116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 922

To promote fair and transparent virtual currency markets by examining the potential for price manipulation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 30, 2019

Mr. SOTO (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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 promote fair and transparent virtual currency markets by examining the potential for price manipulation.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Virtual Currency Consumer Protection Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that virtual currency could have a significant effect on the economy, and regulation
of them may be important to protect investors, deter bad actors, create market certainty, and ensure American competitiveness in an evolving global marketplace.

SEC. 3. STUDY AND REPORT ON THE PREVENTION OF VIRTUAL CURRENCY PRICE MANIPULATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, in consultation with the heads of the Securities and Exchange Commission and other relevant Federal agencies (as determined by the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission), shall submit to the Committees on Agriculture and on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate a report to promote fair and transparent virtual currency markets by examining the potential for price manipulation. The report shall include the following:

(1) A brief description of—

(A) methods by which persons could manipulate the price of virtual currencies;

(B) which types of virtual currency, if any, are more susceptible to being manipulated; and
(C) the effects on, and particular harm to,
investors if price manipulation of virtual cur-
rencies occurs.

(2) An analysis of the extent to which the regu-
laratory authority of the Commodity Futures Trading
Commission and other relevant Federal agencies al-
 lows for—

(A) market surveillance of virtual cur-
currencies for signs of manipulation; and

(B) enforcement of Federal regulations
against persons involved in any such manipula-
tion.

(3) Recommendations for any legislative
changes needed to improve the ability of the Com-
modity Futures Trading Commission and other rel-
evant Federal agencies—

(A) to carry out the monitoring and en-
forcement activities described in paragraph (2);

(B) to prevent price manipulations of vir-
tual currencies; and

(C) to protect virtual currency investors
from price manipulation.

(b) VIRTUAL CURRENCY DEFINED.—In this Act, the
term “virtual currency” means a digital representation of
value that does not have legal tender status and that func-
tions as a medium of exchange, a unit of account, or a store of value.