

Union Calendar No. 48

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1479

[Report No. 119–71]

To prohibit unfair and deceptive advertising of prices for hotel rooms and other places of short-term lodging, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 21, 2025

Mrs. KIM (for herself, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. FRY, and Mr. MULLIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

APRIL 24, 2025

Additional sponsors: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, Mr. VINDMAN, and Mr. CARSON

APRIL 24, 2025

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union
and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To prohibit unfair and deceptive advertising of prices for hotel rooms and other places of short-term lodging, 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 “Hotel Fees Trans-
5 parency Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE ADVER-**
7 **TISING OF HOTEL ROOMS AND OTHER**
8 **SHORT-TERM RENTAL PRICES.**

9 (a) PROHIBITION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for a
11 covered entity to display, advertise, market, or offer
12 in interstate commerce, including through direct of-
13 ferings, third-party distribution, or metasearch refer-
14 rals, a price for covered services that does not clear-
15 ly, conspicuously, and prominently—

16 (A) display the total services price, if a
17 price is displayed, in any advertisement, mar-
18 keting, or price list wherever the covered serv-
19 ices are displayed, advertised, marketed, or of-
20 fered for sale;

21 (B) disclose to any individual who seeks to
22 purchase covered services the total services
23 price at the time the covered services are first
24 displayed to the individual and anytime there-

1 after throughout the covered services pur-
2 chasing process; and

3 (C) disclose, prior to the final purchase,
4 any tax, fee, or assessment imposed by any gov-
5 ernment entity, quasi-government entity, or
6 government-created special district or program
7 on the sale of covered services.

8 (2) INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS.—Provided that
9 such displays are less prominent than the total serv-
10 ice price required in paragraph (1), nothing in this
11 Act shall be construed to prohibit the display of—

12 (A) individual components of the total
13 price; or

14 (B) details of other items not required by
15 paragraph (1).

16 (3) INDEMNIFICATION PROVISIONS.—Nothing
17 in this section shall be construed to prohibit any cov-
18 ered entity from entering into a contract with any
19 other covered entity that contains an indemnification
20 provision with respect to price or fee information
21 disclosed, exchanged, or shared between the covered
22 entities that are parties to the contract.

23 (b) ENFORCEMENT.—

24 (1) ENFORCEMENT BY THE COMMISSION.—

1 (A) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRAC-
2 TICES.—A violation of subsection (a) shall be
3 treated as a violation of a rule defining an un-
4 fair or deceptive act or practice prescribed
5 under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade
6 Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

7 (B) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

8 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission
9 shall enforce this section in the same man-
10 ner, by the same means, and with the
11 same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as
12 though all applicable terms and provisions
13 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15
14 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into
15 and made a part of this Act.

16 (ii) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—
17 Any person who violates this section shall
18 be subject to the penalties and entitled to
19 the privileges and immunities provided in
20 the Federal Trade Commission Act (15
21 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

22 (iii) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Noth-
23 ing in this section shall be construed to
24 limit the authority of the Commission
25 under any other provision of law.

(2) ENFORCEMENT BY STATES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If the attorney general of a State has reason to believe that an interest of the residents of the State has been or is being threatened or adversely affected by a practice that violates subsection (a), the attorney general of the State may, as *parens patriae*, bring a civil action on behalf of the residents of the State in an appropriate district court of the United States to obtain appropriate relief.

(B) RIGHTS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(i) NOTICE TO THE COMMISSION.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (III), the attorney general of a State, before initiating a civil action under subparagraph (A) shall notify the Commission in writing that the attorney general intends to bring such civil action.

(II) CONTENTS.—The notification required by subclause (I) shall include a copy of the complaint to be filed to initiate the civil action.

(III) EXCEPTION.—If it is not feasible for the attorney general of a

1 State to provide the notification re-
2 quired by subclause (I) before initi-
3 ating a civil action under subpara-
4 graph (A), the attorney general shall
5 notify the Commission immediately
6 upon instituting the civil action.

7 (ii) INTERVENTION BY THE COMMIS-
8 SION.—The Commission may—

9 (I) intervene in any civil action
10 brought by the attorney general of a
11 State under subparagraph (A); and

12 (II) upon intervening—

13 (aa) be heard on all matters
14 arising in the civil action; and

15 (bb) file petitions for appeal.

16 (C) INVESTIGATORY POWERS.—Nothing in
17 this paragraph may be construed to prevent the
18 attorney general of a State from exercising the
19 powers conferred on the attorney general by the
20 laws of the State to conduct investigations, to
21 administer oaths or affirmations, or to compel
22 the attendance of witnesses or the production of
23 documentary or other evidence.

24 (D) ACTION BY THE COMMISSION.—When-
25 ever a civil action has been instituted by or on

1 behalf of the Commission for violation of sub-
2 section (a), no attorney general of a State may,
3 during the pendency of that action, institute an
4 action under subparagraph (A) against any de-
5 fendant named in the complaint in that action
6 for a violation of subsection (a) alleged in such
7 complaint.

8 (E) VENUE; SERVICE OF PROCESS.—

9 (i) VENUE.—Any action brought
10 under subparagraph (A) may be brought
11 in—

12 (I) the district court of the
13 United States that meets applicable
14 requirements relating to venue under
15 section 1391 of title 28, United States
16 Code; or

17 (II) another court of competent
18 jurisdiction.

19 (ii) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—In an ac-
20 tion brought under subparagraph (A),
21 process may be served in any district in
22 which—

23 (I) the defendant is an inhab-
24 itant, may be found, or transacts
25 business; or

1 (II) venue is proper under section
2 1391 of title 28, United States Code.

3 (F) ACTIONS BY OTHER STATE OFFI-
4 CIALS.—

5 (i) IN GENERAL.—In addition to civil
6 actions brought by an attorney general
7 under subparagraph (A), any other officer
8 of a State who is authorized by the State
9 to do so may bring a civil action under
10 subparagraph (A), subject to the same re-
11 quirements and limitations that apply
12 under this paragraph to civil actions
13 brought by attorneys general.

14 (ii) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in
15 this paragraph may be construed to pro-
16 hibit an authorized official of a State from
17 initiating or continuing any proceeding in
18 a court of the State for a violation of any
19 civil or criminal law of the State.

20 (3) AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE.—In any action
21 pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2), an intermediary
22 or third-party online seller may assert an affirmative
23 defense if such intermediary or third-party online
24 seller—

1 (A) established procedures to receive up-to-
2 date price information from hotels or short-
3 term rentals, or agents acting on behalf of a
4 hotel or short-term rental;

5 (B) relied in good faith on information
6 provided to the intermediary or third-party on-
7 line seller by a hotel or short-term rental, or
8 agent acting on behalf of such hotel or short-
9 term rental, and such information was inac-
10 curate at the time it was provided to the inter-
11 mediary or third-party online seller; and

12 (C) took prompt action to remove or cor-
13 rect any false or inaccurate information about
14 the total services price after receiving notice
15 that such information was false or inaccurate.

16 (c) PREEMPTION.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State, or political subdivi-
18 sion of a State, may not maintain, enforce, pre-
19 scribe, or continue in effect any law, rule, regulation,
20 requirement, standard, or other provision having the
21 force and effect of law of the State, or political sub-
22 division of the State, that prohibits a covered entity
23 from advertising, displaying, marketing, or otherwise
24 offering, or otherwise affects the manner in which a
25 covered entity may advertise, display, market, or

1 otherwise offer, for sale in interstate commerce, in-
2 cluding through a direct offering, third-party dis-
3 tribution, or metasearch referral, a price of a res-
4 ervation for a covered service, and that requires fee
5 disclosure, unless such provision requires the total
6 services price to include each service fee in accord-
7 ance with subsection (a)(1).

8 (2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This section
9 may not be construed to—

10 (A) preempt any law of a State or political
11 subdivision of a State relating to contracts or
12 torts; or

13 (B) preempt any law of a State or political
14 subdivision of a State to the extent that such
15 law relates to an act of fraud, unauthorized ac-
16 cess to personal information, or notification of
17 unauthorized access to personal information.

18 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

19 (1) BASE SERVICES PRICE.—The term “base
20 services price”—

21 (A) means, with respect to the covered
22 services provided by a hotel or short-term rent-
23 al, the price in order to obtain the covered serv-
24 ices of the hotel or short-term rental; and

25 (B) does not include—

- 1 (i) any service fee;
- 2 (ii) any taxes or fees imposed by a
- 3 government or quasi-government entity;
- 4 (iii) assessment fees of a government-
- 5 created special district or program; or
- 6 (iv) any charges or fees for an op-
- 7 tional product or service associated with
- 8 the covered services that may be selected
- 9 by a purchaser of covered services.

10 (2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
11 means the Federal Trade Commission.

12 (3) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
13 tity” means a person, partnership, or corporation
14 with respect to whom the Commission has jurisdic-
15 tion under section 5(a)(2) of the Federal Trade
16 Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45(a)(2)), including—

- 17 (A) a hotel or short-term rental;
- 18 (B) a third-party online seller; or
- 19 (C) an intermediary.

20 (4) COVERED SERVICES.—The term “covered
21 services”—

- 22 (A) means the temporary provision of a
- 23 room, building, or other lodging facility; and

1 (B) does not include the provision of a
2 meeting room, banquet services, or catering
3 services.

4 (5) HOTEL.—The term “hotel” means an es-
5 tablishment that is—

6 (A) primarily engaged in providing a cov-
7 ered service to the general public; and

8 (B) promoted, advertised, or marketed in
9 interstate commerce or for which such estab-
10 lishment’s services are sold in interstate com-
11 merce.

12 (6) INTERMEDIARY.—The term “intermediary”
13 means an entity that operates either as a business-
14 to-business platform, consumer-facing platform, or
15 both, that displays, including through direct offer-
16 ings, third-party distribution, or metasearch referral,
17 a price for covered services or price comparison tools
18 for consumers seeking covered services.

19 (7) OPTIONAL PRODUCT OR SERVICE.—The
20 term “optional product or service” means a product
21 or service that an individual does not need to pur-
22 chase to use or obtain covered services.

23 (8) SERVICE FEE.—The term “service fee”—

1 (A) means a charge imposed by a covered
2 entity that must be paid in order to obtain cov-
3 ered services; and

4 (B) does not include—

5 (i) any taxes or fees imposed by a
6 government or quasi-government entity;

7 (ii) any assessment fees of a govern-
8 ment-created special district or program;
9 or

10 (iii) any charges or fees for an op-
11 tional product or service associated with
12 the covered services that may be selected
13 by a purchaser of covered services.

14 (9) SHORT-TERM RENTAL.—The term “short-
15 term rental” means a property, including a single-
16 family dwelling or a unit in a condominium, coopera-
17 tive, or time-share, that provides covered services
18 (either with respect to the entire property or a part
19 of the property) to the general public—

20 (A) in exchange for a fee;

21 (B) for periods shorter than 30 consecutive
22 days; and

23 (C) is promoted, advertised, or marketed in
24 interstate commerce or for which such prop-
25 erty’s services are sold in interstate commerce.

1 (10) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
2 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and any ter-
3 ritory or possession of the United States.

4 (11) THIRD-PARTY ONLINE SELLER.—The term
5 “third-party online seller” means any person other
6 than a hotel or short-term rental that sells covered
7 services or offers for sale covered services with re-
8 spect to a hotel or short-term rental in a transaction
9 facilitated on the internet.

10 (12) TOTAL SERVICES PRICE.—The term “total
11 services”—

12 (A) means, with respect to covered serv-
13 ices, the total cost of the covered services, in-
14 cluding the base services price and any service
15 fees; and

16 (B) does not include—

17 (i) any taxes or fees imposed by a
18 government or quasi-government entity;

19 (ii) any assessment fees of a govern-
20 ment-created special district or program;
21 or

22 (iii) any charges or fees for an op-
23 tional product or service associated with
24 the covered services that may be selected
25 by a purchaser of covered services.

1 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The prohibition under sub-
2 section (a) shall take effect 450 days after the date of
3 the enactment of this Act and shall apply to advertise-
4 ments, displays, marketing, and offers of covered services
5 of a covered entity made on or after such date.

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