

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 620

To amend title 9, United States Code, with respect to arbitration.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 28, 2019

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. MARKEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 9, United States Code, with respect to arbitration.

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 “Safety Over Arbitra-
5 tion Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES INVOLVING HAZARDS**

7 **TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title 9, United States Code, is
9 amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“CHAPTER 4—ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES**
2 **INVOLVING HAZARDS TO PUBLIC**
3 **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

“Sec.

“401. Definition.

“402. Election of arbitration.

4 **“§ 401. Definition**

5 “In this chapter, the term ‘hazard to public health
6 or safety’ means an activity, substance, or condition that
7 has a potential to cause harm to the health or safety of
8 the public.

9 **“§ 402. Election of arbitration**

10 “(a) CONSENT REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any
11 other provision of law, whenever a contract between an
12 individual and another party requires the use of arbitra-
13 tion to resolve a claim or controversy alleging facts rel-
14 evant to a hazard to public health or safety, arbitration
15 may be used to resolve the claim or controversy only if,
16 after the claim or controversy arises, all parties to the
17 claim or controversy consent in writing to use arbitration.

18 “(b) EXPLANATION REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding
19 any other provision of law, whenever arbitration is elected
20 to resolve a claim or controversy pursuant to subsection
21 (a), the arbitrator shall provide the parties to the contract
22 with a written explanation of the factual and legal basis
23 for any award or other outcome, which shall not be made
24 under seal by the arbitrator or a court.

1 “(c) APPLICATION.—This section shall apply to any
2 contract entered into after the date of enactment of this
3 chapter.”.

4 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
5 The table of chapters for title 9, United States Code, is
6 amended by adding at the end the following:

**“4. Arbitration of disputes involving hazards to public
 health and safety 401”.**

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