

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4705

To require executive agencies and Federal courts to comply with address confidentiality programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 16, 2019

Ms. MCCOLLUM (for herself, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. GABBARD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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

A BILL

To require executive agencies and Federal courts to comply with address confidentiality programs, 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 “Safe at Home Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXECUTIVE AGENCY AND FEDERAL COURT COMPLI-**
2 **ANCE WITH STATE ADDRESS CONFIDEN-**
3 **TIALITY PROGRAMS.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Each executive agency and Fed-
5 eral court shall accept, for any purpose for which an indi-
6 vidual is required to provide an address to the agency or
7 court, an address designated to that individual pursuant
8 to an address confidentiality program.

9 (b) **EXEMPTION FROM LIABILITY.**—A participant
10 shall not be subject to Federal regulatory, civil, or criminal
11 penalties for providing a designated address in lieu of the
12 participant’s actual physical address.

13 (c) **REGULATORY COMPLIANCE WITH ADDRESS CON-**
14 **FIDENTIALITY PROGRAMS.**—Not later than 1 year after
15 the date of the enactment of this Act, each executive agen-
16 cy shall review and, as necessary, modify existing regula-
17 tions to comply with this Act.

18 (d) **COMPLIANCE WITH ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY**
19 **PROGRAM PROCEDURES AND EXEMPTION FROM FOIA.**—
20 In the case of an executive agency or Federal court seek-
21 ing to acquire the actual physical address of a participant,
22 the agency or court shall comply with any applicable pro-
23 cedures of the address confidentiality program for acquir-
24 ing such address. Upon acquiring such an address, the ad-
25 dress shall be considered confidential, and shall not be
26 subject to any request pursuant to section 552 of title 5,

1 United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Free-
2 dom of Information Act”), except that in extreme cir-
3 cumstances a court may order the disclosure of that ad-
4 dress pursuant to such request subject to a protective
5 order against further disclosure.

6 (e) PROMPT NOTIFICATION UPON TERMINATION
7 FROM PARTICIPATION.—If an individual’s participation in
8 an address confidentiality program is terminated, that in-
9 dividual shall promptly notify each executive agency or
10 Federal court that accepted a designated address under
11 subsection (a).

12 (f) DEFINITION.—In this Act:

13 (1) ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM.—
14 The term “address confidentiality program” means
15 a program implemented pursuant to State law that
16 provides a designated address, provides a mail-for-
17 warding service, and is designated by the program
18 participant as their legal agent to receive service of
19 process.

20 (2) DESIGNATED ADDRESS.—The term “des-
21 ignated address” means an address assigned by an
22 address confidentiality program for a program par-
23 ticipant to use in lieu of the participant’s actual
24 physical address.

1 (3) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term “executive
2 agency” has the meaning given the term in section
3 105 of title 5, United States Code, except that such
4 term does not include the Census Bureau.

5 (4) PARTICIPANT.—The term “participant”
6 means an adult or minor who is enrolled in an ad-
7 dress confidentiality program.

8 (5) PHYSICAL ADDRESS.—The term “physical
9 address” means a program participant’s actual
10 home, school, or employment address.

11 (6) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
12 the States, the District of Columbia, each territory
13 or possession of the United States, and each feder-
14 ally recognized Indian Tribe.

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