21	"(v) An assessment, including a cost-
22	benefit analysis, of the adequacy of the
23	current submission thresholds in Rule 14a-
24	8 (17 CFR 240.14a-8) to ensure that
25	shareholder proponents have demonstrated

1	a meaningful economic stake in a com-
2	pany, which is appropriate to effectively
3	serve markets and shareholders at large.
4	"(vi) An examination of the extent to
5	which the politicization of the shareholder
6	proposal process is increasing the oper-
7	ating costs of public companies.
8	"(vii) An analysis of the impact that
9	shareholder proposals have on discouraging
10	private companies from going public.
11	"(viii) An evaluation of the risk that
12	shareholder proposals may contribute to
13	the balkanization of the U.S. economy over
14	time.
15	"(ix) A thorough assessment of the
16	economic analysis, if any, conducted by
17	proxy advisory firms and institutional
18	shareholders when recommending or voting
19	in favor of shareholder proposals.
20	"(x) A review of the extent to which
21	institutional investors, who owe fiduciary
22	duties, rely on proxy advisory firm rec-
23	ommendations.
24	"(xi) An assessment of whether, in
25	light of their significant influence on cor-

1	porate actions and vote outcomes, proxy
2	advisors are subject to sufficient and effec-
3	tive regulation to ensure that their policies
4	and recommendations are accurate, free of
5	conflicts, and benefit the economic best in-
6	terest of shareholders at large.
7	"(D) Report.—At the completion of each
8	study required under subparagraph (A) the
9	Commission shall issue a report to the Com-
10	mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
11	of the Senate and the Committee on Financial
12	Services of the House of Representatives that
13	includes the results of the study.".
14	TITLE VI—REGISTRATION OF
15	PROXY ADVISORY FIRMS
16	SEC. 3601. REGISTRATION OF PROXY ADVISORY FIRMS.
17	(a) Amendment.—The Securities Exchange Act of
18	1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a et seq.) is amended by inserting after
19	section 15G the following new section:
20	"SEC. 15H. REGISTRATION OF PROXY ADVISORY FIRMS.
21	"(a) CONDUCT PROHIBITED.—It shall be unlawful
22	for a proxy advisory firm to make use of the mails or any
23	means or instrumentality of interstate commerce to pro-

24 vide proxy voting advice, research, analysis, ratings or rec-

1	ommendations to any client, unless such proxy advisory
2	firm is registered under this section.
3	"(b) Registration Procedures.—
4	"(1) Application for registration.—
5	"(A) IN GENERAL.—A proxy advisory firm
6	shall file with the Commission an application
7	for registration, in such form as the Commis-
8	sion shall require, by rule, and containing the
9	information described in subparagraph (B).
10	"(B) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—An appli-
11	cation for registration under this section shall
12	contain—
13	"(i) a certification that the applicant
14	is able to consistently provide proxy advice
15	based on accurate information;
16	"(ii) with respect to clients of the ap-
17	plicant that vote shares held on behalf of
18	shareholders, a certification that the appli-
19	cant—
20	"(I) will provide proxy voting ad-
21	vice only in the best economic interest
22	of those shareholders; and
23	"(II) has the requisite expertise
24	to ensure that voting recommenda-

1	tions are in the best economic interest
2	of those shareholders;
3	"(iii) information on the procedures
4	and methodologies that the applicant uses
5	to ensure that proxy voting recommenda-
6	tions are in the best economic interest of
7	the ultimate shareholders;
8	"(iv) information on the organiza-
9	tional structure of the applicant;
10	"(v) an explanation of whether or not
11	the applicant has in effect a code of ethics,
12	and if not, the reasons therefor;
13	"(vi) a description of any potential or
14	actual conflict of interest relating to the
15	provision of proxy advisory services, includ-
16	ing those arising out of or resulting from
17	the ownership structure of the applicant or
18	the provision of other services by the appli-
19	cant or any person associated with the ap-
20	plicant;
21	"(vii) the policies and procedures in
22	place to publicly disclose and manage con-
23	flicts of interest under subsection (f);
24	"(viii) information related to the pro-
25	fessional and academic qualifications of

1	staff tasked with providing proxy advisory
2	services; and
3	"(ix) any other information and docu-
4	ments concerning the applicant and any
5	person associated with such applicant as
6	the Commission, by rule, may prescribe as
7	necessary or appropriate in the public in-
8	terest or for the protection of investors.
9	"(2) Review of Application.—
10	"(A) Initial determination.—Not later
11	than 90 days after the date on which the appli-
12	cation for registration is filed with the Commis-
13	sion under paragraph (1) (or within such longer
14	period as to which the applicant consents) the
15	Commission shall—
16	"(i) by order, grant registration; or
17	"(ii) institute proceedings to deter-
18	mine whether registration should be de-
19	nied.
20	"(B) CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS.—
21	"(i) Content.—Proceedings referred
22	to in subparagraph (A)(ii) shall—
23	"(I) include notice of the grounds
24	for denial under consideration and an
25	opportunity for hearing; and

1	"(II) be concluded not later than
2	120 days after the date on which the
3	application for registration is filed
4	with the Commission under paragraph
5	(1).
6	"(ii) Determination.—At the con-
7	clusion of such proceedings, the Commis-
8	sion, by order, shall grant or deny such ap-
9	plication for registration.
10	"(iii) Extension authorized.—The
11	Commission may extend the time for con-
12	clusion of such proceedings for not longer
13	than 90 days, if the Commission finds
14	good cause for such extension and pub-
15	lishes its reasons for so finding, or for such
16	longer period as to which the applicant
17	consents.
18	"(C) Grounds for Decision.—The Com-
19	mission shall grant registration under this sub-
20	section—
21	"(i) if the Commission finds that the
22	requirements of this section are satisfied;
23	and

1	"(ii) unless the Commission finds (in
2	which case the Commission shall deny such
3	registration) that—
4	"(I) the applicant has failed to
5	certify to the Commission's satisfac-
6	tion that it is able to consistently pro-
7	vide proxy advice based on accurate
8	information and to materially comply
9	with the procedures and methodolo-
10	gies disclosed under paragraph (1)(B)
11	and with subsections (f) and (g); or
12	"(II) if the applicant were so reg-
13	istered, its registration would be sub-
14	ject to suspension or revocation under
15	subsection (d).
16	"(3) Public availability of information.—
17	Subject to section 24, the Commission shall make
18	the information and documents submitted to the
19	Commission by a proxy advisory firm in its com-
20	pleted application for registration, or in any amend-
21	ment submitted under paragraph (1) or (2) of sub-
22	section (c), publicly available on the Commission's
23	website, or through another comparable, readily ac-
24	cessible means.
25	"(c) Update of Registration.—

"(1) UPDATE.—Each registered proxy advisory firm shall promptly amend and update its application for registration under this section if any information or document provided therein becomes materially inaccurate, except that a registered proxy advisory firm is not required to amend the information required to be filed under subsection (b)(1)(B)(i) by filing information under this paragraph, but shall amend such information in the annual submission of the organization under paragraph (2) of this subsection.

- "(2) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 90 calendar days after the end of each calendar year, each registered proxy advisory firm shall file with the Commission an amendment to its registration, in such form as the Commission, by rule, may prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors—
 - "(A) certifying that the information and documents in the application for registration of such registered proxy advisory firm continue to be accurate in all material respects; and
 - "(B) listing any material change that occurred to such information or documents during the previous calendar year.

1 "(d) Censure, Denial, or Suspension of Reg-ISTRATION; NOTICE AND HEARING.—The Commission, by 3 order, shall censure, place limitations on the activities, 4 functions, or operations of, suspend for a period not exceeding 12 months, or revoke the registration of any registered proxy advisory firm if the Commission finds, on the record after notice and opportunity for hearing, that 8 such censure, placing of limitations, suspension, or revocation is necessary for the protection of investors and in the 10 public interest and that such registered proxy advisory firm, or any person associated with such an organization, whether prior to or subsequent to becoming so associ-12 13 ated— 14 "(1) has committed or omitted any act, or is 15 subject to an order or finding, enumerated in sub-16 paragraph (A), (D), (E), (H), or (G) of section 17 15(b)(4), has been convicted of any offense specified 18 in section 15(b)(4)(B), or is enjoined from any ac-19 tion, conduct, or practice specified in subparagraph 20 (C) of section 15(b)(4), during the 10-year period 21 preceding the date of commencement of the pro-22 ceedings under this subsection, or at any time there-23 after; 24 "(2) has been convicted during the 10-year pe-25 riod preceding the date on which an application for

1	registration is filed with the Commission under this
2	section, or at any time thereafter, of—
3	"(A) any crime that is punishable by im-
4	prisonment for 1 or more years, and that is not
5	described in section 15(b)(4)(B); or
6	"(B) a substantially equivalent crime by a
7	foreign court of competent jurisdiction;
8	"(3) is subject to any order of the Commission
9	barring or suspending the right of the person to be
10	associated with a registered proxy advisory firm;
11	"(4) fails to furnish the certifications required
12	under subsections $(b)(2)(C)(ii)(I)$ and $(c)(2)$;
13	"(5) has engaged in one or more prohibited acts
14	enumerated in paragraph (1);
15	"(6) fails to maintain adequate financial and
16	managerial resources to consistently offer advisory
17	services to clients that vote shares held on behalf of
18	shareholders consistent with the best economic inter-
19	est of those shareholders, including by failing to
20	comply with subsections (f) or (g);
21	"(7) fails to maintain adequate expertise to en-
22	sure that proxy advisory services for clients that vote
23	shares held on behalf of shareholders are tied to the
24	best economic interest of those shareholders; or

1 "(8) engages in a prohibited act enumerated in 2 subsection (j).

"(e) TERMINATION OF REGISTRATION.—

- "(1) Voluntary withdrawal.—A registered proxy advisory firm may, upon such terms and conditions as the Commission may establish as necessary in the public interest or for the protection of investors, which terms and conditions shall include at a minimum that the registered proxy advisory firm will no longer conduct such activities as to bring it within the definition of proxy advisory firm in section 3(a)(82), withdraw from registration by filing a written notice of withdrawal to the Commission.
- "(2) Commission authority.—In addition to any other authority of the Commission under this title, if the Commission finds that a registered proxy advisory firm is no longer in existence or has ceased to do business as a proxy advisory firm, the Commission, by order, shall cancel the registration under this section of such registered proxy advisory firm.

 "(f) Management of Conflicts of Interest.—
- "(1) Organization policies and procedures.—Each registered proxy advisory firm shall establish, maintain, and enforce written policies and

procedures reasonably designed, taking into consideration the nature of the business of such registered proxy advisory firm and associated persons, to publicly disclose and manage any conflicts of interest that arise or would reasonably be expected to arise from such business.

"(2) Commission authority.—The Commission shall, within one year of the date of enactment of this section, issue final rules to prohibit, or require the management and public disclosure of, any conflicts of interest relating to the offering of proxy advisory services by a registered proxy advisory firm, including, without limitation, conflicts of interest relating to—

"(A) the manner in which a registered proxy advisory firm is compensated by the client, any affiliate of the client, or any other person for providing proxy advisory services;

"(B) business relationships, ownership interests, or any other financial or personal interests between a registered proxy advisory firm, or any person associated with such registered proxy advisory firm, and any client, or any affiliate of such client;

1	"(C) the formulation of proxy voting poli-
2	cies;
3	"(D) the execution, or assistance with the
4	execution, of proxy votes if such votes are based
5	upon recommendations made by the proxy advi-
6	sory firm in which a person other than the
7	issuer is a proponent; and
8	"(E) any other potential conflict of inter-
9	est, as the Commission deems necessary or ap-
10	propriate in the public interest or for the pro-
11	tection of investors.
12	"(3) Disclosure on factors influencing
13	RECOMMENDATIONS.—Each registered proxy advi-
14	sory firm shall annually disclose to the Commission
15	and make publicly available the economic and other
16	factors that a reasonable investor would expect to in-
17	fluence the recommendations of such proxy advisory
18	firm, including the ownership composition of such
19	proxy advisory firm and any meetings with, or feed-
20	back received from, outside entities.
21	"(g) Reliability of Proxy Advisory Firm Serv-
22	ICES.—
23	"(1) In general.—Each registered proxy advi-
24	sory firm shall—

1	"(A) have staff and other resources suffi-
2	cient to produce proxy voting recommendations
3	that are based on accurate and current infor-
4	mation and designed for clients that vote shares
5	held on behalf of shareholders to advance the
6	best economic interest of those shareholders;
7	"(B) implement procedures that permit
8	issuers that are the subject of proxy voting rec-
9	ommendations—
10	"(i) access in a reasonable time to
11	data and information used to make rec-
12	ommendations; and
13	"(ii) a reasonable opportunity to pro-
14	vide meaningful comment and corrections
15	to such data and information, including
16	the opportunity to present (in person or
17	telephonically) details to the person re-
18	sponsible for developing such data and in-
19	formation prior to the publication of proxy
20	voting recommendations to clients;
21	"(C) employ an ombudsman to receive
22	complaints about the accuracy of information
23	used in making recommendations from the com-
24	panies that are the subject of the proxy advi-

sory firm's voting recommendations and seek to

1	resolve those complaints in a timely fashion and
2	prior to the publication of proxy voting rec-
3	ommendations to clients; and
4	"(D) if the ombudsman is unable to re-
5	solve a complaint to a company's satisfaction
6	prior to the publication of proxy voting rec-
7	ommendations to clients, include in the final re-
8	port of the firm to clients—
9	"(i) a statement detailing the com-
10	pany's complaints, if requested in writing
11	by the company; and
12	"(ii) a statement explaining why the
13	proxy voting recommendation is in the best
14	economic interest of shareholders.
15	"(2) Definitions.—In this subsection:
16	"(A) Data and information used to
17	MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS.—The term 'data
18	and information used to make voting rec-
19	ommendations'—
20	"(i) means the financial, operational,
21	or descriptive data and information on an
22	issuer used by proxy advisory firms and
23	any contextual or substantive analysis im-
24	pacting the recommendation; and

1	"(ii) does not include the entirety of
2	the proxy advisory firm's final report to its
3	clients.
4	"(B) Reasonable time.—The term 'rea-
5	sonable time'—
6	"(i) means not less than 1 week be-
7	fore the publication of proxy voting rec-
8	ommendations for clients; and
9	"(ii) shall not otherwise interfere with
10	a proxy advisory firm's ability to provide
11	its clients with timely access to accurate
12	proxy voting research, analysis, or rec-
13	ommendations.
14	"(h) Private Right of Action With Respect to
15	ILLEGAL RECOMMENDATIONS.—Any proxy advisory firm
16	that endorses a proposal that is not supported by the
17	issuer but is approved and subsequently found by a court
18	of competent jurisdiction to violate State or Federal law
19	shall be liable to the applicable issuer for the costs associ-
20	ated with the approval of such proposal, including imple-
21	mentation costs and any penalties incurred by the issuer.
22	"(i) Designation of Compliance Officer.—Each
23	registered proxy advisory firm shall designate an indi-
24	vidual who reports directly to senior management as re-
25	sponsible for administering the policies and procedures

- that are required to be established pursuant to subsections 2 (f) and (g), and for ensuring compliance with the securi-3 ties laws and the rules and regulations thereunder, includ-4 ing those promulgated by the Commission pursuant to this 5 section. 6 "(j) Prohibited Conduct.— 7 "(1) Prohibited acts and practices.—Not 8 later than one year after the date of enactment of 9 this section, the Commission shall issue final rules 10 to prohibit any act or practice relating to the offer-11 ing of proxy advisory services by a registered proxy 12 advisory firm that the Commission determines to be 13 unfair, coercive, or abusive, including any act or 14 practice relating to— "(A) advisory or consulting services (of-15 16 fered directly or indirectly, including through 17 an affiliate) related to corporate governance 18 issues; or "(B) modifying a voting recommendation 19 20 or otherwise departing from its adopted system-21 atic procedures and methodologies in the provi-22 sion of proxy advisory services, based on wheth-
- •

er an issuer, or affiliate thereof, subscribes or

will subscribe to other services or product of the

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registered proxy advisory firm or any person associated with such organization.

- "(2) Rule of construction.—Nothing in paragraph (1), or in any rules or regulations adopted thereunder, may be construed to modify, impair, or supersede the operation of any of the antitrust laws (as defined in the first section of the Clayton Act, except that such term includes section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, to the extent that such section 5 applies to unfair methods of competition).
- "(k) STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION.—

 13 Each registered proxy advisory firm shall, on a confiden
 14 tial basis, file with the Commission, at intervals deter
 15 mined by the Commission, such financial statements, cer
 16 tified (if required by the rules or regulations of the Com
 17 mission) by an independent public auditor, and informa
 18 tion concerning its financial condition, as the Commission,
- 19 by rule, may prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the20 public interest or for the protection of investors.
- 21 "(l) Annual Report.—
- "(1) IN GENERAL.—Each registered proxy advisory firm shall, not later than 90 calendar days after the end of each fiscal year, file with the Commission and make publicly available an annual report in such

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- form as the Commission, by rule, may prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors.
 - "(2) CONTENTS.—Each annual report required under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum, disclosure by the registered proxy advisory firm of the following:
 - "(A) A list of shareholder proposals the staff of the registered proxy advisory firm reviewed in the prior fiscal year.
 - "(B) A list of the recommendations made in the prior fiscal year.
 - "(C) The economic analysis conducted to determine that final recommendations provided in the prior fiscal year (other than recommendations relating to an issuer-sponsored proposal or recommendations consistent with that of a board of directors composed of a majority of independent directors) delivered to clients that vote shares held on behalf of shareholders were in the best economic interest of those shareholders.
 - "(D) The staff who reviewed and made recommendations on such proposals in the prior fiscal year.

	77
1	"(E) The qualifications of such staff to en-
2	sure that each of the recommendations for cli-
3	ents that vote shares held on behalf of share-
4	holders were tied to the best economic interest
5	of those shareholders.
6	"(F) The recommendations made in the
7	prior fiscal year where the proponent of such
8	recommendation was a client of or received
9	services from the proxy advisory firm.
10	"(G) A certification by the chief executive
11	officer, chief financial officer, and the primary
12	executive responsible for overseeing the compila-
13	tion and dissemination of proxy voting advice
14	that the final recommendations (other than rec-
15	ommendations relating to an issuer-sponsored
16	proposal or recommendations consistent with
17	that of a board of directors composed of a ma-
18	jority of independent directors) delivered to cli-
19	ents that vote shares held on behalf of share-
20	holders in the last fiscal year—
21	"(i) were based on internal controls
22	and procedures that are designed to ensure

accurate information and that such inter-

nal controls and procedures are effective;

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1	"(ii) do not violate applicable State or
2	Federal law; and
3	"(iii) were based on the best economic
4	interest of those shareholders.
5	"(H) The economic and other factors that
6	a reasonable investor would expect to influence
7	the recommendations of such proxy advisory
8	firm, including the ownership composition of
9	such proxy advisory firm.
10	"(m) Transparent Policies.—Each registered
11	proxy advisory firm shall file with the Commission and
12	make publicly available its methodology for the formula-
13	tion of proxy voting policies and voting recommendations
14	to clients that vote shares held on behalf of shareholders
15	and how that methodology ensures that the firm's voting
16	recommendations are in the best economic interest of
17	those shareholders.
18	"(n) Rules of Construction.—Registration under
19	and compliance with this section does not constitute a
20	waiver of, or otherwise diminish, any right, privilege, or
21	defense that a registered proxy advisory firm may other-
22	wise have under any provision of State or Federal law,
23	including any rule, regulation, or order thereunder.
24	"(o) Regulations.—

1	"(1) New Provisions.—Such rules and regula-
2	tions as are required by this section or are otherwise
3	necessary to carry out this section, including the ap-
4	plication form required under subsection (a)—
5	"(A) shall be issued by the Commission,
6	not later than 180 days after the date of enact-
7	ment of this section; and
8	"(B) shall become effective not later than
9	1 year after the date of enactment of this sec-
10	tion.
11	"(2) Review of existing regulations.—Not
12	later than 270 days after the date of enactment of
13	this section, the Commission shall—
14	"(A) review its existing rules and regula-
15	tions which affect the operations of proxy advi-
16	sory firms; and
17	"(B) amend or revise such rules and regu-
18	lations in accordance with the purposes of this
19	section, and issue such guidance as the Com-
20	mission may prescribe as necessary or appro-
21	priate in the public interest or for the protec-
22	tion of investors.
23	"(p) APPLICABILITY.—This section, other than sub-
24	section (n), which shall apply on the date of enactment
25	of this section, shall apply on the earlier of—

1	"(1) the date on which regulations are issued in
2	final form under subsection $(o)(1)$; or
3	"(2) 270 days after the date of enactment of
4	this section.
5	"(q) Best Economic Interest Defined.—In this
6	section, the term 'best economic interest' means decisions
7	that seek to maximize investment returns over a time hori-
8	zon consistent with the investment objectives and risk
9	management profile of the fund in which the shareholders
10	are invested.".
11	(b) Conforming Amendment.—Section 17(a)(1) of
12	the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C.
13	78q(a)(1)) is amended by inserting "proxy advisory firm,"
14	after "nationally recognized statistical rating organiza-
15	tion,".
16	(c) Proxy Advisory Firm Definitions.—Section
17	3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C.
18	78c(a)) is amended—
19	(1) by redesignating the second paragraph (80)
20	(relating to funding portal) as paragraph (81); and
21	(2) by adding at the end the following:
22	"(82) Proxy advisory firm.—The term
23	'proxy advisory firm'—
24	"(A) means any person who is primarily
25	engaged in the business of providing proxy vot-

1	ing advice, research, analysis, ratings, or rec-
2	ommendations to clients, which conduct con-
3	stitutes a solicitation within the meaning of sec-
4	tion 14; and
5	"(B) does not include any person that is
6	exempt under law or regulation from the re-
7	quirements otherwise applicable to persons en-
8	gaged in such a solicitation.
9	"(83) Person associated with a proxy ad-
10	VISORY FIRM.—With respect to a proxy advisory
11	firm—
12	"(A) a person is 'associated' with the
13	proxy advisory firm if the person is—
14	"(i) a partner, officer, or director of
15	the proxy advisory firm (or any person oc-
16	cupying a similar status or performing
17	similar functions);
18	"(ii) a person directly or indirectly
19	controlling, controlled by, or under com-
20	mon control with the proxy advisory firm;
21	"(iii) an employee of the proxy advi-
22	sory firm; or
23	"(iv) a person the Commission deter-
24	mines by rule is controlled by the proxy
25	advisory firm; and

1	"(B) a person is not 'associated' with the
2	proxy advisory firm if the person only performs
3	clerical or ministerial functions with respect to
4	a proxy advisory firm.".
5	TITLE VII—LIABILITY FOR CER-
6	TAIN FAILURES TO DISCLOSE
7	MATERIAL INFORMATION OR
8	MAKING OF MATERIAL
9	MISSTATEMENTS
10	SEC. 3701. LIABILITY FOR CERTAIN FAILURES TO DISCLOSE
11	MATERIAL INFORMATION OR MAKING OF MA-
12	TERIAL MISSTATEMENTS.
13	Section 14 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
14	(15 U.S.C. 78n) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
15	lowing:
16	"(l) False or Misleading Statements.—For
17	purposes of section 18, the failure to disclose material in-
18	formation (such as a proxy voting advice business's meth-
19	odology, sources of information, or conflicts of interest)
20	or the making of a material misstatement regarding proxy
21	voting advice that makes a recommendation to a security
22	holder as to the security holder's vote, consent, or author-
23	ization on a specific matter for which security holder ap-
24	proval is solicited, and that is furnished by a person that
25	markets the person's expertise as a provider of such proxy

1	voting advice separately from other forms of investment
2	advice, and sells such proxy voting advice for a fee, shall
3	be considered to be false or misleading with respect to a
4	material fact.".
5	TITLE VIII—DUTIES OF INVEST-
6	MENT ADVISORS, ASSET MAN-
7	AGERS, AND PENSION FUNDS
8	SEC. 3801. DUTIES OF INVESTMENT ADVISORS, ASSET MAN-
9	AGERS, AND PENSION FUNDS.
10	Section 13(f) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
11	(15 U.S.C. 78m(f)) is amended by adding at the end the
12	following:
13	"(7) Disclosures by institutional invest-
14	MENT MANAGERS IN CONNECTION WITH PROXY AD-
15	VISORY FIRMS.—
16	"(A) IN GENERAL.—Every institutional in-
17	vestment manager which uses the mails, or any
18	means or instrumentality of interstate com-
19	merce in the course of its business as an insti-
20	tutional investment manager, which engages a
21	proxy advisory firm, and which exercises voting
22	power with respect to accounts holding equity
23	securities of a class described in subsection
24	(d)(1) or otherwise becomes or is deemed to be-
25	come a beneficial owner of any security of a

1	class described in subsection $(d)(1)$ upon the
2	purchase or sale of a security-based swap that
3	the Commission may define by rule, shall file an
4	annual report with the Commission con-
5	taining—
6	"(i) an explanation of how the institu-
7	tional investment manager voted with re-
8	spect to each shareholder proposal;
9	"(ii) the percentage of votes cast on
10	shareholder proposals that were consistent
11	with proxy advisory firm recommendations,
12	for each proxy advisory firm retained by
13	the institutional investment manager;
14	"(iii) an explanation of—
15	"(I) how the institutional invest-
16	ment manager took into consideration
17	proxy advisory firm recommendations
18	in making voting decisions, including
19	the degree to which the institutional
20	investment manager used those rec-
21	ommendations in making voting deci-
22	sions;
23	"(II) how often the institutional
24	investment manager voted consistent
25	with a recommendation made by a

1	proxy advisory firm, expressed as a
2	percentage;
3	"(III) how such votes are rec-
4	onciled with the fiduciary duty of the
5	institutional investment manager to
6	vote in the best economic interests of
7	shareholders;
8	"(IV) how frequently votes were
9	changed when an error occurred or
10	due to new information from issuers;
11	and
12	"(V) the degree to which invest-
13	ment professionals of the institutional
14	investment manager were involved in
15	proxy voting decisions; and
16	"(iv) a certification that the voting de-
17	cisions of the institutional investment man-
18	ager were based solely on the best eco-
19	nomic interest of the shareholders on be-
20	half of whom the institutional investment
21	manager holds shares.
22	"(B) Requirements for larger insti-
23	TUTIONAL INVESTMENT MANAGERS.—Every in-
24	stitutional investment manager described in
25	subparagraph (A) that has assets under man-

1	agement with an aggregate fair market value on
2	the last trading day in any of the preceding
3	twelve months of at least \$100,000,000,000
4	shall—
5	"(i) in any materials provided to cus-
6	tomers and related to customers voting
7	their shares, clarify that shareholders are
8	not required to vote on every proposal;
9	"(ii) with respect to each shareholder
10	proposal for which the institutional invest-
11	ment manager votes (other than votes con-
12	sistent with the recommendation of a
13	board of directors composed of a majority
14	of independent directors) perform an eco-
15	nomic analysis before making such vote, to
16	determine that the vote is in the best eco-
17	nomic interest of the shareholders on be-
18	half of whom the institutional investment
19	manager holds shares; and
20	"(iii) include each economic analysis
21	required under clause (ii) in the annual re-
22	port required under subparagraph (A).
23	"(C) Best economic interest de-
24	FINED.—In this paragraph, the term 'best eco-
25	nomic interest' means decisions that seek to

1	maximize investment returns over a time hori-
2	zon consistent with the investment objectives
3	and risk management profile of the fund in
4	which shareholders are invested.".
5	TITLE IX—PROTECTING
6	AMERICANS' SAVINGS
7	SEC. 3901. REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO PROXY VOTING.
8	Section 14 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
9	(15 U.S.C. 78n), as amended by section 3701, is further
10	amended by adding at the end the following:
11	"(m) Prohibition on Robovoting.—
12	"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall issue
13	final rules prohibiting the use of robovoting with re-
14	spect to votes related to proxy or consent solicitation
15	materials.
16	"(2) Robovoting defined.—In this sub-
17	section, the term 'robovoting' means the practice of
18	automatically voting in a manner consistent with the
19	recommendations of a proxy advisory firm or pre-
20	populating votes on a proxy advisory firm's elec-
21	tronic voting platform with the proxy advisory firm's
22	recommendations, in either case, without inde-
23	pendent review and analysis.
24	"(n) Prohibition on Outsourcing Voting Deci-
25	SIONS BY INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS.—With respect to

1	votes related to proxy or consent solicitation materials, an
2	institutional investor may not outsource voting decisions
3	to any person other than an investment adviser or a
4	broker or dealer that is registered with the Commission
5	and has a fiduciary or best interest duty to the institu-
6	tional investor.
7	"(o) No Requirement to Vote.—No person may
8	be required to cast votes related to proxy or consent solici-
9	tation materials.
10	"(p) Proxy Advisory Firm Calculation of
11	Votes.—With respect to votes related to proxy or consent
12	solicitation materials with respect to an issuer, a proxy
13	advisor firm shall calculate the vote result consistent with
14	the law of the State in which the issuer is incorporated.".
15	TITLE X—EMPOWERING
16	SHAREHOLDERS
17	SEC. 3911. PROXY VOTING OF PASSIVELY MANAGED FUNDS.
18	(a) In General.—The Investment Advisers Act of
19	1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b-1 et seq.) is amended by inserting
20	after section 208 (15 U.S.C. 80b–8) the following:
21	"SEC. 208A. PROXY VOTING OF PASSIVELY MANAGED
22	FUNDS.
23	"(a) Investment Adviser Proxy Voting.—
24	"(1) In general.—An investment adviser that

holds authority to vote a proxy solicited by an issuer

1	pursuant to section 14 of the Securities Exchange
2	Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78n) in connection with any
3	vote of covered securities held by a passively man-
4	aged fund shall—
5	"(A) vote in accordance with the instruc-
6	tions of the beneficial owner of a voting security
7	of the passively managed fund;
8	"(B) vote in accordance with the voting
9	recommendations of such issuer; or
10	"(C) abstain from voting but make reason-
11	able efforts to be considered present for pur-
12	poses of establishing a quorum.
13	"(2) Exception.—Paragraph (1) shall not
14	apply with respect to a vote on a routine matter.
15	"(b) Safe Harbor.—With respect to a matter that
16	is not a routine matter, in the case of a vote described
17	in subsection $(a)(1)$, an investment adviser shall not be
18	liable to any person under any law or regulation of the
19	United States, any constitution, law, or regulation of any
20	State or political subdivision thereof, or under any con-
21	tract or other legally enforceable agreement (including any
22	arbitration agreement), for any of the following:
23	"(1) Voting in accordance with the instructions
24	of the beneficial owner of a voting security of the
25	passively managed fund.

1	"(2) Not soliciting voting instructing from any
2	person under subsection $(a)(1)$ with respect to such
3	vote.
4	"(3) Voting in accordance with the voting rec-
5	ommendations of an issuer pursuant to subpara-
6	graph (B) of such subsection.
7	"(4) Abstaining from voting in accordance with
8	subparagraph (C) of such subsection.
9	"(c) Foreign Private Issuers Exemption.—Sub-
10	section (a) shall not apply with respect to a foreign private
11	issuer if the voting policy of the investment advisor with
12	respect to such foreign private issuers is fully and fairly
13	disclosed to beneficial owners, including the extent to
14	which such policy differs from the voting policy for non-
15	exempt issuers.
16	"(d) Definitions.—In this section:
17	"(1) COVERED SECURITY.—The term 'covered
18	security'—
19	"(A) means a voting security, as that term
20	is defined in section 2(a) of the Investment
21	Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-2(a)), in
22	which a qualified fund is invested; and
23	"(B) does not include any voting security
24	(as defined in subparagraph (A)) of an issuer
25	registered with the Commission as an invest-

1	ment company under section 8 of the Invest-
2	ment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-8).
3	"(2) Passively managed fund.—The term
4	'passively managed fund' means a qualified fund
5	that—
6	"(A) is designed to track, or is derived
7	from, an index of securities or a portion of such
8	an index;
9	"(B) discloses that the qualified fund is a
10	passive index fund; or
11	"(C) allocates not less than 60 percent of
12	the total assets of the qualified fund to an in-
13	vestment strategy that is designed to track, or
14	is derived from, an index of securities or a por-
15	tion of such an index fund.
16	"(3) QUALIFIED FUND.—The term 'qualified
17	fund' means—
18	"(A) an investment company, as that term
19	is defined in section 3 of the Investment Com-
20	pany Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-3);
21	"(B) a private fund;
22	"(C) an eligible deferred compensation
23	plan, as that term is defined in section 457(b)
24	of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

1	"(D) a trust, plan, account, or other entity
2	described in section $3(c)(11)$ of the Investment
3	Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-
4	3(e)(11));
5	"(E) a plan maintained by an employer de-
6	scribed in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of section
7	403(b)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of
8	1986 to provide annuity contracts described in
9	section 403(b) of such Code;
10	"(F) a common trust fund, or similar
11	fund, maintained by a bank;
12	"(G) any fund established under section
13	8438(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code; or
14	"(H) any separate managed account of a
15	client of an investment adviser.
16	"(4) Registrant.—The term 'registrant'
17	means an issuer of covered securities.
18	"(5) ROUTINE MATTER.—The term 'routine
19	matter'—
20	"(A) includes a proposal that relates to—
21	"(i) an election with respect to the
22	board of directors of the registrant;
23	"(ii) the compensation of management
24	or the board of directors of the registrant;
25	"(iii) the selection of auditors;

1	"(iv) a matter where there is a mate-
2	rial conflict of interest between or among
3	the issuer, members of management, mem-
4	bers of the board of directors, or an affil-
5	iate of the issuer;
6	"(v) declassification; or
7	"(vi) transactions that would trans-
8	form the structure of the registrant, in-
9	cluding—
10	"(I) a merger or consolidation;
11	and
12	"(II) the sale, lease, or exchange
13	of all, or substantially all, of the prop-
14	erty and assets of a registrant; and
15	"(B) does not include—
16	"(i) a proposal that is not submitted
17	to a holder of covered securities by means
18	of a proxy statement comparable to that
19	described in section 240.14a–101 of title
20	17, Code of Federal Regulations, or any
21	successor regulation; or
22	"(ii) a proposal that is—
23	"(I) the subject of a counter-so-
24	licitation: or

1	"(II) part of a proposal made by
2	a person other than the applicable
3	registrant.".
4	(b) Effective Date.—The amendment made by
5	this section shall take effect on the first August 1 that
6	occurs after the date that is 2 years after the date of en-
7	actment of this Act.
8	TITLE XI—PROTECTING RETAIL
9	INVESTORS' SAVINGS
10	SEC. 3921. BEST INTEREST BASED ON PECUNIARY FAC-
11	TORS.
12	(a) In General.—Section 211(g) of the Investment
13	Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b–11(g)) is amended
14	by adding at the end the following:
15	"(3) Best interest based on pecuniary
16	FACTORS.—
17	"(A) In general.—For purposes of para-
18	graph (1), the best interest of a customer shall
19	be determined using pecuniary factors, which
20	may not be subordinated to or limited by non-
21	pecuniary factors, unless the customer provides
22	informed consent, in writing, that such non-pe-
23	cuniary factors be considered.
24	"(B) DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY FAC-
25	TORS.—If a customer provides a broker, dealer,

1 or investment adviser with the informed consent 2 consider non-pecuniary factors described under subparagraph (A), the broker, dealer, or 3 4 investment adviser shall— "(i) disclose the expected pecuniary 6 effects to the customer over a time period 7 selected by the customer and not to exceed 8 three years; and 9 "(ii) at the end of the time period de-10 scribed in clause (i), disclose, by compari-11 son to a reasonably comparable index or 12 basket of securities selected by the cus-13 tomer, the actual pecuniary effects of that 14 time period, including all fees, costs, and 15 other expenses incurred to consider non-pe-16 cuniary factors. "(C) PECUNIARY FACTOR DEFINED.—In 17 18 this paragraph, the term 'pecuniary factor' 19 means a factor that a fiduciary prudently deter-20 mines is expected to have a material effect on 21 the risk or return of an investment based on 22 appropriate investment horizons.". 23 (b) RULEMAKING.—Not later than the end of the 12month period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall revise

1	or issue such rules as may be necessary to implement the
2	amendment made by subsection (a).
3	(c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by sub-
4	section (a) shall apply to actions taken by a broker, dealer
5	or investment adviser beginning on the date that is 12
6	months after the date of enactment of this Act.
7	SEC. 3922. STUDY ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND OTHER ENVI
8	RONMENTAL DISCLOSURES IN MUNICIPAL
9	BOND MARKET.
10	(a) In General.—The Securities and Exchange
11	Commission shall—
12	(1) conduct a study to determine the extent to
13	which issuers of municipal securities (as such term
14	is defined in section 3(a)(29) of the Securities Ex-
15	change Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(29)) make
16	disclosures to investors regarding climate change
17	and other environmental matters; and
18	(2) solicit public comment with respect to such
19	study.
20	(b) Contents.—The study required under sub-
21	section (a) shall consider and analyze—
22	(1) the frequency with which disclosures de-
23	scribed in subsection (a)(1) are made;
24	(2) whether such disclosures made by issuers of
25	municipal securities in connection with offerings of

1	securities align with such disclosures made by
2	issuers of municipal securities in other contexts or to
3	audiences other than investors;
4	(3) any voluntary or mandatory disclosure
5	standards observed by issuers of municipal securities
6	in the course of making such disclosures;
7	(4) the degree to which investors consider such
8	disclosures in connection with making an investment
9	decision; and
10	(5) such other information as the Securities
11	and Exchange Commission determines appropriate.
12	(c) Report.—Not later than 1 year after the date
13	of the enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange
14	Commission shall submit to the Committee on Banking
15	Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Com-
16	mittee on Financial Services of the House of Representa-
17	tives a report that includes—
18	(1) the results of the study required under this
19	section;
20	(2) a detailed discussion of the financial risks
21	to investors from investments in municipal securi-
22	ties;
23	(3) whether such risks are adequately disclosed
24	to investors; and

1	(4) recommended regulatory or legislative steps
2	to address any concerns identified in the study.
3	SEC. 3923. STUDY ON SOLICITATION OF MUNICIPAL SECU-
4	RITIES BUSINESS.
5	(a) In General.—The Securities and Exchange
6	Commission shall—
7	(1) conduct a study on the effectiveness of each
8	covered rule in preventing the payment of funds to
9	elected officials or candidates for elected office in ex-
10	change for the receipt of government business in
11	connection with the offer or sale of municipal securi-
12	ties; and
13	(2) solicit public comment with respect to such
14	study.
15	(b) Contents.—The study required under sub-
16	section (a) shall consider and analyze—
17	(1) the effectiveness of each covered rule, in-
18	cluding whether each covered rule accomplishes the
19	intended effect of such covered rule and has any un-
20	intended adverse effects;
21	(2) the frequency and scope of enforcement ac-
22	tions undertaken pursuant to each covered rule;
23	(3) the degree to which—
24	(A) persons subject to each covered rule—

1	(i) have in effect policies and proce-
2	dures intended to ensure compliance with
3	each such covered rule; and
4	(ii) are disadvantaged from partici-
5	pating in the political process generally
6	and in relation to persons who solicit or re-
7	ceive government business or government
8	licenses, permits, and approvals other than
9	in connection with the offer or sale of mu-
10	nicipal securities; and
11	(B) other State and Federal laws and reg-
12	ulations impact the solicitation of municipal se-
13	curities business; and
14	(4) such other information as the Securities
15	and Exchange Commission determines appropriate.
16	(c) Report.—Not later than 1 year after the date
17	of the enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange
18	Commission shall submit to the Committee on Banking,
19	Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Com-
20	mittee on Financial Services of the House of Representa-
21	tives a report that includes—
22	(1) the results of the study required under this
23	section;
24	(2) an analysis of the extent to which persons
25	affiliated with small businesses, as well as persons

1	affiliated with minority and women opened busi-
2	nesses, have been affected by the covered rules; and
3	(3) recommended regulatory or legislative steps
4	to address any concerns identified in the study.
5	(d) Definitions.—In this section:
6	(1) COVERED RULE.—The term "covered rule"
7	means—
8	(A) Rule G-38 of the Municipal Securities
9	Rulemaking Board; and
10	(B) Rule 206(4)–5 (17 CFR 275.206(4)–
11	5).
12	(2) Municipal securities.—The term "mu-
13	nicipal securities" has the meaning given the term in
14	section 3(a)(29) of the Securities Exchange Act of
15	1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(29)).
16	DIVISION D—AMERICAN FIRST
17	ACT OF 2023
18	SEC. 4001. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.
19	(a) SHORT TITLE.—This division may be cited as the
20	"American Financial Institution Regulatory Sovereignty
21	and Transparency Act of 2023" or the "American FIRST
22	Act of 2023".
23	(b) Table of Contents.—The table of contents for
24	this division is as follows:
	Sec. 4001. Short title; Table of contents.
	TITLE I—STOP EXECUTIVE CAPTURE OF BANKING REGULATORS

Sec. 4101. Report on the implementation of recommendations from the FSOC Chairperson and Executive Orders.

TITLE II—ENSURING U.S. AUTHORITY OVER U.S. BANKING REGULATIONS

- Sec. 4201. Requirements in connection with rulemakings implementing policies of non-governmental international organizations.
- Sec. 4202. Report on certain climate-related interactions with covered international organizations.

TITLE III—BANKING REGULATOR INTERNATIONAL REPORTING

Sec. 4301. Reporting on interactions with non-governmental international organizations.

TITLE IV—SUPERVISION REFORM

Sec. 4401. Removal of the Vice Chairman for Supervision designation.

1 TITLE I—STOP EXECUTIVE CAP-

2 TURE OF BANKING REGU-

3 LATORS

- 4 SEC. 4101. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REC-
- 5 OMMENDATIONS FROM THE FSOC CHAIR-
- 6 PERSON AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS.
- 7 (a) Board of Governors of the Federal Re-
- 8 SERVE System.—Section 10 of the Federal Reserve Act
- 9 (12 U.S.C. 247b), as amended by section 4401(b), is fur-
- 10 ther amended by adding at the end the following:
- 11 "(11) REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
- 12 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FSOC CHAIRPERSON
- 13 AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS.—The Board of Governors
- of the Federal Reserve System may not implement
- a non-binding recommendation made by the Chair-
- person of the Financial Stability Oversight Council
- or contained in an Executive Order unless the Board

1	of Governors first provides the Committee on Finan-
2	cial Services of the House of Representatives and
3	the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Af-
4	fairs of the Senate with—
5	"(A) notice that the Board of Governors
6	intends to implement such recommendation;
7	"(B) a report containing the proposed im-
8	plementation by the Board of Governors and a
9	justification for such implementation; and
10	"(C) upon request, not later than the end
11	of the 120-day period beginning on the date of
12	the notice under subparagraph (A), testimony
13	on such proposed implementation.".
14	(b) Office of the Comptroller of the Cur-
15	RENCY.—Section 324 of the Revised Statutes of the
16	United States (12 U.S.C. 1) is amended by adding at the
17	end the following:
18	"(c) Report on the Implementation of Rec-
19	OMMENDATIONS FROM THE FSOC CHAIRPERSON AND
20	EXECUTIVE ORDERS.—The Comptroller of the Currency
21	may not implement a non-binding recommendation made
22	by the Chairperson of the Financial Stability Oversight
23	Council or contained in an Executive Order unless the
24	Comptroller of the Currency first provides the Committee
25	on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and

- 1 the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
- 2 of the Senate with—
- 3 "(1) notice that the Comptroller of the Cur-
- 4 rency intends to implement such recommendation;
- 5 "(2) a report containing the proposed imple-
- 6 mentation by the Comptroller of the Currency and
- 7 a justification for such implementation; and
- 8 "(3) upon request, not later than the end of the
- 9 120-day period beginning on the date of the notice
- under paragraph (1), testimony on such proposed
- implementation.".
- 12 (c) Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.—
- 13 Section 2 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C.
- 14 1812) is amended by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-
- 15 lowing:
- 16 "(g) Report on the Implementation of Rec-
- 17 ommendations From the FSOC Chairperson and
- 18 EXECUTIVE ORDERS.—The Board of Directors of the
- 19 Corporation may not implement a non-binding rec-
- 20 ommendation made by the Chairperson of the Financial
- 21 Stability Oversight Council or contained in an Executive
- 22 Order unless the Board of Directors first provides the
- 23 Committee on Financial Services of the House of Rep-
- 24 resentatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
- 25 Urban Affairs of the Senate with—

1	"(1) notice that the Board of Directors intends
2	to implement such recommendation;
3	"(2) a report containing the proposed imple-
4	mentation by the Board of Directors and a justifica-
5	tion for such implementation; and
6	"(3) upon request, not later than the end of the
7	120-day period beginning on the date of the notice
8	under paragraph (1), testimony on such proposed
9	implementation.".
10	(d) National Credit Union Administration.—
11	Section 102 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C.
12	1752a) is amended by adding at the end the following:
13	"(g) Report on the Implementation of Rec-
14	OMMENDATIONS FROM THE FSOC CHAIRPERSON AND
15	EXECUTIVE ORDERS.—The Board may not implement a
16	non-binding recommendation made by the Chairperson of
17	the Financial Stability Oversight Council or contained in
18	an Executive Order unless the Board first provides the
19	Committee on Financial Services of the House of Rep-
20	resentatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
21	Urban Affairs of the Senate with—
22	"(1) notice that the Board intends to imple-
23	ment such recommendation:

1	"(2) a report containing the proposed imple-
2	mentation by the Board and a justification for such
3	implementation; and
4	"(3) upon request, not later than the end of the
5	120-day period beginning on the date of the notice
6	under paragraph (1), testimony on such proposed
7	implementation.".
8	(e) Federal Housing Finance Agency.—Section
9	1311 of the Housing and Community Development Act
10	of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4511) is amended by adding at the
11	end the following:
12	"(d) Report on the Implementation of Rec-
13	OMMENDATIONS FROM THE FSOC CHAIRPERSON AND
14	EXECUTIVE ORDERS.—The Director may not implement
15	a non-binding recommendation made by the Chairperson
16	of the Financial Stability Oversight Council or contained
17	in an Executive Order unless the Director first provides
18	the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Rep-
19	resentatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
20	Urban Affairs of the Senate with—
21	"(1) notice that the Director intends to imple-
22	ment such recommendation;
23	"(2) a report containing the proposed imple-
24	mentation by the Director and a justification for
25	such implementation; and

1	"(3) upon request, not later than the end of the					
2	120-day period beginning on the date of the notice					
3	under paragraph (1), testimony on such proposed					
4	implementation.".					
5	TITLE II—ENSURING U.S. AU-					
6	THORITY OVER U.S. BANKING					
7	REGULATIONS					
8	SEC. 4201. REQUIREMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH					
9	RULEMAKINGS IMPLEMENTING POLICIES OF					
10	NON-GOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL OR-					
11	GANIZATIONS.					
12	(a) Board of Governors of the Federal Re-					
13	SERVE SYSTEM.—Section 10 of the Federal Reserve Act					
14	(12 U.S.C. 247b), as amended by section 4101(a), is fur-					
15	ther amended by inserting after paragraph (11) the fol-					
16	lowing:					
17	"(12) Requirements in connection with					
18	RULEMAKINGS IMPLEMENTING POLICIES OF NON-					
19	GOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—					
20	"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Board of Gov-					
21	ernors of the Federal Reserve System may not					
22	propose or finalize a major covered rule unless,					
23	not later than 120 days before issuing such a					
24	proposed or final rule, the Board of Governors					
25	provides the Committee on Financial Services					

of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate with notice, testimony, and a detailed economic analysis with respect to the proposed or final rule, including projections of economic costs, sectoral effects, and effects on the availability of credit, the gross domestic product, and employment.

"(B) Major covered rule defined.—
In this paragraph, the term 'major covered rule'
means a rule—

"(i) that the Board of Governors determines would have an effect, in the aggregate, on the economy of the United States of \$10,000,000,000 or more during the 10-year period beginning on the date the rule takes effect; and

"(ii) that is intended to align or conform with a recommendation from a non-governmental international organization (including the Financial Stability Board, the Bank for International Settlements, the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System,

- 1 and the Basel Committee on Banking Su-2 pervision).". 3 (b) Office of the Comptroller of the Cur-RENCY.—Section 324 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (12 U.S.C. 1), as amended by section 4101(b), is further amended by adding at the end the fol-7 lowing: 8 "(d) REQUIREMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH Rulemakings Implementing Policies of Non-gov-ERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.— 10 11 "(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller of the 12 Currency may not propose or finalize a major cov-13 ered rule unless, not later than 120 days before 14 issuing such a proposed or final rule, the Comp-15 troller of the Currency provides the Committee on 16 Financial Services of the House of Representatives 17 and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
- 21 nomic costs, sectoral effects, and effects on the

Urban Affairs of the Senate with notice, testimony,

and a detailed economic analysis with respect to the

proposed or final rule, including projections of eco-

- 22 availability of credit, the gross domestic product,
- and employment.

18

19

"(2) Major covered rule defined.—In this 1 2 subsection, the term 'major covered rule' means a rule— 3 "(A) that the Comptroller of the Currency determines would have an effect, in the aggre-6 gate, on the economy of the United States of 7 \$10,000,000,000 or more during the 10-year 8 period beginning on the date the rule takes ef-9 fect; and 10 "(B) that is intended to align or conform 11 with a recommendation from a non-governmental international organization (including the 12 13 Financial Stability Board, the Bank for Inter-14 national Settlements, the Network of Central 15 Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Finan-16 cial System, and the Basel Committee on Bank-17 ing Supervision).". 18 (c) Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.— 19 Section 2 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 20 1812), as amended by section 4101(c), is further amended 21 by inserting after subsection (g) the following: 22 "(h) REQUIREMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH RULEMAKINGS IMPLEMENTING POLICIES OF NON-GOV-ERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

"(1) In general.—The Board of Directors of the Corporation may not propose or finalize a major covered rule unless, not later than 120 days before issuing such a proposed or final rule, the Board of Directors provides the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate with notice, testimony, and a detailed economic analysis with respect to the proposed or final rule, including projections of economic costs, sectoral effects, and effects on the availability of credit, the gross domestic product, and employment.

- "(2) Major covered rule Defined.—In this subsection, the term 'major covered rule' means a rule—
 - "(A) that the Board of Directors determines would have an effect, in the aggregate, on the economy of the United States of \$10,000,000,000 or more during the 10-year period beginning on the date the rule takes effect; and
 - "(B) that is intended to align or conform with a recommendation from a non-governmental international organization (including the Financial Stability Board, the Bank for Inter-

- 1 national Settlements, the Network of Central
- 2 Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Finan-
- 3 cial System, and the Basel Committee on Bank-
- 4 ing Supervision).".
- 5 (d) National Credit Union Administration.—
- 6 Section 102 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C.
- 7 1752a), as amended by section 4101(d), is further amend-
- 8 ed by adding at the end the following:
- 9 "(h) REQUIREMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH
- 10 Rulemakings Implementing Policies of Non-Gov-
- 11 ERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—
- 12 "(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board may not pro-
- pose or finalize a major covered rule unless, not
- later than 120 days before issuing such a proposed
- or final rule, the Board provides the Committee on
- 16 Financial Services of the House of Representatives
- and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
- 18 Urban Affairs of the Senate with notice, testimony,
- and a detailed economic analysis with respect to the
- proposed or final rule, including projections of eco-
- 21 nomic costs, sectoral effects, and effects on the
- 22 availability of credit, the gross domestic product,
- and employment.

1	"(2) Major covered rule defined.—In this					
2	subsection, the term 'major covered rule' means a					
3	rule—					
4	"(A) that the Board determines would					
5	have an effect, in the aggregate, on the econ-					
6	omy of the United States of \$10,000,000,000					
7	or more during the 10-year period beginning on					
8	the date the rule takes effect; and					
9	"(B) that is intended to align or conform					
10	with a recommendation from a non-govern-					
11	mental international organization (including the					
12	Financial Stability Board, the Bank for Inter-					
13	national Settlements, the Network of Central					
14	Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Finan-					
15	cial System, and the Basel Committee on Bank-					
16	ing Supervision).".					
17	(e) Federal Housing Finance Agency.—Section					
18	1311 of the Housing and Community Development Act					
19	of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4511), as amended by section 4101(e),					
20	is further amended by adding at the end the following:					
21	"(e) Requirements in Connection With					
22	Rulemakings Implementing Policies of Non-gov-					
23	ERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—					
24	"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may not pro-					
25	pose or finalize a major covered rule unless, not					

1 later than 120 days before issuing such a proposed 2 or final rule, the Director provides the Committee on 3 Financial Services of the House of Representatives 4 and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate with notice, testimony, 5 6 and a detailed economic analysis with respect to the 7 proposed or final rule, including projections of eco-8 nomic costs, sectoral effects, and effects on the 9 availability of credit, the gross domestic product, 10 and employment.

- "(2) Major covered rule Defined.—In this subsection, the term 'major covered rule' means a rule—
 - "(A) that the Director determines would have an effect, in the aggregate, on the economy of the United States of \$10,000,000,000 or more during the 10-year period beginning on the date the rule takes effect; and
 - "(B) that is intended to align or conform with a recommendation from a non-governmental international organization (including the Financial Stability Board, the Bank for International Settlements, the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Finan-

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1	cial System, and the Basel Committee on Bank-			
2	ing Supervision).".			
3	SEC. 4202. REPORT ON CERTAIN CLIMATE-RELATED INTER-			
4	ACTIONS WITH COVERED INTERNATIONAL			
5	ORGANIZATIONS.			
6	(a) In General.—A Federal banking regulator may			
7	not meet with or otherwise engage with a covered inter-			
8	national organization on the topic of climate-related finan-			
9	cial risk during a calendar year unless the Federal bank-			
10	ing regulator has issued a report to the Committee on Fi-			
11	nancial Services of the House of Representatives and the			
12	Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of			
13	the Senate containing, for the previous calendar year—			
14	(1) a complete description of the activities of			
15	the covered international organization in which the			
16	Federal banking regulator participates (including			
17	any task force, committee, or other organizational			
18	unit thereof); and			
19	(2) a detailed accounting of the governmental			
20	and non-governmental funding sources of the cov-			
21	ered international organization (including any task			
22	force, committee, or other organizational unit there-			
23	of).			
24	(b) DEFINITIONS—In this section:			

1	(1) COVERED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZA-				
2	TION.—The term "covered international organiza-				
3	tion" means the Financial Stability Board, the Bank				
4	for International Settlements, the Network of Cen-				
5	tral Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Finan				
6	cial System, and the Basel Committee on Banking				
7	Supervision.				
8	(2) Federal banking regulator.—The				
9	term "Federal banking regulator" means the Board				
10	of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the				
11	Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federa				
12	Housing Finance Agency, the National Credit Union				
13	Administration, and the Office of the Comptroller of				
14	the Currency.				
15	TITLE III—BANKING REGU-				
16	LATOR INTERNATIONAL RE-				
17	PORTING				
18	SEC. 4301. REPORTING ON INTERACTIONS WITH NON-GOV-				
19	ERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZA-				
20	TIONS.				
21	(a) Board of Governors of the Federal Re-				
22	SERVE SYSTEM.—Section 10 of the Federal Reserve Act				
23	(12 U.S.C. 247b), as amended by section 4201(a), is fur-				
24	ther amended by inserting after paragraph (12) the fol-				
25	lowing:				

"(13) Reporting on interactions with Non-Governmental interactions between the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and a non-governmental international organization (including the Financial Stability Board, the Bank for International Settlements, the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System, and the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision), the Board of Governors shall—

"(A) keep a complete record of all such interactions, including minutes of all meetings and any recommendations made during such interaction for international standardization with respect to open-market policies and operations, discount lending and operations (including collateral policies), or supervisory policies and operations; and

"(B) issue an annual report to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate containing—

1	"(i) all of the information recorded					
2	pursuant to subparagraph (A) with respect					
3	to the previous year; and					
4	"(ii) with respect to each non-govern-					
5	mental international organization with					
6	which the Board of Governors had an					
7	interaction in the previous year, a descrip-					
8	tion of the funding sources of the non-gov-					
9	ernmental international organization.".					
10	(b) Office of the Comptroller of the Cur-					
11	RENCY.—Section 324 of the Revised Statutes of the					
12	United States (12 U.S.C. 1), as amended by section					
13	4201(b), is further amended by adding at the end the fol-					
14	lowing:					
15	"(e) Reporting on Interactions With Non-Gov-					
16	ERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—With re-					
17	spect to interactions between the Office of the Comptroller					
18	of the Currency and a non-governmental international or-					
19	ganization (including the Financial Stability Board, the					
20	Bank for International Settlements, the Network of Cen-					
21	tral Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial					
22	System, and the Basel Committee on Banking Super-					
23	vision), the Comptroller of the Currency shall—					
24	"(1) keep a complete record of all such inter-					
25	actions, including minutes of all meetings and any					

1 recommendations made during such interaction for 2 international standardization with respect to dis-3 count lending and operations (including collateral policies) or supervisory policies and operations; and "(2) issue an annual report to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representa-6 tives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and 7 8 Urban Affairs of the Senate containing— 9 "(A) all of the information recorded pursu-10 ant to paragraph (1) with respect to the pre-11 vious year; and 12 "(B) with respect to each non-govern-13 mental international organization with which 14 the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency 15 had an interaction in the previous year, a de-16 scription of the funding sources of the non-gov-17 ernmental international organization.". 18 (c) Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.— 19 Section 2 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 20 1812), as amended by section 4201(c), is further amended 21 is amended by inserting after subsection (h) the following: 22 "(i) Reporting on Interactions With Non-Gov-ERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—With respect to interactions between the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and a non-governmental international

1	organization (including the Financial Stability Board, the
2	Bank for International Settlements, the Network of Cen-
3	tral Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financia
4	System, and the Basel Committee on Banking Super-
5	vision), the Board of Directors of the Corporation shall—
6	"(1) keep a complete record of all such inter-
7	actions, including minutes of all meetings and any
8	recommendations made during such interaction for
9	international standardization with respect to dis-
10	count lending and operations (including collateral
11	policies) or supervisory policies and operations; and
12	"(2) issue an annual report to the Committee
13	on Financial Services of the House of Representa-
14	tives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
15	Urban Affairs of the Senate containing—
16	"(A) all of the information recorded pursu-
17	ant to paragraph (1) with respect to the pre-
18	vious year; and
19	"(B) with respect to each non-govern-
20	mental international organization with which
21	the Corporation had an interaction in the pre-
22	vious year, a description of the funding sources
23	of the non-governmental international organiza-
24	tion.".

1	(d) National Credit Union Administration.—
2	Section 102 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C.
3	1752a), as amended by section 4201(d), is further amend-
4	ed by adding at the end the following:
5	"(i) Reporting on Interactions With Non-Gov-
6	ERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—With re-
7	spect to interactions between the Administration and a
8	non-governmental international organization (including
9	the Financial Stability Board, the Bank for International
10	Settlements, the Network of Central Banks and Super-
11	visors for Greening the Financial System, and the Basel
12	Committee on Banking Supervision), the Board shall—
13	"(1) keep a complete record of all such inter-
14	actions, including minutes of all meetings and any
15	recommendations made during such interaction for
16	international standardization with respect to dis-
17	count lending and operations (including collateral
18	policies) or supervisory policies and operations; and
19	"(2) issue an annual report to the Committee
20	on Financial Services of the House of Representa-
21	tives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
22	Urban Affairs of the Senate containing—
23	"(A) all of the information recorded pursu-
24	ant to paragraph (1) with respect to the pre-
25	vious year: and

1 "(B) with respect to each non-govern2 mental international organization with which
3 the Administration had an interaction in the
4 previous year, a description of the funding
5 sources of the non-governmental international
6 organization.".
7 (e) FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY.—Section

8 1311 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4511), as amended by section 4201(e), 10 is further amended by adding at the end the following: 11 "(f) Reporting on Interactions With Non-Gov-12 ERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—With re-13 spect to interactions between the Federal Housing Finance Agency and a non-governmental international orga-14 15 nization (including the Financial Stability Board, the Bank for International Settlements, the Network of Cen-16 tral Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial 18 System, and the Basel Committee on Banking Super-19 vision), the Director shall—

> "(1) keep a complete record of all such interactions, including minutes of all meetings and any recommendations made during such interaction for international standardization with respect to discount lending and operations (including collateral policies) or supervisory policies and operations; and

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1	"(2) issue an annual report to the Committee
2	on Financial Services of the House of Representa-
3	tives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
4	Urban Affairs of the Senate containing—
5	"(A) all of the information recorded pursu-
6	ant to paragraph (1) with respect to the pre-
7	vious year; and
8	"(B) with respect to each non-govern-
9	mental international organization with which
10	the Federal Housing Finance Agency had an
11	interaction in the previous year, a description of
12	the funding sources of the non-governmental
13	international organization.".
14	TITLE IV—SUPERVISION
15	REFORM
16	SEC. 4401. REMOVAL OF THE VICE CHAIRMAN FOR SUPER-
17	VISION DESIGNATION.
18	(a) In General.—The second undesignated para-
19	graph of section 10 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C.
20	242) (relating to the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the
21	Board) is amended by striking "and 2 shall be designated
22	by the President, by and with the advice and consent of
23	the Senate, to serve as Vice Chairmen of the Board, each
24	for a term of 4 years, 1 of whom shall serve in the absence
25	of the Chairman, as provided in the fourth undesignated

- 1 paragraph of this section, and 1 of whom shall be des-
- 2 ignated Vice Chairman for Supervision. The Vice Chair-
- 3 man for Supervision shall develop policy recommendations
- 4 for the Board regarding supervision and regulation of de-
- 5 pository institution holding companies and other financial
- 6 firms supervised by the Board, and shall oversee the su-
- 7 pervision and regulation of such firms." and inserting
- 8 "and 1 shall be designated by the President, by and with
- 9 the consent of the Senate, to serve as Vice Chairman of
- 10 the Board for a term of 4 years.".
- 11 (b) Conforming Amendment.—Section 10 of the
- 12 Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 241 et seq.) is amended
- 13 by striking paragraph (12).

14 **DIVISION E—LIMITATION ON**

15 **SEC RESERVE FUND**

- 16 SEC. 5001. LIMITATION.
- During fiscal years 2026 and 2027, registration fees
- 18 collected by the Securities and Exchange Commission shall
- 19 not be deposited in the Securities and Exchange Commis-
- 20 sion Reserve Fund.

Passed the House of Representatives September 19, 2024.

Attest:

118TH CONGRESS H. R. 4790

AN ACT

To amend the Federal securities laws with respect to the materiality of disclosure requirements, to establish the Public Company Advisory Committee, and for other purposes.