

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4705

To amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to require the automatic referral to the congressional ethics committees of the disposition of any allegation that an employing office of the House of Representatives or Senate violated part A of title II of such Act.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 20, 2017

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to require the automatic referral to the congressional ethics committees of the disposition of any allegation that an employing office of the House of Representatives or Senate violated part A of title II of such Act.

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 “Me Too Congressional  
5 Ethics Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTOMATIC REFERRAL TO CONGRESSIONAL ETH-**  
2 **ICS COMMITTEES OF DISPOSITION OF ALLE-**  
3 **GATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF CONGRES-**  
4 **SIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995 IN-**  
5 **VOLVING CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES.**

6 (a) AUTOMATIC REFERRAL.—Section 416(e) of the  
7 Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C.  
8 1416(d)) is amended to read as follows:

9 “(e) AUTOMATIC REFERRALS TO CONGRESSIONAL  
10 ETHICS COMMITTEES OF DISPOSITIONS OF ALLEGATIONS  
11 INVOLVING EMPLOYING OFFICES OF HOUSE OR SEN-  
12 ATE.—

13 “(1) REFERRAL.—Upon the final disposition  
14 under this title of an allegation that an employing  
15 office of the House of Representatives or an employ-  
16 ing office of the Senate has committed a violation of  
17 part A of title II, the Executive Director shall refer  
18 the allegation to—

19 “(A) the Committee on Ethics of the  
20 House of Representatives, in the case of an em-  
21 ploying office of the House; or

22 “(B) the Select Committee on Ethics of  
23 the Senate, in the case of an employing office  
24 of the Senate.

25 “(2) ACCESS TO RECORDS AND INFORMA-  
26 TION.—If the Executive Director refers an allegation

1 to a Committee under paragraph (1), the Executive  
2 Director shall provide the Committee with access to  
3 the records of any hearings or decisions of the hear-  
4 ing officers and the Board under this title, and any  
5 information relating to an award or settlement paid,  
6 in response to such allegation.

7 “(3) PERMITTING COVERED EMPLOYEE TO  
8 WAIVE REFERRAL.—At the request of the covered  
9 employee filing an allegation described in paragraph  
10 (1), the Executive Director shall waive paragraph  
11 (1) or paragraph (2) with respect to the allegation  
12 or the records and information in response to the al-  
13 legation.

14 “(4) FINAL DISPOSITION DESCRIBED.—In this  
15 subsection, the ‘final disposition’ of an allegation  
16 means any of the following:

17 “(A) The payment of an award or settle-  
18 ment.

19 “(B) A final decision of a hearing officer  
20 under section 405(g).

21 “(C) A final decision of the Board under  
22 section 406(e).

23 “(D) A final decision in a civil action  
24 under section 408.”.

1 (b) ACTIONS BY CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS COMMIT-  
2 TEES.—

3 (1) MANDATORY INITIATION OF INVESTIGA-  
4 TION.—If the Executive Director of the Board of  
5 Compliance refers an allegation to the Committee on  
6 Ethics of the House of Representatives or the Select  
7 Committee on Ethics of the Senate under section  
8 415(d) of the Congressional Accountability Act of  
9 1995 (as amended by subsection (a)), such Com-  
10 mittee shall promptly initiate an investigation into  
11 the allegation and take such actions in response to  
12 the investigation as may be appropriate.

13 (2) PROTECTION OF IDENTITY OF INDIVIDUALS  
14 MAKING ALLEGATIONS.—If a Committee to which an  
15 allegation is referred under paragraph (1) issues a  
16 report with respect to the allegation, the Committee  
17 shall ensure that the report does not disclose the  
18 identity of the individual who made the allegation.

19 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amend-  
20 ments made by this section shall take effect on the date  
21 of the enactment of this Act.

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