

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7660

To double the penalties for causing the transmission of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information with the intent to defraud, cause harm, or wrongfully obtain anything of value by making certain false communications relating to COVID–19, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2020

Mr. STAUBER (for himself and Ms. CRAIG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To double the penalties for causing the transmission of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information with the intent to defraud, cause harm, or wrongfully obtain anything of value by making certain false communications relating 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 “Stop Coronavirus
5 Scams Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. DOUBLING OF PENALTIES FOR CALLER ID SPOOF-**
2 **ING IN CONNECTION WITH COVID-19 SCAMS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a person who vio-
4 lates section 227(e) of the Communications Act of 1934
5 (47 U.S.C. 227(e)) with the intent to defraud, cause harm,
6 or wrongfully obtain anything of value by making a cov-
7 ered communication to the called party, the following shall
8 apply:

9 (1) The maximum amount of the forfeiture pen-
10 alty that may be determined against such person for
11 the violation under paragraph (5)(A)(i) of such sec-
12 tion shall be 2 times the maximum amount that may
13 be determined under such paragraph without regard
14 to this paragraph.

15 (2) The maximum amount of the criminal fine
16 that may be imposed on such person for the viola-
17 tion under paragraph (5)(B) of such section shall be
18 2 times the maximum amount that may be imposed
19 under such paragraph without regard to this para-
20 graph.

21 (3) The maximum length of the term of impris-
22 onment that may be imposed on such person for the
23 violation under section 501 of such Act (47 U.S.C.
24 501) shall be 2 times the maximum length of the
25 term that may be imposed under such section with-
26 out regard to this paragraph.

1 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 60 days after the
2 date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Commu-
3 nications Commission shall promulgate regulations to im-
4 plement this section. Such regulations shall include cri-
5 teria for determining whether a communication is a cov-
6 ered communication.

7 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) CALLED PARTY.—The term “called party”
9 means the recipient of a telephone call or a text
10 message (as the case may be) in connection with
11 which misleading or inaccurate caller identification
12 information is caused to be transmitted in violation
13 of section 227(e) of the Communications Act of
14 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(e)).

15 (2) COVERED COMMUNICATION.—The term
16 “covered communication” means a communication
17 (regardless of whether the communication expressly
18 refers to SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19) that would
19 lead a reasonable person to believe—

20 (A) that—

21 (i) a financial opportunity (including
22 participation in a government assistance
23 program or a government or private loan
24 or insurance program) is or may be avail-
25 able to such person, the household of such

1 person, or a member of such household,
2 when such opportunity is not in fact so
3 available; and

4 (ii) the availability of such oppor-
5 tunity is a result of SARS-CoV-2 or
6 COVID-19; or

7 (B) that a product, service, benefit, or
8 other opportunity relating to testing or treat-
9 ment for or vaccination against SARS-CoV-2
10 or COVID-19, or relating to payment for such
11 testing, treatment, or vaccination, is or may be
12 available to such person, the household of such
13 person, or a member of such household, when
14 such opportunity is not in fact so available.

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