

Union Calendar No. 489

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6435

[Report No. 116–591]

To direct the Federal Trade Commission to develop and disseminate information to the public about scams related to COVID–19, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 3, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mr. HUDSON, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

NOVEMBER 16, 2020

Additional sponsors: Mr. GUTHRIE and Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico

NOVEMBER 16, 2020

Reported from the Committee on Energy and Commerce; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To direct the Federal Trade Commission to develop and disseminate information to the public about scams related to COVID–19, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Combating Pandemic
5 Scams Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. INFORMATION ABOUT SCAMS RELATED TO COVID-**

7 **19.**

8 (a) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—As expeditiously as possible
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
11 Commission, in consultation with the Attorney Gen-
12 eral, the Secretary of Health and Human Services,
13 the Postmaster General, the Chief Postal Inspector,
14 and the Internet Crime Complaint Center, shall de-
15 velop and disseminate information to the public
16 about scams related to the novel coronavirus
17 (COVID-19).

18 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out para-
19 graph (1), the Commission shall—

20 (A) include—

21 (i) information regarding mail, tele-
22 marketing, and internet fraud and illegal
23 robocalls related to COVID-19 that identi-
24 fies the most common scams; and

1 (ii) information regarding where and
2 how to report instances of scams related to
3 COVID-19, including instructions on how
4 to file a complaint with the appropriate
5 law enforcement agency;

6 (B) disseminate information under such
7 paragraph in a manner that prioritizes, and
8 that is easily accessible by and user-friendly to,
9 senior citizens and people with infirmities and
10 disabilities;

11 (C) disseminate information under such
12 paragraph on an internet website of the Com-
13 mission that serves as a source of information
14 for the public about scams related to COVID-
15 19; and

16 (D) regularly update the information devel-
17 oped and disseminated under such paragraph to
18 keep pace with the changing nature of scams
19 related to COVID-19.

20 (b) DATABASE.—As expeditiously as possible after
21 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission
22 shall, in consultation with State law enforcement agencies,
23 the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protec-
24 tion, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and
25 Human Services, and other relevant Federal officials, es-

1 tabish a comprehensive national database, either within
2 or separate from the Consumer Sentinel Network, that
3 tracks instances of scams related to COVID-19.

4 (c) COMMISSION DEFINED.—In this section, the term
5 “Commission” means the Federal Trade Commission.

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