

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6435

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

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.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—As expeditiously as possible
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
3 Commission, in consultation with the Attorney Gen-
4 eral, the Secretary of Health and Human Services,
5 the Postmaster General, the Chief Postal Inspector,
6 and the Internet Crime Complaint Center, shall de-
7 velop and disseminate information to the public
8 about scams related to the novel coronavirus
9 (COVID-19).

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

12 (A) include—

13 (i) information regarding mail, tele-
14 marketing, and internet fraud and illegal
15 robocalls related to COVID-19 that identi-
16 fies the most common scams; and

17 (ii) information regarding where and
18 how to report instances of scams related to
19 COVID-19, including instructions on how
20 to file a complaint with the appropriate
21 law enforcement agency;

22 (B) disseminate information under such
23 paragraph in a manner that prioritizes, and
24 that is easily accessible by and user-friendly to,

1 senior citizens and people with infirmities and
2 disabilities;

3 (C) disseminate information under such
4 paragraph on an internet website of the Com-
5 mission that serves as a source of information
6 for the public about scams related to COVID-
7 19; and

8 (D) regularly update the information devel-
9 oped and disseminated under such paragraph to
10 keep pace with the changing nature of scams
11 related to COVID-19.

12 (b) DATABASE.—As expeditiously as possible after
13 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission
14 shall, in consultation with State law enforcement agencies,
15 the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protec-
16 tion, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and
17 Human Services, and other relevant Federal officials, es-
18 tablish a comprehensive national database, either within
19 or separate from the Consumer Sentinel Network, that
20 tracks instances of scams related to COVID-19.

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

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