

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1557

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 22, 2015

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and  
Governmental Affairs

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## AN ACT

To amend the Notification and Federal Employee Anti-discrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 to strengthen Federal antidiscrimination laws enforced by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and expand accountability within the Federal government, 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.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Federal Employee  
3 Antidiscrimination Act of 2015”.

4 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

5 Section 102 of the Notification and Federal Em-  
6 ployee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (5  
7 U.S.C. 2301 note) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (4), to read as follows:

9 “(4) accountability in the enforcement of Fed-  
10 eral employee rights is furthered when Federal agen-  
11 cies take appropriate disciplinary action against  
12 Federal employees who have been found to have  
13 committed discriminatory or retaliatory acts;” and

14 (2) in paragraph (5)(A)—

15 (A) by striking “nor is accountability” and  
16 inserting “but accountability is not”; and

17 (B) by inserting “for what by law the  
18 agency is responsible” after “under this Act”.

19 **SEC. 3. NOTIFICATION OF VIOLATION.**

20 Section 202 of the Notification and Federal Em-  
21 ployee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (5  
22 U.S.C. 2301 note) is amended by adding at the end the  
23 following:

24 “(d) NOTIFICATION OF FINAL AGENCY ACTION.—

25 “(1) Not later than 30 days after a Federal  
26 agency takes final action or the Equal Employment

1 Opportunity Commission issues an appellate decision  
2 involving a finding of discrimination or retaliation  
3 prohibited by a provision of law covered by para-  
4 graphs (1) or (2) of section 201(a), as applicable,  
5 the head of the agency subject to the finding shall  
6 provide notice for at least 1 year on the agency's  
7 Internet Web site in a clear and prominent location  
8 linked directly from the agency's Internet home page  
9 stating that a finding of discrimination or retaliation  
10 has been made.

11 “(2) The notification shall identify the date the  
12 finding was made, the date or dates on which the  
13 discriminatory or retaliatory act or acts occurred,  
14 and the law or laws violated by the discriminatory  
15 or retaliatory act or acts. The notification shall also  
16 advise Federal employees of the rights and protec-  
17 tions available under the respective provisions of law  
18 covered by paragraphs (1) or (2) of section 201(a).”.

19 **SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

20 (a) **ELECTRONIC FORMAT REQUIREMENT.**—

21 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 203(a) of the Notifi-  
22 cation and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and  
23 Retaliation Act of 2002 (5 U.S.C. 2301 note) is  
24 amended by inserting “(in an electronic format pre-

1 scribed by the Office of Personnel Management)”  
2 after “an annual report”.

3 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made  
4 by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that  
5 is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

6 (3) TRANSITION PERIOD.—Notwithstanding the  
7 requirements of section 203(a) of the Notification  
8 and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retal-  
9 iation Act of 2002 (5 U.S.C. 2301 note), the report  
10 required under such section may be submitted in an  
11 electronic format, as prescribed by the Office of Per-  
12 sonnel Management, during the period beginning on  
13 the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the  
14 effective date in paragraph (2).

15 (b) REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR DISCIPLINARY  
16 ACTION.—Section 203 of such Act is amended by adding  
17 at the end the following:

18 “(c) DISCIPLINARY ACTION REPORT.—Not later  
19 than 60 days after the date on which a Federal agency  
20 takes final action or an agency receives an appellate deci-  
21 sion issued by the Equal Employment Opportunity Com-  
22 mission involving a finding of discrimination or retaliation  
23 in violation of a provision of law covered by paragraphs  
24 (1) or (2) of section 201(a), as applicable, the employing  
25 Federal agency shall submit to the Commission a report

1 stating whether disciplinary action has been initiated  
2 against a Federal employee as a result of the violation.”.

3 **SEC. 5. DATA TO BE POSTED BY EMPLOYING FEDERAL**  
4 **AGENCIES.**

5 Section 301(b) of the Notification and Federal Em-  
6 ployee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (5  
7 U.S.C. 2301 note) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (9)—

9 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
10 “and” at the end;

11 (B) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking  
12 the period at the end and inserting “, and”;  
13 and

14 (C) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(C) for each such finding counted under  
16 subparagraph (A), the agency shall specify—

17 “(i) the date of the finding;

18 “(ii) the affected agency;

19 “(iii) the law violated; and

20 “(iv) whether a decision has been  
21 made regarding necessary disciplinary ac-  
22 tion as a result of the finding.”; and

23 (2) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(11) Data regarding each class action com-  
2           plaint filed against the agency alleging discrimina-  
3           tion or retaliation, including—

4                   “(A) information regarding the date on  
5                   which each complaint was filed;

6                   “(B) a general summary of the allegations  
7                   alleged in the complaint;

8                   “(C) an estimate of the total number of  
9                   plaintiffs joined in the complaint if known;

10                  “(D) the current status of the complaint,  
11                  including whether the class has been certified;  
12                  and

13                  “(E) the case numbers for the civil actions  
14                  in which discrimination or retaliation has been  
15                  found.”.

16 **SEC. 6. DATA TO BE POSTED BY THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT**  
17 **OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION.**

18           Section 302(b) of the Notification and Federal Em-  
19           ployee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (5  
20           U.S.C. 2301 note) is amended by striking “(10)” and in-  
21           serting “(11)”.

1 **SEC. 7. NOTIFICATION AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEE ANTI-**  
2 **DISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION ACT**  
3 **AMENDMENTS.**

4 (a) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—The Notifica-  
5 tion and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retal-  
6 iation Act of 2002 (5 U.S.C. 2301 note) is amended by  
7 adding after section 206 the following:

8 **“SEC. 207. COMPLAINT TRACKING.**

9 “Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment  
10 of the Federal Employee Antidiscrimination Act of 2015,  
11 each Federal agency shall establish a system to track each  
12 complaint of discrimination arising under section  
13 2302(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code, and adjudicated  
14 through the Equal Employment Opportunity process from  
15 inception to resolution of the complaint, including whether  
16 a decision has been made regarding necessary disciplinary  
17 action as the result of a finding of discrimination.

18 **“SEC. 208. NOTATION IN PERSONNEL RECORD.**

19 “If an agency takes an adverse action covered under  
20 section 7512 of title 5, United States Code, against an  
21 employee for an act of discrimination or retaliation prohib-  
22 ited by a provision of law covered by paragraphs (1) or  
23 (2) of section 201(a), the agency shall, after all appeals  
24 relating to such action have been exhausted, include a no-  
25 tation of the adverse action and the reason for the action  
26 in the employee’s personnel record.”.

1 (b) PROCESSING AND REFERRAL.—The Notification  
2 and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation  
3 Act of 2002 (5 U.S.C. 2301 note) is amended by adding  
4 at the end the following:

5 **“TITLE IV—PROCESSING AND**  
6 **REFERRAL**

7 **“SEC. 401. PROCESSING AND RESOLUTION OF COMPLAINTS.**

8 “Each Federal agency is responsible for the fair, im-  
9 partial processing and resolution of complaints of employ-  
10 ment discrimination and retaliation arising in the Federal  
11 administrative process and shall establish a model Equal  
12 Employment Opportunity Program that—

13 “(1) is not under the control, either structurally  
14 or practically, of a Human Capital or General Coun-  
15 sel office;

16 “(2) is devoid of internal conflicts of interest  
17 and ensures fairness and inclusiveness within the or-  
18 ganization; and

19 “(3) ensures the efficient and fair resolution of  
20 complaints alleging discrimination or retaliation.

21 **“SEC. 402. NO LIMITATION ON HUMAN CAPITAL OR GEN-**  
22 **ERAL COUNSEL ADVICE.**

23 “Nothing in this title shall prevent a Federal agency’s  
24 Human Capital or General Counsel office from providing  
25 advice or counsel to agency personnel on the processing



1 and resolution of a complaint, including providing legal  
2 representation to an agency in any proceeding.

3 **“SEC. 403. HEAD OF PROGRAM REPORTS TO HEAD OF**  
4 **AGENCY.**

5 “The head of each Federal agency’s Equal Employ-  
6 ment Opportunity Program shall report directly to the  
7 head of the agency.

8 **“SEC. 404. REFERRALS OF FINDINGS OF DISCRIMINATION.**

9 “(a) EEOC FINDINGS OF DISCRIMINATION.—Not  
10 later than 30 days after the Equal Employment Oppor-  
11 tunity Commission issues an appellate decision involving  
12 a finding of discrimination or retaliation within a Federal  
13 agency, the Commission shall refer the matter to the Of-  
14 fice of Special Counsel.

15 “(b) REFERRALS TO SPECIAL COUNSEL.—The Office  
16 of Special Counsel shall accept and review a referral from  
17 the Commission under subsection (a) for purposes of seek-  
18 ing disciplinary action under its authority against an Fed-  
19 eral employee who commits an act of discrimination or re-  
20 taliation.

21 “(c) NOTIFICATION.—The Office of Special Counsel  
22 shall notify the Commission in a case in which the Office  
23 of Special Counsel initiates disciplinary action.

24 “(d) SPECIAL COUNSEL APPROVAL.—An agency may  
25 not take disciplinary action against a Federal employee

1 for an alleged act of discrimination or retaliation referred  
 2 by the Commission under this section except in accordance  
 3 with the requirements of section 1214(f) of title 5, United  
 4 States Code.”.

5 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of con-  
 6 tents in section 1(b) of the Notification and Federal Em-  
 7 ployee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (5  
 8 U.S.C. 2301 note) is amended—

9 (1) by inserting after the item relating to sec-  
 10 tion 206 the following:

“Sec. 207. Complaint tracking.  
 “Sec. 208. Notation in personnel record.”;

11 and

12 (2) by adding at the end the following:

“TITLE IV—PROCESSING AND REFERRAL

“Sec. 401. Processing and resolution of complaints.  
 “Sec. 402. No limitation on Human Capital or General Counsel advice.  
 “Sec. 403. Head of Program reports to head of agency.  
 “Sec. 404. Referrals of findings of discrimination.”.

13 **SEC. 8. NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENT LIMITATION.**

14 Section 2302(b) of title 5, United States Code is  
 15 amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (13)—

17 (A) by inserting “or the Office of Special  
 18 Counsel” after “Inspector General”;

19 (B) by striking “implement” and inserting  
 20 “(A) implement”; and

1 (C) by striking the period that follows the  
2 quoted material and inserting “; or”;

3 (2) by adding after subparagraph (A), as added  
4 by paragraph (1)(B), and preceding the flush left  
5 matter that follows paragraph (13), the following:

6 “(B) implement or enforce any nondisclo-  
7 sure policy, form, or agreement, if such policy,  
8 form, or agreement prohibits or restricts an em-  
9 ployee from disclosing to Congress, the Office of  
10 Special Counsel, or an Office of the Inspector  
11 General any information that relates to any vio-  
12 lation of any law, rule, or regulation, or mis-  
13 management, a gross waste of funds, an abuse  
14 of authority, or a substantial, and specific dan-  
15 ger to public health or safety, or any other  
16 whistleblower protection.”.

Passed the House of Representatives July 21, 2015.

Attest: KAREN L. HAAS,  
*Clerk.*