

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 956

To require adequate reporting of ethics, personal finance, and disclosure reports for justices of the Supreme Court of the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 24, 2021

Mr. KENNEDY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To require adequate reporting of ethics, personal finance, and disclosure reports for justices of the Supreme Court of the United States.

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 “Supreme Court Trans-
5 parency Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS RELATING TO JUSTICES**
7 **OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED**
8 **STATES.**

9 (a) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF ETHICS, PERSONAL
10 FINANCE, AND DISCLOSURE FORMS FOR THE CHIEF JUS-

1 TICE AND ASSOCIATE JUSTICES OF THE UNITED
2 STATES.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrative
5 Office of the United States Courts shall establish a
6 searchable internet database system on an official
7 website of the United States Government, to enable
8 public access to any ethics, personal finance, or dis-
9 closure report required to be made under Federal
10 law by the Chief Justice or an associate justice of
11 the Supreme Court, including any amendment or up-
12 date to such a report.

13 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Any report described in
14 paragraph (1), including any amendment or update
15 to such a report, shall be made publically available
16 on the database established under paragraph (1) not
17 later than 30 days after the date on which the re-
18 port is filed.

19 (3) LIMITATION ON REDACTION.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Any document made
21 public in the database established under para-
22 graph (1) may be redacted only—

23 (i) to the extent necessary to protect
24 the individual who filed the report or a
25 family member of that individual; and

1 (ii) during the period during which
2 the danger to such individual or a family
3 member exists.

4 (B) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year
5 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Ju-
6 dicial Conference of the United States, in con-
7 sultation with the Department of Justice, shall
8 promulgate regulations setting forth the cir-
9 cumstances under which redaction is appro-
10 prium under this subsection and the procedures
11 for redaction.

12 (b) PERIODIC TRANSACTION REPORTS.—Section
13 103(l) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C.
14 App.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

15 “(11) The Chief Justice of the United States
16 and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.”.

17 (c) SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.—If any provision of this
18 section or an amendment made by this section, or the ap-
19 plication of such a provision or amendment to any person
20 or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the re-
21 maining provisions of this section and amendments made
22 by this section, and the application of such provisions and
23 amendments to any other person or circumstance, shall
24 not be affected thereby.

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