

Union Calendar No. 288

116TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R.3642

[Report No. 116-363]

To amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to fix the consumer report dispute process, to ban misleading and unfair consumer reporting practices, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 9, 2019

Ms. Adams introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

DECEMBER 23, 2019

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on July 9, 2019]

A BILL

To amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to fix the consumer report dispute process, to ban misleading and unfair consumer reporting practices, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.
- 4 (a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the "Im-
- 5 proving Credit Reporting for All Consumers Act".
- 6 (b) Table of Contents.—The table of contents for
- 7 this Act is as follows:
 - Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
 - Sec. 2. Findings.
 - Sec. 3. Effective date.
 - Sec. 4. Consumer Bureau rulemaking.

TITLE I—IMPROVEMENTS TO THE DISPUTE PROCESS

- Sec. 101. Dispute procedures and disclosures relating to reinvestigations.
- Sec. 102. Consumer awareness of dispute rights.
- Sec. 103. Maintenance of records by furnishers.
- Sec. 104. Duties of furnishers relating to dispute procedures, notices, and disclosures.
- Sec. 105. Right to appeal disputes relating to reinvestigations and investigations.
- Sec. 106. Revised consumer reports.
- Sec. 107. Indication of dispute by consumers and use of disputed information.
- Sec. 108. Accuracy and completeness report duties for consumer reporting agencies and furnishers.
- Sec. 109. Inclusion of public record data sources in consumer reports.
- Sec. 110. Injunctive relief for victims.

TITLE II—PROHIBITION ON MISLEADING AND UNFAIR CONSUMER REPORTING PRACTICES

- Sec. 201. Prohibition on automatic renewals for promotional consumer reporting and credit scoring products and services.
- Sec. 202. Prohibition on misleading and deceptive marketing related to the provision of consumer reporting and credit scoring products and services.
- Sec. 203. Prohibiton on excessive direct-to-consumer sales.
- Sec. 204. Fair access to consumer reporting and credit scoring disclosures for nonnative English speakers and the visually and hearing impaired.
- Sec. 205. Comparison shopping for loans without harm to credit standing.
- Sec. 206. Nationwide consumer reporting agencies registry.
- 8 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
- 9 Congress finds the following:
- 10 (1) General findings.—

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

(A) Consumer reporting agencies ("CRAs") are companies that collect, compile, and provide information about consumers in the form of consumer reports for certain permissible statutory purposes under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) ("FCRA"). The three largest CRAs in this country are Equifax, TransUnion, and Experian. These CRAs are referred to as nationwide CRAs and the reports that they prepare are commonly referred to as credit reports. Furnishers, such as creditors, lenders, and debt collection agencies, voluntarily submit information to CRAs about their accounts such as the total amount for each loan or credit limit for each credit card and the consumer's payment history on these products. Reports also include identifying information about a consumer, such as their birthdate, previous mailing addresses, and current and previous employers. (B) In a December 2012 paper, "Key Di-

(B) In a December 2012 paper, "Key Dimensions and Processes in the U.S. Credit Reporting System: A review for how the nation's largest credit bureaus manage consumer data", the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection

- ("Consumer Bureau") noted that the three nationwide CRAs maintain credit files on approximately 200 million adults and receive information from about 10,000 furnishers. On a monthly basis, these furnishers provide information on over 1.3 billion consumer credit accounts or other trade lines.
 - (C) The 10 largest institutions furnishing credit information to each of the nationwide CRAs account for more than half of all accounts reflected in consumers' credit files.
 - (D) Consumer reports play an increasingly important role in the lives of American consumers. Most creditors, for example, review these reports to make decisions about whether to extend credit to consumers and what terms and conditions to offer them. As such, information contained in these reports affects whether a person is able to get a private education loan to pay for college costs, to secure a mortgage loan to buy a home, or to obtain a credit card, as well as the terms and conditions under which consumer credit products or services are offered to them.
 - (E) Credit reports are also increasingly used for many noncredit decisions, including by

- landlords to determine whether to rent an apartment to a prospective tenant and by employers to decide whether to hire potential job applicants or to offer a promotion to existing employees.
 - (F) CRAs have a statutory obligation to verify independently the accuracy and completeness of information included on the reports that they provide.
 - (G) The nationwide CRAs have failed to establish and follow reasonable procedures, as required by existing law, to establish the maximum level of accuracy of information contained on consumer reports. Given the repeated failures of these CRAs to comply with accuracy requirements on their own, legislation is intended to provide them with detailed guidance improving the accuracy and completeness of information contained in consumer reports, including procedures, policies, and practices that these CRAs should already be following to ensure full compliance with their existing obligations.
 - (H) The presence of inaccurate or incomplete information on these reports can result in substantial financial and emotional harm to consumers. Credit reporting errors can lead to

- the loss of a new employment opportunity or a denial of a promotion in an existing job, stop someone from being able to access credit on favorable terms, prevent a person from obtaining rental housing, or even trigger mental distress.
 - (I) Current industry practices impose an unfair burden of proof on consumers trying to fix errors on their reports.
 - (J) Consumer reports containing inaccurate or incomplete credit information also undermine the ability of creditors and lenders to effectively and accurately underwrite and price credit.
 - (K) Recognizing that credit reporting affects the lives of almost all consumers in this country and that the consequences of errors on a consumer report can be catastrophic for a consumer, the Consumer Bureau began accepting consumer complaints about credit reporting in October 2012.
 - (L) As of February 2017, the Consumer Bureau has handled approximately 185,717 credit reporting complaints, making credit reporting consistently the third most-complained-about subject matter on which the Consumer Bureau accepts consumer complaints.

- (M) In the "Monthly Complaint Report Volume 20", released in February 2017, the Consumer Bureau noted that 76 percent of credit reporting complaints involved incorrect information on reports, with consumers frequently expressing their frustrations about the burdensome and time-consuming process to disputing items.
 - (N) Other common types of credit reporting complaints submitted to the Consumer Bureau related to the improper use of a report, trouble obtaining a report or credit score, CRAs' investigations, and credit monitoring or identity protection.
 - (O) In the summer 2015 "Supervisory Highlights", the Consumer Bureau noted that one or more of the largest CRAs failed to adequately oversee furnishers to ensure that they were adhering to the CRA's vetting policies and to establish proper procedures to verify public record information.
 - (P) According to the fall 2016 "Supervisory Highlights", Consumer Bureau examiners determined that one or more debt collectors never investigated indirect disputes that lacked detail or were not accompanied by attachments with rel-

evant information from the consumer. Examiners also found that notifications sent to consumers about disputes considered frivolous failed to identify for the consumers the type of material that they could provide in order for the debt collector to complete the investigation of the disputed item.

- (Q) A February 2014 Consumer Bureau report titled "Credit Reporting Complaint Snapshot" found that consumers are confused about the extent to which the nationwide CRAs are required to provide them with validation and documentation of a debt that appears on their credit report.
- (R) As evidence that the current system lacks sufficient market incentives for CRAs to develop more robust procedures to increase the accuracy and completeness of information on credit reports, litigation discovery documented by the National Consumer Law Center ("NCLC"), as part of a January 2009 report titled, "Automated Injustice: How a Mechanized Dispute System Frustrates Consumers Seeking to Fix Errors in Their Credit Reports", showed that at least two of the three largest CRAs use quota systems

to force employees to process disputes hastily and without the opportunity for conducting meaning-ful investigations. At least one nationwide CRA only allowed dispute resolution staff five minutes to handle a consumer's call. Furthermore, these CRAs were found to have awarded bonuses for meeting quotas and punished those who didn't meet production numbers with probation.

- (S) Unlike most other business relationships, where consumers can register their satisfaction or unhappiness with a particular credit product or service simply by taking their business elsewhere, consumers have no say in whether their information is included in the CRAs databases and limited legal remedies to hold the CRAs accountable for inaccuracies or poor service.
- (T) Accordingly, despite the existing statutory mandate for CRAs to follow reasonable procedures to assure the maximum possible accuracy of the information whenever they prepare consumer reports, numerous studies, the high volume of consumer complaints submitted to the Consumer Bureau about incorrect information on consumer reports, and supervisory activities by

	11
1	the Consumer Bureau demonstrate that CRAs
2	continue to skirt their obligations under the law.
3	(2) Incorrect information on consumer re-
4	PORTS.—
5	(A) Consumers are entitled to dispute errors
6	on their consumer reports with either the CRA,
7	who issued the report, or directly with fur-
8	nishers, who supplied the account information to
9	the CRA, and request that mistakes be deleted or
10	removed. Consumers, who believe an investiga-
11	tion has not correctly resolved their dispute, how-

(B) CRAs have a statutory obligation under the FCRA to perform a reasonable investigation by conducting a substantive and searching inquiry when a consumer disputes an item on their report. In doing so, CRAs must conduct an independent review about the accuracy of any disputed item and cannot merely rely on a furnisher's "rubber-stamp" verification of the integrity of the information they have provided to CRAs.

ever, have few options, other than requesting that

a statement about the dispute be included with

their future reports.

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

- (C) The Federal Trade Commission ("FTC"), in a "Report to Congress Under Section 319 of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003" released in December 2012, found that 26 percent of survey participants identified at least one potentially material error on their consumer reports, and 13 percent experienced a change in their credit score once the error was fixed.
 - (D) Consumer Bureau examiners have identified repeated deficiencies with the nationwide CRAs' information collection. In the summer 2015 "Supervisory Highlights" released in June 2015, the Consumer Bureau noted continued weaknesses with CRAs' methods and processes for assuring maximum possible accuracy in their reports. Examiners also found, with certain exceptions, no quality control policies and procedures in place to test consumer reports for accuracy.
 - (E) In its "Credit Reporting Complaint Snapshot" released in February 2014, the Consumer Bureau found that consumers were uncertain about the depth and validity of the investigations performed about a disputed item. Consumers also expressed frustration that, even

though they provided supporting materials that they believed demonstrated the inaccuracy of the information provided by furnishers, errors continued to remain on their reports.

- (F) In the winter 2015 "Supervisory High-lights" released in March 2015, the Consumer Bureau reported that one or more nationwide CRAs failed to adequately fulfill their dispute-handling obligations, including by not forwarding to furnishers all relevant information found in letters and supporting documents supplied by consumers when they submitted disputes failing to notify consumers that they had completed investigations, and not providing consumers with the results of the CRAs' reviews about their disputes.
- (G) Consumer Bureau examiners also noted in the fall 2016 "Supervisory Highlights" released in October 2016 that one or more entities failed to provide adequate guidance and training to staff about how to differentiate FCRA disputes from general customer inquiries, complaints, or debt validation requests. Consumer Bureau supervisors also directed one or more entities to develop and implement reasonable procedures to

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

ensure that direct and indirect disputes are ap-2 propriately logged, categorized, and resolved.

> (H)Consumers' increasing frustration about the difficulties of trying to fix credit reporting errors, evidenced through the volume of consumer complaints related to errors submitted to the Consumer Bureau, are also echoed in another FTC study issued in January 2015. In the "Report to Congress under Section 319 for the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003", the FTC found that nearly 70 percent (84 people) of participants from a previous survey that had filed disputes with CRAs continued to believe that at least some of the disputed information remained inaccurate at the time of the follow-up survey. Despite these views, 50 percent (42 people) of the survey participants decided to just give up trying to fix the errors, with only 45 percent (38 people) of them planning to continue to try to resolve their disputes.

> (I) The consistently high volume of consumer complaints submitted to the Consumer Bureau about credit reporting errors, coupled with the largest CRAs' repeated quality control weaknesses found by Consumer Bureau exam-

1	iners, show that the nationwide CRAs have
2	failed to establish and follow reasonable proce-
3	dures to assure maximum accuracy of informa-
4	tion and to conduct independent investigations
5	of consumers' disputes. These ongoing problems
6	demonstrate the need for legislation to—
7	(i) enhance obligations on furnishers to
8	substantiate information and require fur-
9	nishers to keep records for the same amount
10	of time that adverse information about these
11	accounts may appear on a person's con-
12	$sumer\ report;$
13	(ii) eliminate CRAs' discretion to de-
14	termine the relevancy of materials provided
15	by consumers to support their dispute
16	claims by instead requiring them to pass all
17	material onto furnishers and eliminating
18	CRA's discretion to deem some disputes
19	frivolous or irrelevant when a consumer re-
20	submits a claim that they believe has been
21	$in a dequately\ resolved;$
22	(iii) enhance educational content on
23	CRAs' websites to improve consumers' un-
24	derstanding of the dispute process and to
25	make it easier for all consumers to initiate

1	claims, including by providing these disclo-
2	sures in other languages besides English;
3	and
4	(iv) create a new consumer right to ap-
5	peal reviews by CRAs and furnishers of the
6	initial disputes.
7	(3) Injunctive relief.—
8	(A) Despite the fact that the FCRA cur-
9	rently provides implicit authority for injunctive
10	relief, consumers have been prevented from exer-
11	cising this right. Legislation explicitly clarifying
12	this right is intended to underscore congressional
13	intent that injunctive relief should be viewed as
14	a remedy available to consumers.
15	(B) Myriad findings by the courts, regu-
16	lators, consumers, and consumer advocates make
17	clear that CRAs have failed to establish adequate
18	standards for the accuracy and completeness of
19	consumer reports, yet the nationwide CRAs have
20	demonstrated little willingness to voluntarily re-
21	tool their policies and procedures to fix the prob-
22	lems.
23	(C) Providing courts with explicit authority
24	to issue injunctive relief, by telling the CRAs to
25	remedy unlawful practices and procedures,

would further CRAs' mandate under the FCRA to assure the maximum possible accuracy and completeness of information contained on credit reports.

- (D) Absent explicit authority to issue injunctions, history suggests that the nationwide CRAs are likely to continue conducting business as usual in treating any monetary settlements with individual consumers and fines imposed by State attorneys general and Federal regulators, simply as the "cost of doing business".
- (4) Deceptive and misleading marketing practices.—
 - (A) The Consumer Bureau's February 2015 report titled "Consumer Voices on Credit Reports and Scores" found that some consumers did not obtain a copy of their consumer report due to concerns about security or of being trapped into purchasing unwanted products like an additional report or a credit monitoring service.
 - (B) In January 2017, the Consumer Bureau fined TransUnion and Equifax for deceptively marketing credit scores for purchase by consumers as the same credit scores typically used by lenders to determine creditworthiness

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

and for luring consumers into costly subscription services that were advertised as "free" or "\$1" that automatically charged recurring fees unless cancelled by consumers. The Consumer Bureau also found that Equifax was illegally advertising its products on webpages that consumers accessed through AnnualCreditReport.com before consumers obtained their free disclosures. Because of these troubling practices, TransUnion was ordered to pay \$13.9 million in restitution to harmed consumers and a civil penalty of \$3 million to the Consumer Bureau. Equifax was ordered to pay more than \$3.7 million to affected consumers as well as a civil money penalty of \$2.5 million to the Consumer Bureau. As part of the consent orders, the CRAs are also supposed to change the way that they sell their products to consumers. The CRAs must also obtain consumers' express consent before enrolling them into subscription services as well as make it easer for consumers to cancel these programs.

(C) The Consumer Bureau fined the other nationwide CRA—Experian—in March 2017 for deceiving consumers about the use of credit scores that it marketed and sold to consumers as credit

scores that were used by lenders and for illegally advertising its products on web pages that consumers accessed through AnnualCreditReport.com before they obtained their free annual disclosures. Experian was ordered to pay more than \$3.7 million in restitution to harmed consumers and a civil monetary penalty of \$2.5 million to the Consumer Bureau.

- (D) The Consumer Bureau's January and March 2017 consent orders with the three nation-wide CRAs show that these CRAs have enticed consumers into purchasing products and services that they may not want or need, in some instances by advertising products or services "free" that automatically converted into an ongoing subscription service at the regular price unless cancelled by the consumer. Although these CRAs must now change their deceptive marketing practices, codifying these duties is an appropriate way to ensure that these companies never revert back to such misleading tactics.
- (E) Given the ubiquitous use of consumer reports in consumers' lives and the fact that consumers' participation in the credit reporting system is involuntary, CRAs should also prioritize

providing consumers with the effective means to safeguard their personal and financial information and improve their credit standing, rather than seeking to exploit consumers' concerns and confusion about credit reporting and scoring, to boost their companies' profits.

(F) Vulnerable consumers, who have legitimate concerns about the security of their personal and financial information, deserve clear, accurate, and transparent information about the credit reporting tools that may be available to them, such as fraud alerts and freezes.

13 SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

7

8

9

10

11

12

The amendments made by this Act shall take effect 2

15 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

16 SEC. 4. CONSUMER BUREAU RULEMAKING.

17 Except as otherwise provided, not later than the end 18 of the 2-year period beginning on the date of the enactment 19 of this Act, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection 20 shall issue final rules to implement the amendments made 21 by this Act.

TITLE I—IMPROVEMENTS TO 1 THE DISPUTE PROCESS 2 SEC. 101. DISPUTE PROCEDURES AND DISCLOSURES RE-4 LATING TO REINVESTIGATIONS. 5 (a) In General.—Section 611(a) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681i(a)) is amended to read as 7 follows: 8 "(a) Reinvestigations of Disputed Information 9 BY A CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCY.— 10 "(1) Reinvestigations required.— 11 "(A) In general.—Subject to subsection 12 (f), if the completeness or accuracy of any item 13 of information contained in a consumer's file at 14 a consumer reporting agency is disputed by the 15 consumer and the consumer notifies the agency 16 (either directly or indirectly through a reseller or 17 an authorized third party) of such dispute, the 18 agency shall, free of charge— 19 "(i) conduct a reasonable reinvestiga-20 tion using the process described in para-21 graph (3) to determine whether the disputed 22 information is inaccurate, incomplete, or 23 cannot be verified; 24 "(ii) notify the consumer that a nota-25 tion described in section 605(e) will be

1	added to the consumer's file until the re-
2	investigation has been completed and that
3	such notation can be removed at the request
4	of the consumer; and
5	"(iii) before the end of the 30-day pe-
6	riod beginning on the date on which the
7	consumer reporting agency receives the no-
8	tice of the dispute from the consumer or the
9	reseller—
10	"(I) record the current status of
11	the disputed information; or
12	"(II) delete or modify the item in
13	accordance with paragraph $(3)(D)$.
14	"(B) Extension of Period to Reinves-
15	TIGATE.—Except as provided in subparagraph
16	(C), the 30-day period described in subpara-
17	graph (A) may be extended for period not to ex-
18	ceed 15 days if the consumer reporting agency
19	receives additional information from the con-
20	sumer or the reseller regarding the dispute after
21	the date on which the consumer reporting agency
22	notified any person who provided any item of
23	information in dispute under paragraph (2)(A).
24	"(C) Limitations on extension of pe-
25	RIOD TO REINVESTIGATE.—Subparagraph (B)

shall not apply to any reinvestigation in which,

during the 30-day period described in subpara
graph (A), the disputed information is found to

be inaccurate or incomplete, or the consumer re
porting agency determines that the disputed in
formation cannot be verified.

"(2) Prompt notice of dispute to furnisher of information; provision of information regarding dispute provided by the consumer or reseller.—

"(A) In General.—Before the end of the period of 5 business days beginning on the date on which a consumer reporting agency receives notice of a dispute from any consumer or reseller under paragraph (1)(A), the consumer reporting agency shall provide notification of the dispute to any person who provided any item of information in dispute, at the address and in the manner established with such person. The notice shall include all information, including substantiating documents, regarding the dispute that was submitted to the consumer reporting agency.

"(B) Provision of Additional Information regarding dispute after notification to the furnisher of information.—If a con-

1	sumer reporting agency receives additional infor-
2	mation regarding the dispute from the consumer
3	or reseller after the agency provides the notifica-
4	tion described under subparagraph (A) and be-
5	fore the end of the 30-day period described in
6	paragraph (1)(A), the consumer reporting agen-
7	cy shall, not later than 3 business days after re-
8	ceiving such information, provide such informa-
9	tion to the person who provided the information
10	in dispute.
11	"(3) Reasonable standards for consumer
12	REPORTING AGENCIES FOR CONDUCTING REINVES-
13	TIGATIONS AND RESOLVING DISPUTES SUBMITTED BY
14	CONSUMERS.—
15	"(A) In General.—In conducting a re-
16	investigation of disputed information, a con-
17	sumer reporting agency shall, at a minimum—
18	"(i) maintain sufficient resources and
19	trained staff, commensurate with the volume
20	and complexity of disputes received or rea-
21	sonably anticipated to be received, to deter-
22	mine whether the disputed information is
23	accurate, complete, or can be verified by the
24	person who provided the information;

1	"(ii) ensure that all staff involved at
2	any level of the reinvestigation process, in-
3	cluding any individual with ultimate au-
4	thority over determining whether the dis-
5	puted information is inaccurate, incom-
6	plete, or cannot be verified, are located
7	within the United States;
8	"(iii) verify that the personally identi-
9	fiable information of the consumer submit-
10	ting the dispute matches the personally
11	identifiable information contained in the
12	consumer's file, and that such information
13	is accurate and complete;
14	"(iv) verify that the consumer report-
15	ing agency has a record of the information
16	being disputed; and
17	"(v) conduct a reasonable review that
18	considers all information, including sub-
19	stantiating documents, provided by the con-
20	sumer or reseller.
21	"(B) Consumer reporting.—The con-
22	sumer reporting agency shall not impose any
23	limitation or otherwise impede the ability of a
24	consumer to submit information about the dis-
25	puted item.

1	"(C) Independent analysis.—The re-
2	investigation conducted under subparagraph (A)
3	shall be an independent analysis, separate from
4	any investigation by a reseller or a person who
5	provided the disputed information.
6	"(D) Deletion or modification of in-
7	FORMATION CONTAINED IN A CONSUMER FILE.—
8	If the disputed information is found to be inac-
9	curate, incomplete, or cannot be verified, the dis-
10	pute resolution staff of the consumer reporting
11	agency shall have the direct authority to delete
12	or modify such information in the consumer's
13	file, as appropriate, during the 30-day period
14	described in paragraph (1)(A), shall promptly
15	notify the consumer of the results of the reinves-
16	tigation as described in paragraph (4), and shall
17	promptly notify any person who provided such
18	information to the consumer reporting agency of
19	the modification or deletion made to the con-
20	sumer's file.
21	"(4) Notice to consumer of results of re-
22	INVESTIGATION.—
23	"(A) In general.—Not later than 5 busi-
24	ness days after the conclusion of a reinvestiga-

tion conducted under this subsection, the con-

1	sumer reporting agency shall provide written no-
2	tice to the consumer of the results of the reinves-
3	tigation by postal mail or, if authorized by the
4	consumer for that purpose, by other means avail-
5	able to the agency.
6	"(B) Contents of notice to consumer
7	OF RESULTS OF REINVESTIGATION.—The notice
8	described in subparagraph (A) shall include—
9	"(i) a statement that the reinvestiga-
10	tion of the disputed information has been
11	completed;
12	"(ii) a statement informing the con-
13	sumer as to whether the disputed informa-
14	tion was determined to be inaccurate, in-
15	complete, or unverifiable, including a state-
16	ment of the specific reasons supporting the
17	determination;
18	"(iii) if information in the consumer's
19	file has been deleted or modified as a result
20	of the reinvestigation—
21	"(I) a copy of the consumer report
22	and credit score or educational score
23	(if applicable) that is based upon the
24	consumer's revised file;

1	"(II) a statement identifying the
2	specific information from the con-
3	sumer's file that was deleted or modi-
4	fied because such information was de-
5	termined to be inaccurate, incomplete,
6	or unverifiable by the consumer report-
7	ing agency;
8	"(III) a statement that the con-
9	sumer has the right, free of charge, to
10	obtain an additional consumer report
11	and credit score or educational credit
12	score (if applicable) within the 12-
13	month period following the date of the
14	conclusion of the reinvestigation, re-
15	gardless of whether the consumer ob-
16	tained or will obtain a free annual
17	consumer report and credit score or
18	educational score (if applicable) under
19	section 612; and
20	"(IV) a statement that the con-
21	sumer has the right, free of charge, to
22	request under subsection (d) that the
23	consumer reporting agency furnish no-
24	tifications of the consumer's revised re-
25	port;

"(iv) a description of the procedure 1 2 used by the dispute resolution staff of the 3 consumer reporting agency to determine the 4 accuracy or completeness of the information, including the business name, mailing ad-6 dress. telephone number, and Internet 7 website address (if available) of any person 8 who provided information who was con-9 tacted by the staff in connection with the 10 determination: 11 "(v) a statement that the consumer has 12 the right, free of charge, to add a narrative 13 statement to the consumer's file disputing 14 the accuracy or completeness of the informa-15 tion, regardless of the results of the reinves-16 tigation by the agency, and the process for 17 submitting such a narrative pursuant to 18 subsection (b); 19 "(vi) a copy of all information relating 20 to the consumer that was used by the con-21 sumer reporting agency in carrying out the 22 reinvestigation and relied upon as the basis 23 for the determination about the accuracy

and completeness of the disputed informa-

tion:

24

1	"(vii) a statement that a consumer
2	may, free of charge, challenge the results of
3	the reinvestigation by appeal within 120
4	days after the date the notice of the results
5	of the reinvestigation was provided to the
6	consumer and the process for submitting an
7	appeal;
8	"(viii) a statement informing the con-
9	sumer that a notation described in section
10	605(e) will be added to the file of the con-
11	sumer during the period in which the con-
12	sumer appeals the results of a reinvestiga-
13	tion and that such notation can be removed
14	at the request of the consumer; and
15	"(ix) any other information, as deter-
16	mined by the Bureau.
17	"(5) Requirements relating to reinsertion
18	OF PREVIOUSLY DELETED OR MODIFIED MATERIAL.—
19	"(A) CERTIFICATION OF NEW DETERMINA-
20	TION THAT ITEM IS ACCURATE OR COMPLETE.—
21	A consumer reporting agency may not reinsert
22	into a consumer's file any information that was
23	previously deleted or modified pursuant to para-
24	graph (3)(D), unless the person who provided the
25	information—

1	"(i) requests that the consumer report-
2	ing agency reinsert such information;
3	"(ii) submits a written certification
4	that the information is accurate and com-
5	plete; and
6	"(iii) provides a statement describing
7	the specific reasons why the information
8	should be inserted.
9	"(B) Notice to consumer before re-
10	INSERTION CAN OCCUR.—Upon receipt of a re-
11	quest for reinsertion of disputed information
12	under subparagraph (A), the consumer reporting
13	agency shall, not later than 5 business days be-
14	fore the consumer reporting agency reinserts the
15	information into the consumer's file, notify the
16	consumer in writing of such request for reinser-
17	tion. Such notice shall include—
18	"(i) the business name, mailing ad-
19	dress, telephone number, and Internet
20	website address (if available) of any person
21	who provided information to or contacted
22	the consumer reporting agency in connec-
23	tion with the reinsertion;
24	"(ii) a copy of the information relating
25	to the consumer, the certification that the

1	information is accurate or complete, and
2	the statement of the reasons supporting re-
3	insertion provided by the person who pro-
4	vided the information to the consumer re-
5	porting agency under subparagraph (A);
6	"(iii) a statement that the consumer
7	may obtain, free of charge and within the
8	12-month period following the date the no-
9	tice under this subparagraph was issued, a
10	consumer report and credit score or edu-
11	cational score (if applicable) from the con-
12	sumer reporting agency that includes the re-
13	inserted information, regardless of whether
14	the consumer obtained or will obtain a free
15	annual consumer report and credit score or
16	educational credit score (if applicable)
17	under section 612;
18	"(iv) a statement that the consumer
19	may appeal the determination that the pre-
20	viously deleted or modified information is
21	accurate or complete and a description of
22	the procedure for the consumer to make such
23	an appeal pursuant to subsection (h); and
24	"(v) a statement that the consumer has
25	the right to add a narrative statement, free

of charge, to the consumer's file disputing
the accuracy or completeness of the disputed
information and a description of the process
to add such a narrative statement pursuant
to subsection (b).

"(6) Expedited dispute resolution.—If a consumer reporting agency determines that the information provided by the consumer is sufficient to substantiate that the item of information is inaccurate, incomplete, or cannot be verified by the person who furnished such information, and the consumer reporting agency deletes or modifies such information within 3 business days of receiving notice of the dispute, the consumer reporting agency shall be exempt from the requirements of paragraph (4), if the consumer reporting agency provides to the consumer—

"(A) prompt notice confirming the deletion or modification of the information from the consumer's file in writing or by other means, if agreed to by the consumer when the information is disputed;

"(B) a statement of the consumer's right to request that the consumer reporting agency furnish notifications of a revised consumer report pursuant to subsection (d);

"(C) not later than 5 business days after deleting or modifying the information, a copy of the consumer report and credit score or educational score (if applicable) that is based upon the consumer's revised file; and

"(D) a statement that the consumer may obtain, free of charge and within the 12-month period following the date the notice under this paragraph was sent to the consumer, a consumer report and credit score or educational score (if applicable) from the consumer reporting agency, regardless of whether the consumer obtained or will obtain their free annual consumer report and credit score or educational score (if applicable) under section 612.

"(7) No excuse for failure to conduct reINVESTIGATION.—A consumer reporting agency may
not refuse to conduct a reinvestigation under this subsection because the agency determines that the dispute
was submitted by an authorized third party, unless
the agency has clear and convincing evidence that the
third party is not authorized to submit the dispute on
the consumer's behalf. If the consumer reporting agency refuses to reinvestigate a dispute for these reasons,
it shall provide a clear and conspicuous notice to the

1	consumer explaining the reasons for the refusal and
2	describing the specific information the consumer is re-
3	quired to provide for the agency to conduct the re-
4	investigation.".
5	(b) Ensuring Consumer Reporting Agencies Fur-
6	NISH CERTAIN NOTIFICATIONS WITHOUT CHARGE.—Sec-
7	tion 611(d) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C.
8	1681i(d)) is amended by inserting "and without charge"
9	after "request of the consumer".
10	(c) Including Specialty Consumer Reporting
11	Agencies in Reports.—
12	(1) In General.—Section 611(e) of the Fair
13	Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681i(e)) is amended
14	by inserting "or 603(x)" after "section 603(p)" each
15	place such term appears.
16	(2) Technical amendment.—Paragraph (1) of
17	such section (15 U.S.C. 1681i(e)(1)) is amended by
18	striking "The Commission" and inserting "The Bu-
19	reau".
20	(d) Conforming Amendments.—Such Act is further
21	amended—
22	(1) in section $605B(c)(2)$, by striking "section
23	611(a)(5)(B)" and inserting "section $611(a)(5)$ ";
24	(2) in section 611—

1	(A) in subsection (c), by striking "unless
2	there is reasonable grounds to believe that it is
3	frivolous or irrevelant,"; and
4	(B) in subsection $(f)(3)$ —
5	(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
6	"paragraph (6), (7), or (8) of subsection
7	(a)" and inserting "paragraph (4) or (5) of
8	subsection (a)"; and
9	(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
10	"in the manner required under paragraph
11	(8)(A)"; and
12	(3) in section $623(b)(1)(B)$, by striking "rel-
13	evant" before "information".
14	(e) Global Technical Corrections to Ref-
15	ERENCES TO NATIONWIDE SPECIALTY CONSUMER REPORT-
16	ING AGENCY.—Such Act is further amended—
17	(1) by striking "section 603(w)" and inserting
18	"section $603(x)$ " each place such term appears; and
19	(2) in section $612(a)(1)(A)$, by striking "(w)"
20	and inserting " (x) ".
21	SEC. 102. CONSUMER AWARENESS OF DISPUTE RIGHTS.
22	Section 611 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15
23	U.S.C. 1681i) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
24	lowing new subsection:

1	"(i) Increased Consumer Awareness of Dispute
2	RIGHTS.—
3	"(1) In general.—Not later than 180 days
4	after the date of enactment of this subsection, each
5	consumer reporting agency described under subsection
6	(p) or (x) of section 603 shall—
7	"(A) establish an Internet website accessible
8	to consumers; and
9	"(B) post on the home page of such website
10	a hyperlink to a separate webpage established
11	and maintained solely for the purpose of pro-
12	viding information to a consumer about how to
13	dispute an item of information in the consumer
14	report of the consumer.
15	"(2) Dispute webpage requirements.—For a
16	consumer reporting agency described under subsection
17	(p) or (x) of section 603, the separate dispute webpage
18	described in paragraph (1)(B)—
19	"(A) may not include any type or form of
20	marketing, advertising, information, or material
21	associated with any products or services offered
22	or sold to consumers;
23	"(B) shall clearly and conspicuously dis-
24	close a concise statement regarding how to file a

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

dispute through the agency, free of charge, in the manner and format prescribed by the Bureau;

- "(C) shall describe the types of documents that will be used by the agency in resolving the dispute, including the business name and mailing address to which a consumer may send such documents;
- "(D) shall include a clear and concise explanation of and the process for using electronic or other means to submit such documents, free of charge, and without any character or data limitation imposed by the agency;
- "(E) shall include a statement that the consumer may submit information, free of charge, that the consumer believes will assist the consumer reporting agency in determining the results of the reinvestigation of the dispute;
- "(F) shall clearly and conspicuously disclose a statement describing the procedure likely to be used by the consumer reporting agency in carrying out a reinvestigation to determine the accuracy or completeness of the disputed item of information, including the time period in which the consumer will be notified of the results of the reinvestigation, and a statement that the agency

1 may extend the reinvestigation period by an ad-2 ditional 15 days if the consumer submits additional information after a certain date; and 3 4 "(G) shall provide translations of all information on the webpage in each of the 10 most 5 6 commonly spoken languages, other than English, 7 in the United States, as determined by the Bu-8 reau of the Census on an ongoing basis, and in 9 formats accessible to individuals with hearing or 10 vision impairments.". SEC. 103. MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS BY FURNISHERS. 12 Section 623 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15) U.S.C. 1681s-2) is amended by adding at the end the fol-13 lowing new subsection: 14 15 "(f) Duty of Furnishers To Maintain Records of 16 Consumers.— 17 "(1) In general.—A person who furnishes in-18 formation to a consumer reporting agency relating to 19 a consumer who has an account with that person 20 shall maintain all information necessary to substan-21 tiate the accuracy and completeness of the informa-22 tion furnished, including any records establishing the

liability and terms and conditions under which credit

was extended to a consumer and any payment history

•HR 3642 RH

with respect to such credit.

23

24

25

1	"(2) Retention period.—Records described
2	under paragraph (1) shall be maintained until the
3	information with respect to which the records relate
4	may no longer be included in a consumer report pur-
5	suant to section 605.
6	"(3) Transfer of ownership.—If a person
7	providing information to a consumer reporting agen-
8	cy is acquired by another person, or if another person
9	acquires the right to repayment connected to such in-
10	formation, the acquiring person shall be subject to the
11	requirements of this subsection with respect to such
12	information to the same extent as the person who ini-
13	tially provided such information to the consumer re-
14	porting agency. The person selling or transferring the
15	right to repayment shall provide the information de-
16	scribed in paragraph (1) to the transferee or the
17	acquirer.".
18	SEC. 104. DUTIES OF FURNISHERS RELATING TO DISPUTE
19	PROCEDURES, NOTICES, AND DISCLOSURES.
20	(a) Duty To Provide Accurate and Complete In-
21	FORMATION.—Section 623(a) of the Fair Credit Reporting
22	Act (15 U.S.C. 1681s-2(a)) is amended—
23	(1) in the subsection heading, by inserting "AND
24	Complete" after "Accurate";
25	(2) in paragraph (1)—

1	(A) by inserting "or incomplete" after "in-
2	accurate" each place that term appears; and
3	(B) in subparagraph (D), by inserting "or
4	completeness" after "accuracy"; and
5	(3) in paragraph (8)—
6	(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting "and
7	completeness" after "accuracy"; and
8	(B) in subparagraph (D), by inserting "or
9	completeness" after "accuracy".
10	(b) Negative Information Notices to Con-
11	SUMERS.—Section 623(a)(7) (15 U.S.C. 1681s-2(a)(7)) of
12	such Act is amended to read as follows:
13	"(7) Duty of furnishers to inform con-
14	SUMERS ABOUT REPORTING NEGATIVE INFORMA-
15	TION.—
16	"(A) General negative information
17	WARNING NOTICE TO ALL CONSUMERS PRIOR TO
18	FURNISHING SUCH INFORMATION.—
19	"(i) In general.—Any person that
20	regularly furnishes negative information to
21	a consumer reporting agency described in
22	subsection (p) or (x) of section 603 about
23	activity on any accounts of a consumer held
24	by such person or transactions associated
25	with credit extended to a consumer by such

1	person shall provide a written general nega-
2	tive information warning notice to each
3	such consumer before such person may fur-
4	nish any negative information relating to
5	such a consumer.
6	"(ii) Content.—Such notice shall—
7	"(I) be clear and conspicuous;
8	"(II) describe the types of activi-
9	ties that constitute negative informa-
10	tion;
11	"(III) inform the consumer that
12	the person may report negative infor-
13	mation relating to any such accounts
14	or transactions to a consumer report-
15	ing agency described in subsection (p)
16	or (x) of section 603;
17	"(IV) state that the negative infor-
18	mation may appear on a consumer re-
19	port of the consumer for the periods de-
20	scribed in section 605 and that during
21	such periods, the negative information
22	may adversely impact the consumer's
23	$credit\ score;$
24	"(V) state that in some limited
25	circumstances, the negative informa-

1	tion may result in other adverse ac-
2	tions, including a denial of a new job
3	or a promotion from existing employ-
4	ment; and
5	"(VI) state that the consumer has
6	right to—
7	"(aa) obtain a copy of their
8	consumer report and credit score
9	or educational score (if applica-
10	ble), which in some instances can
11	be obtained free of charge, from
12	any consumer reporting agency to
13	which negative information may
14	be been sent; and
15	"(bb) dispute, free of charge,
16	any errors on a consumer report
17	relating to the consumer.
18	"(iii) Timing of notice.—Such per-
19	son shall provide such notice to a consumer
20	not later than 90 days before the date on
21	which the person furnishes negative infor-
22	mation relating to such consumer.
23	"(B) Specific negative information no-
24	TICE TO A CONSUMER.—

1	"(i) In General.—Any person de-
2	scribed in subparagraph (A) that has fur-
3	nished negative information relating to ac-
4	tivity on any accounts of a consumer held
5	by such person or transactions associated
6	with credit extended to a consumer by such
7	person to a consumer reporting agency de-
8	scribed in subsection (p) or (x) of section
9	603 shall send a written notice to each such
10	consumer.
11	"(ii) Content.—Such notice shall—
12	"(I) be clear and conspicuous;
13	"(II) inform the consumer that
14	the person has furnished negative in-
15	formation relating to such accounts or
16	transactions to a consumer reporting
17	agency described in subsection (p) or
18	(x) of section 603;
19	"(III) identify any consumer re-
20	porting agency to which the negative
21	information was furnished, including
22	the name of the agency, mailing ad-
23	dress, Internet website address, and
24	toll-free telephone number; and

1	"(IV) include the statements de-
2	scribed in subclauses (IV), (V), and
3	$(VI) \ of \ subparagraph \ (A)(ii).$
4	"(iii) Time of notice.—Such person
5	shall provide such notice to a consumer not
6	later than 5 business days after the date on
7	which the person furnished negative infor-
8	mation relating to such consumer.
9	"(C) Notice effective for subsequent
10	SUBMISSIONS.—After providing the notice de-
11	scribed in subparagraph (B), the person may
12	submit additional negative information to a con-
13	sumer reporting agency described in subsection
14	(p) or (x) of section 603 without providing addi-
15	tional notice to the consumer, unless another per-
16	son acquires the right to repayment connected to
17	the additional negative information. The acquir-
18	ing person shall be subject to the requirements of
19	this paragraph and shall be required to send
20	consumers the written notices described in this
21	paragraph, if applicable.
22	"(D) Non-traditional data fur-
23	NISHERS.—Any person that furnishes negative
24	information to a consumer reporting agency de-

scribed in subsection (p) or (x) of section 603 re-

25

1 lating to any accounts of, or transactions associ-2 ated with, a consumer by such person involving 3 non-traditional data shall be subject to the re-4 quirements described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C). 5 6 "(E) MODEL NOTICES.— 7 "(i) Duty of bureau.—Not later 8 than 6 months after date of the enactment 9 of this paragraph, the Bureau shall issue model forms for the notices described in sub-10 11 paragraphs (A) and (B) that a person may 12 use to comply with the requirements of this paragraph. 13 14 "(ii) Use of model notice not re-15 QUIRED.—No provision of this paragraph 16 may be construed to require a person to use 17 the model notices prescribed by the Bureau. 18 "(iii) Compliance using model no-19 TICES.—A person shall be deemed to be in 20 compliance with the requirements of sub-21 paragraph (A)(ii) or (B)(ii) (as applicable) 22 if the person uses the model notice pre-23 scribed by the Bureau. 24 "(F) Issuance of general NEGATIVE 25 WARNING NOTICE WITHOUT SUBMITTING NEGA-

1	Tive information.—No provision of this para-
2	graph may be construed to require a person de-
3	scribed in subparagraph (A) or (D) to furnish
4	negative information about a consumer to a con-
5	sumer reporting agency described in subsection
6	(p) or (x) of section 603.
7	"(G) Safe Harbor.—A person shall not be
8	liable for failure to perform the duties required
9	by this paragraph if the person reasonably be-
10	lieves that the person is prohibited, by law, from
11	contacting the consumer.
12	"(H) Effective date.—The requirements
13	of subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) shall
14	not take effect until the date that is 6 months
15	after the date of the issuance of model forms for
16	$notices\ under\ subparagraph\ (E).$
17	"(I) Definitions.—In this paragraph, the
18	following definitions shall apply:
19	"(i) Negative information.—The
20	term 'negative information' means informa-
21	tion concerning a consumer's delinquencies,
22	late payments, insolvency, or any form of
23	default.
24	"(ii) Non-traditional data.—The
25	term 'non-traditional data' relates to tele-

1	communications payments, utility pay-
2	ments, rent payments, remittances, wire
3	transfers, and such other items as deter-
4	mined by the Bureau.".
5	(c) Duties of Furnishers After Receiving No-
6	TICE OF DISPUTE FROM A CONSUMER.—Section
7	623(a)(8)(E) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C.
8	1681s-2(a)(8)(E)) is amended to read as follows:
9	"(E) Duties of furnishers after re-
10	CEIVING NOTICE OF DISPUTE FROM A CON-
11	SUMER.—After receiving a notice of dispute from
12	a consumer pursuant to subparagraph (D), the
13	person that provided the information in dispute
14	to a consumer reporting agency shall—
15	"(i) promptly provide to each con-
16	sumer reporting agency to which the person
17	furnished the disputed information the no-
18	$tice\ of\ dispute;$
19	"(ii) review all information, including
20	any substantiating documents, provided by
21	the consumer about the disputed informa-
22	tion and conduct an investigation, separate
23	from any reinvestigation by a consumer re-
24	porting agency or a reseller conducted with
25	respect to the disputed information;

1	"(iii) before the expiration of the pe-
2	riod under section 611(a)(1) within which a
3	consumer reporting agency would be re-
4	quired to complete its action if the con-
5	sumer had elected to dispute the informa-
6	tion under that section, complete an inves-
7	tigation of the disputed information pursu-
8	ant to the standards described in subpara-
9	graph(G);
10	"(iv) notify the consumer, in writing,
11	of the receipt of the dispute that includes—
12	"(I) a statement about any infor-
13	mation additional to the information
14	that the person is required to maintain
15	under subsection (f) that would sup-
16	port the person's ability to carry out
17	an investigation to resolve the con-
18	sumer's dispute; and
19	"(II) a statement that the con-
20	sumer reporting agency to which the
21	disputed information was provided
22	will include a notation described in
23	section 605(e) in the consumer's file
24	until the investigation has been com-
25	pleted, and information about how a

1	consumer may request that such nota-
2	tion is removed by the agency;
3	"(v) if the investigation determines the
4	disputed information is inaccurate, incom-
5	plete, or unverifiable, promptly notify each
6	consumer reporting agency to which the
7	person furnished such information in ac-
8	cordance with paragraph (2); and
9	"(vi) notify the consumer of the results
10	of the investigation, in writing, in accord-
11	ance with subparagraph (H).".
12	(d) Eliminating Furnishers' Authority To Dis-
13	MISS DISPUTES AS FRIVOLOUS OR IRRELEVANT.—Section
14	623(a)(8) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 1681s–2(a)(8)) is amended
15	by striking subparagraph (F) and redesignating subpara-
16	graph (G) as subparagraph (F).
17	(e) Additional Duties.—Section 623(a)(8) of such
18	Act (15 U.S.C. 1681s-2(a)(8)) is further amended by add-
19	ing at the end the following new subparagraphs:
20	"(G) Reasonable standards for fur-
21	NISHERS FOR CONDUCTING INVESTIGATIONS AND
22	RESOLVING DISPUTES SUBMITTED BY CON-
23	SUMERS.—In any investigation conducted by a
24	person who furnishes information to a consumer
25	reporting agency of an item of information being

1	disputed by a consumer, the person, at a min-
2	imum—
3	"(i) shall maintain sufficient resources
4	and trained staff, commensurate with the
5	volume and complexity of disputes received
6	or reasonably anticipated to be received, to
7	$conduct\ investigations;$
8	"(ii) shall verify that the person has a
9	record of the particular information being
10	disputed, consistent with the requirements
11	of subsection (f);
12	"(iii) shall verify that the personally
13	identifiable information of the consumer
14	submitting the dispute matches the person-
15	ally identifiable information contained on
16	such records;
17	"(iv) shall conduct a reasonable review
18	to determine whether the disputed informa-
19	tion is accurate, complete, and can be
20	verified that considers all the information,
21	including any substantiating documents,
22	provided by the consumer about the dis-
23	puted information;
24	"(v) shall ensure that the investigation
25	is an independent analysis that is separate

1	from any reinvestigation by a consumer re-
2	porting agency or a reseller conducted with
3	respect to the disputed information; and
4	"(vi) may not impose any limitations
5	or otherwise impede the ability of a con-
6	sumer to submit information, including any
7	substantiating documents, about the dis-
8	puted information.
9	"(H) Contents of the notice to the
10	CONSUMER ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE INVES-
11	TIGATION BY THE FURNISHER.—The notice of the
12	results of the investigation described in subpara-
13	graph (E) shall include—
14	"(i) a statement informing the con-
15	sumer as to whether the disputed informa-
16	tion was determined to be inaccurate, in-
17	complete, or unverifiable;
18	"(ii) a statement of the specific reasons
19	supporting the results of the investigation;
20	"(iii) a description of the procedure
21	used by the dispute resolution staff of the
22	person who furnishes information to a con-
23	sumer reporting agency to determine the ac-
24	curacy or completeness of the information,
25	including the business name, mailing ad-

1	dress, telephone number, and Internet
2	website address (if available) of any person
3	who was contacted by the staff in connec-
4	tion with the determination;
5	"(iv) a copy of all information relating
6	to the consumer that was used in carrying
7	out the investigation and was the basis for
8	any determination about the accuracy or
9	completeness of the disputed information;
10	"(v) a statement that consumer will re-
11	ceive, free of charge, a copy of their con-
12	sumer report and credit score or edu-
13	cational credit score (if applicable), from
14	any consumer reporting agency to which the
15	disputed information had been provided, re-
16	gardless of whether the consumer obtained
17	or will obtain a free consumer report and
18	credit score or educational credit score (if
19	applicable) in the 12-month period pre-
20	ceding receipt of the notice described in this
21	subparagraph pursuant to section
22	612(a)(1);
23	"(vi) if the disputed information was
24	found to be inaccurate, incomplete, or un-
25	verifiable, a statement that the consumer re-

1 port of the consumer shall be revised to re-2 flect the change to the consumer's file as a result of the investigation; 3 4 "(vii) a statement that the consumer has the right to appeal the results of the in-6 vestigation under paragraph (10), free of 7 charge, within 120 days after the date of the 8 notice of the results of the investigation was 9 provided to the consumer and the process 10 for submitting an appeal; 11 "(viii) a statement that the consumer 12 may add a narrative statement, free of 13 charge, to the consumer's file held by the 14 consumer reporting agency to which the in-15 formation has been furnished disputing the 16 accuracy or completeness of the information, 17 regardless of the results of the investigation 18 by the person, and the process for contacting 19 any agency that received the consumer's in-20 formation from the person to submit a nar-21 rative statement: 22 "(ix) a statement informing the con-23 sumer that a notation described in section 24 605(e) will be added to the consumer's file

during the period in which the consumer

25

1	appeals the results of an investigation and
2	that such notation can be removed at the re-
3	quest of the consumer; and
4	"(x) a statement that the consumer has
5	the right to request a copy of their consumer
6	report and credit score or educational credit
7	score (if applicable), free of charge, within
8	the 12-month period following the date of
9	the conclusion of the investigation from any
10	consumer reporting agency in which the
11	disputed information had been provided, re-
12	gardless of whether the consumer obtained
13	or will obtain a free annual consumer re-
14	port and credit score or educational credit
15	score (if applicable) under this subpara-
16	graph or section $612(a)(1)$.".
17	(f) Conforming Amendment.—Section 615(a)(4)(B)
18	is amended—
19	(1) by striking ", under section 611, with a con-
20	sumer reporting agency"; and
21	(2) by striking "furnished by the agency" and
22	inserting "to a consumer reporting agency under sec-
23	tion 611 or to a person who furnished information to
24	an agency under section 623".

1	SEC. 105. RIGHT TO APPEAL DISPUTES RELATING TO RE-
2	INVESTIGATIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS.
3	(a) Appeals of Reinvestigations Conducted by
4	A Consumer Reporting Agency.—Section 611 of the
5	Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681i) is amended—
6	(1) in subsection (b), by inserting "or if the con-
7	sumer is unsatisfied with the results of an appeal
8	conducted under subsection (h)," after "resolve the
9	dispute,"; and
10	(2) by inserting after subsection (h) (as added by
11	section 102) the following new subsection:
12	"(i) Consumer Right To Appeal Results of A
13	Consumer Reporting Agency Reinvestigation.—
14	"(1) In general.—Within 120 days after the
15	date of receipt of the results of a reinvestigation con-
16	ducted under subsection (a), a consumer (or author-
17	ized third party) may, free of charge, appeal the re-
18	sults of such reinvestigation by submitting a notice of
19	appeal to the consumer reporting agency.
20	"(2) Notice of Appeal.—
21	"(A) Requirements.—A notice of appeal
22	described in paragraph (1) may be submitted in
23	writing, or through a toll-free telephone number
24	or other electronic means established by the con-
25	sumer reporting agency (including on the Inter-
26	net website described in subsection (a)), and—

1	"(i) shall identify the information con-
2	tained in the consumer's file that is the sub-
3	ject of the appeal;
4	"(ii) shall describe the specific reasons
5	for submitting the notice of appeal; and
6	"(iii) may provide any information
7	the consumer believes is relevant to substan-
8	tiate the validity of the dispute.
9	"(B) Consumer reporting agency no-
10	TICE TO CONSUMER.—Upon receipt of such no-
11	tice of appeal, the consumer reporting agency
12	shall promptly provide to the consumer a state-
13	ment confirming the receipt of the consumer's
14	notice of appeal that shall include—
15	"(i) an approximate date on which the
16	consumer's appeal review will be completed;
17	"(ii) the process and procedures by
18	which such review will be conducted; and
19	"(iii) an employee reference number or
20	other employee identifier for each of the spe-
21	cific individuals designated by the consumer
22	reporting agency who, upon the request of
23	the consumer, may discuss the substance
24	and status of the appeal.

1	"(3) Consumer reporting agency require-
2	MENTS UPON RECEIPT OF NOTICE OF APPEAL.—
3	"(A) In General.—Not later than 20 days
4	after receiving a notice of appeal, the consumer
5	reporting agency shall review the appeal. If the
6	consumer reporting agency determines the infor-
7	mation is inaccurate, incomplete, or cannot be
8	verified, the consumer reporting agency shall de-
9	lete or modify the item of information being dis-
10	puted by the consumer from the file of the con-
11	sumer before the end of the 20-day period begin-
12	ning on the date on which the consumer report-
13	ing agency receives a notice of an appeal from
14	$the\ consumer.$
15	"(B) Notice of Appeal to furnisher;
16	INFORMATION REGARDING DISPUTE PROVIDED BY
17	THE CONSUMER.—
18	"(i) In general.—Before the end of
19	the period of 3 business days beginning on
20	the date on which a consumer reporting
21	agency receives a notice of appeal, the con-
22	sumer reporting agency shall provide notice
23	of the appeal, including all information re-
24	lating to the specific appeal that the con-
25	sumer reporting agency has received from

1	the consumer, to any person who provided
2	any information in dispute.
3	"(ii) Provision of additional in-
4	FORMATION REGARDING THE DISPUTE.—If
5	the consumer reporting agency receives ad-
6	ditional information from the consumer
7	after the agency provides the notice required
8	under clause (i) and before the end of the
9	20-day period described in subparagraph
10	(A), the consumer reporting agency shall,
11	not later than 3 business days after receiv-
12	ing such information, provide such informa-
13	tion to any person who provided the infor-
14	mation in dispute and shall have an addi-
15	tional 10 business days to complete the ap-
16	peal review.
17	"(C) Minimum standards for appeals
18	EMPLOYEES.—
19	"(i) Designation.—Upon receipt of a
20	notice of appeal under paragraph (1), a
21	consumer reporting agency shall designate
22	one or more specific employees who—
23	"(I) shall be assigned an employee
24	reference number or other employee
25	identifier that can be used by the con-

1	sumer to discuss the appeal with the
2	specific individuals handling the ap-
3	peal;
4	"(II) shall have direct authority
5	to resolve the dispute that is the subject
6	of the notice of appeal from the review
7	stage to its completion;
8	"(III) shall meet minimum train-
9	ing and ongoing certification require-
10	ments at regular intervals, as estab-
11	lished by the Bureau;
12	"(IV) shall be located within the
13	United States;
14	"(V) may not have been involved
15	in the reinvestigation conducted or ter-
16	minated pursuant to subsection (a);
17	and
18	"(VI) may not be subject to any
19	requirements linking incentives, in-
20	cluding promotion, to the number of
21	appeals processed within a certain
22	$time\ period.$
23	"(ii) Requirements.—Such employ-
24	ees shall conduct a robust review of the ap-
25	peal and make a determination regarding

1	the accuracy and completeness of the dis-
2	puted information by—
3	"(I) conducting an independent
4	analysis, separate from any investiga-
5	tion by a reseller or person who pro-
6	vided the disputed information, and
7	separate from any prior reinvestiga-
8	tion conducted by the consumer report-
9	ing agency of the disputed informa-
10	tion;
11	"(II) verifying that the personally
12	identifiable information of the con-
13	sumer submitting the dispute matches
14	the personally identifiable information
15	contained on the consumer's file;
16	"(III) analyzing the notice of ap-
17	peal and all information, including
18	any substantiating documents, pro-
19	vided by the consumer with the notice
20	$of\ appeal;$
21	"(IV) evaluating the validity of
22	any information submitted by any per-
23	son that was used by the consumer re-
24	porting agency in the reinvestigation
25	of the initial dispute;

1	"(V) verifying that the consumer
2	reporting agency has a record of the
3	information being disputed; and
4	"(VI) applying any additional
5	factors or investigative processes, as
6	specified by the Bureau.
7	"(D) Notice of Appeal results.—Not
8	later than 5 days after the end of the 20-day pe-
9	riod described under subparagraph (A) (or the
10	10-day extension period, as applicable) the con-
11	sumer reporting agency shall provide the con-
12	sumer with written notice of the results of the
13	appeal by postal mail or, if requested by the con-
14	sumer, by other means. The contents of such no-
15	tice shall include—
16	"(i) a statement that the appeal is
17	completed and the date on which it was
18	completed, the results of the appeal, and the
19	specific reasons supporting the results of the
20	appeal;
21	"(ii) a copy of all information relating
22	to the consumer that was used as a basis for
23	deciding the results of the appeal;

1	"(iii) a consumer report that is based
2	upon the consumer's file as that file may
3	have been revised as a result of the appeal;
4	"(iv) a description of the procedure
5	used to determine the accuracy and com-
6	pleteness of the information, including the
7	business name, telephone number, mailing
8	address, and Internet website address (if ap-
9	plicable) of any person who provided infor-
10	mation that was contacted in connection
11	with such information, if reasonably avail-
12	able;
13	"(v) information describing that the
14	consumer may submit a statement, without
15	charge, disputing the accuracy or complete-
16	ness of information in the consumer's file
17	that was the subject of an appeal under this
18	subsection by submitting a statement di-
19	rectly to each consumer reporting agency
20	that received the information;
21	"(vi) a description of the consumer's
22	rights pursuant to subsection (d) (relating
23	to furnishing notifications to certain users
24	of consumer reports); and

1	"(vii) any other information, as deter-
2	mined by the Bureau.
3	"(E) No excuse for failure to conduct
4	APPEAL.—A consumer reporting agency may not
5	refuse to conduct a review of an appeal under
6	this subsection because the agency determines
7	that the notice of appeal was submitted by an
8	authorized third party, unless the agency has
9	clear and convincing evidence that the third
10	party is not authorized to submit the notice of
11	appeal on the consumer's behalf. If the consumer
12	reporting agency refuses to conduct a review of
13	the appeal for these reasons, it shall provide a
14	clear and conspicuous written notice to the con-
15	sumer explaining the reasons for the refusal and
16	describing any information the consumer is re-
17	quired to provide for the agency to conduct a re-
18	view of the appeal.".
19	(b) Appeals of Investigations Conducted by
20	Furnishers of Information.—Section 623(a) of the Fair
21	Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681s–2(a)) is amended
22	by adding at the end the following new paragraph:
23	"(10) Duty of furnishers of information
24	UPON NOTICE OF APPEAL OF INVESTIGATION.—

1	"(A) In General.—Within 120 days of the
2	date of receipt of the results of an investigation
3	$conducted\ under\ paragraph\ (8)(E),\ a\ consumer$
4	may, free of charge, appeal such results by sub-
5	mitting a notice of appeal to the person who pro-
6	vided the information in the dispute to a con-
7	sumer reporting agency (hereafter in this para-
8	graph referred to as the 'furnisher').
9	"(B) Notice of appeal.—A notice of ap-
10	peal described in subparagraph (A) may be sub-
11	mitted in writing, through a toll-free telephone
12	number, or by other electronic means established
13	by the furnisher, and—
14	"(i) shall identify the information con-
15	tained in the consumer's file that is the sub-
16	ject of the appeal;
17	"(ii) shall describe the specific reasons
18	for submitting the notice of appeal; and
19	"(iii) may include any information,
20	including substantiating documents, the
21	consumer believes is relevant to the appeal.
22	"(C) Furnisher actions.—Upon receipt
23	of such notice of appeal, the furnisher shall—
24	"(i) before the end of the period of 3
25	business days beginning on the date on

which the furnisher receives the notice of appeal, notify each consumer reporting agency to which the person furnished such information a statement identifying the items of information that a consumer is appealing; and

"(ii) notify the consumer confirming
the receipt of the consumer's notice of appeal, including an approximate date when
the consumer's appeal will be completed, the
process and procedures by which a review of
the appeal will be conducted, and the specific individual designated by the consumer
reporting agency who, upon the request of
the consumer, may discuss the substance
and status of the appeal.

"(D) Furnisher requirements upon re-CEIPT of notice of appeal, the furdays after receiving a notice of appeal, the furnisher shall determine whether the item of information being disputed by the consumer is inaccurate, incomplete, or cannot be verified, and shall notify the consumer reporting agency of the determination. If the furnisher cannot verify the accuracy or completeness of the disputed infor-

1	mation, the furnisher shall, before the end of the
2	20-day period beginning on the date on which
3	the furnisher receives notice of an appeal from
4	the consumer, submit instructions to the con-
5	sumer reporting agency that the item of informa-
6	tion being disputed by the consumer should be
7	deleted from the file of the consumer.
8	"(E) Minimum standards for appeals
9	EMPLOYEES.—Upon receipt of a notice of appeal
10	under subparagraph (A), a furnisher shall des-
11	ignate one or more specific employees who—
12	"(i) shall be assigned an employee ref-
13	erence number or other employee identifier
14	that can be used by the consumer to discuss
15	the appeal with the specific individuals
16	handling the appeal;
17	"(ii) shall have direct authority to re-
18	solve the dispute that is the subject of the
19	notice of appeal on behalf of the furnisher
20	from the review stage to its completion;
21	"(iii) shall meet minimum training
22	and ongoing certification requirements at
23	regular intervals, as established by the Bu-
24	reau;

1	"(iv) may not have been involved in an
2	investigation conducted pursuant to para-
3	graph (8); and
4	"(v) may not be subject to any require-
5	ments linking incentives, including pro-
6	motion, to the number of appeals processed
7	within a certain time period.
8	"(F) Requirements for appeals proc-
9	ESS.—Such employees shall conduct a robust re-
10	view of the appeal and make a determination re-
11	garding the accuracy and completeness of the
12	disputed information by—
13	"(i) conducting an independent anal-
14	ysis, separate from any reinvestigation by a
15	reseller or consumer reporting agency, of the
16	$disputed\ information;$
17	"(ii) verifying that the personally
18	identifiable information related to the dis-
19	pute is accurate and complete;
20	"(iii) analyzing the notice of appeal
21	and all information, including substan-
22	tiating documents, provided by the con-
23	sumer with the notice of appeal;
24	"(iv) evaluating the validity of any in-
25	formation submitted by any person that

1	was used by the furnisher in the initial in-
2	vestigation into the dispute;
3	"(v) verifying that the information
4	being disputed relates to the consumer in
5	whose file the information is located;
6	"(vi) verifying that the furnisher has a
7	record of the information being disputed;
8	and
9	"(vii) applying any additional factors
10	or investigative processes, as specified by the
11	Bureau.
12	"(G) Extension of review period.—If a
13	consumer submits additional information related
14	to the appeal after the period of 3 business days
15	described in subparagraph $(C)(i)$ and before the
16	end of the 20-day period described in subpara-
17	graph (D), the furnisher shall have an additional
18	10 business days to complete the review of the
19	appeal.
20	"(H) Notice of Appeal results.—Not
21	later than 5 days after the end of the 20-day pe-
22	riod described in subparagraph (D) (or the 10
23	business day extension described under subpara-
24	graph (G), as applicable) the furnisher shall pro-
25	vide the consumer with written notice of the re-

1	sults of the appeal by mail or, if requested by the
2	consumer, by other means. The contents of such
3	notice shall include—
4	"(i) a statement that the appeal is
5	completed and the date on which it was
6	completed, the results of the appeal, and the
7	specific reasons supporting the results of the
8	appeal;
9	"(ii) a copy of all information relating
10	to the consumer that was used as a basis for
11	deciding the results of the appeal;
12	"(iii) if the appeal results in any
13	change to the consumer report, a notifica-
14	tion that the consumer shall receive a copy,
15	free of charge, of a revised consumer report
16	(based upon the consumer's file as that file
17	was changed as a result of the appeal) and
18	a credit score or educational credit score (if
19	applicable) from each consumer reporting
20	agency that had been furnished incorrect in-
21	formation;
22	"(iv) a description of the procedure
23	used to determine the accuracy and com-
24	pleteness of the information, including the
25	business name telephone number mailina

1 address, and Internet website address (if ap-2 plicable), of any person who provided infor-3 mation that was contacted in connection 4 with such information, if reasonably available; 6 "(v) information describing that the consumer may submit a statement, without 7 8 charge, disputing the accuracy or complete-9 ness of information in the consumer's file 10 that was the subject of an appeal under this 11 paragraph by submitting a statement directly to each consumer reporting agency 12 13 that received the information; and 14 "(vi) a notification that the consumer 15 may request the furnisher to submit to each 16 consumer reporting agency the consumer's 17 request to furnish notifications pursuant to 18 section 611(d) (relating to furnishing notifi-19 cations to certain users of consumer re-20 ports).". 21 (c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 623(a)(8)(A) of Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681s-2(a)(8)(A)) is amended by striking "reinvestigate" and in-24 serting "investigate".

1	(d) Conforming Amendments.—Section 609 of the
2	Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681g) is amended—
3	(1) in subsection (c)—
4	(A) by striking "Commission" and insert-
5	ing "Bureau" each place that term appears;
6	(B) in the subsection heading, by striking
7	"Rights To Obtain and Dispute Informa-
8	TION IN CONSUMER REPORTS AND TO OBTAIN
9	Credit Scores" and inserting "Key Con-
10	SUMER REPORTING RIGHTS"; and
11	(C) in paragraph (1)—
12	(i) in the heading, by striking "Com-
13	MISSION" and inserting "BUREAU";
14	(ii) in subparagraph (B)—
15	(I) in clause (ii), by striking "a
16	consumer report without charge under
17	section 612" and inserting "consumer
18	reports and credit scores or educational
19	credit scores (as applicable) without
20	charge under subsections (f), (g), (i), or
21	(j) or section 612";
22	(II) in clause (iii), by inserting
23	"or section 623" after "section 611";
24	(III) by striking clauses (iv) and
25	(vi);

1	(IV) by inserting after clause (iii)
2	the following new clause:
3	"(iv) the right of a consumer to appeal
4	a determination of a reinvestigation con-
5	ducted by a consumer reporting agency
6	under section 611(h) or an investigation
7	conducted by a furnisher of information
8	under section 623(a)(10);"; and
9	(V) by adding at the end the fol-
10	lowing new clause:
11	"(vi) the method and circumstances
12	under which consumers can obtain a 1-year
13	fraud alert, 7-year fraud alert, active duty
14	alert, or security freeze as described in sec-
15	tion 605A through a consumer reporting
16	agency described under section 603(p).";
17	(iii) in subparagraph (C) (as amended
18	by subparagraph (A)) by inserting "and the
19	Commission" after "Bureau"; and
20	(iv) by adding at the end the following
21	$new\ subparagraph:$
22	"(D) Publication of summary rights.—
23	A consumer reporting agency described under
24	subsection (p) or (x) of section 603 shall display
25	in a clear and conspicuous manner, including on

1	the Internet website of the consumer reporting
2	agency, the summary of rights prepared by the
3	Bureau under this paragraph."; and
4	(2) in subsection (d), by inserting "Bureau and
5	the" before "Commission".
6	SEC. 106. REVISED CONSUMER REPORTS.
7	Section 611 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15
8	U.S.C. 1681i), as amended by section 105(a)(2), is further
9	amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:
10	"(j) Requirement To Send Revised Consumer
11	Report to Consumer.—Upon receiving a notice described
12	in section $623(a)(8)(E)(iv)$, each consumer reporting agen-
13	cy shall send to the consumer a revised consumer report
14	and credit score or education credit score (if applicable)
15	based upon the consumer's file as that file was changed as
16	a result of the investigation.".
17	SEC. 107. INDICATION OF DISPUTE BY CONSUMERS AND
18	USE OF DISPUTED INFORMATION.
19	Section 605(f) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15
20	U.S.C. 1681c(f)) is amended to read as follows:
21	"(f) Indication of Dispute.—
22	"(1) In General.—A consumer reporting agen-
23	cy shall include in any consumer report based on the
24	consumer's file a notation identifying any item of in-

1	formation that is currently in dispute by the con-
2	sumer if—
3	"(A) a consumer disputes the completeness
4	or accuracy of any item of information con-
5	tained in a consumer's file pursuant to section
6	611(a)(1);
7	"(B) a consumer files with a consumer re-
8	porting agency an appeal of a reinvestigation
9	pursuant to section 611(i); or
10	"(C) the consumer reporting agency is noti-
11	fied by a person that furnished any items of in-
12	formation that are currently in dispute by the
13	consumer that—
14	"(i) a consumer disputes the complete-
15	ness or accuracy of any information fur-
16	nished by a person to any consumer report-
17	ing agency pursuant to paragraph (3) or
18	(8) of section 623(a); or
19	"(ii) a consumer submits a notice of
20	appeal under section $623(a)(10)$.
21	"(2) Opt out.—A consumer may submit a re-
22	quest to a consumer reporting agency or a person who
23	furnished the information in dispute, as applicable, to
24	have the notation described in paragraph (1) omitted

1	from the consumer report. Upon receipt of such a re-
2	quest—
3	"(A) by a consumer reporting agency, such
4	agency shall remove the notation within 1 busi-
5	ness day; and
6	"(B) by a person who furnished the infor-
7	mation in dispute, such person shall submit such
8	request to each consumer reporting agency to
9	which the person furnished such information
10	within 1 business day and such agency shall re-
11	move the notation within 1 business day of re-
12	ceipt of such request.".
13	SEC. 108. ACCURACY AND COMPLETENESS REPORT DUTIES
14	FOR CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCIES AND
15	FURNISHERS.
15 16	FURNISHERS. Section 607(b) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15)
16	
16 17	Section 607(b) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15
16	Section 607(b) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681e) is amended to read as follows:
16 17 18 19	Section 607(b) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681e) is amended to read as follows: "(b) Accuracy and Completeness of Report.—
16 17 18	Section 607(b) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681e) is amended to read as follows: "(b) Accuracy and Completeness of Report.— "(1) In General.—In preparing a consumer re-
16 17 18 19 20	Section 607(b) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681e) is amended to read as follows: "(b) Accuracy and Completeness of Report.— "(1) In General.—In preparing a consumer report, a consumer reporting agency shall maintain
16 17 18 19 20 21	Section 607(b) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681e) is amended to read as follows: "(b) Accuracy and Completeness of Report.— "(1) In General.—In preparing a consumer report, a consumer reporting agency shall maintain reasonable procedures to ensure maximum possible ac-

1	"(2) Bureau rule to assure maximum pos-
2	SIBLE ACCURACY AND COMPLETENESS WITH CREDIT
3	REPORTING PRACTICES.—
4	"(A) Rule.—Not later than 18 months
5	after the date of enactment of this subsection, the
6	Bureau shall issue a final rule establishing the
7	procedures described in paragraph (1).
8	"(B) Requirements.—In formulating the
9	rule required under subparagraph (A), the Bu-
10	reau shall—
11	"(i) develop standards for matching the
12	personally identifiable information included
13	in the consumer's file with the personally
14	identifiable information furnished by the
15	person who provided the information to the
16	consumer reporting agency (hereafter in this
17	subsection referred to as the 'furnisher'), in-
18	cluding the full name of a consumer, the
19	date of birth of a consumer, the full social
20	security number of a consumer, and any
21	other information that the Bureau deter-
22	mines would aid in assuring maximum
23	possible accuracy and completeness of such
24	$consumer\ reports;$

1	"(ii) establish processes for a consumer
2	reporting agency to monitor the integrity of
3	the data provided by furnishers and the
4	compliance of furnishers with the require-
5	ments of this title;
6	"(iii) establish processes for a con-
7	sumer reporting agency to regularly rec-

sumer reporting agency to regularly reconcile data relating to accounts in collection, including those that have not been paid in full, by specifying the circumstances under which the consumer reporting agency shall remove or suppress negative or adverse information from a consumer's file that has not been updated by a furnisher who is also a debt collector (as defined in section 803 of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act) within the time period established by the Bureau;

"(iv) establish procedures to require each consumer reporting agency to review and monitor the quality of information received from any source, including information from public records, by regularly and on an ongoing basis comparing the information received to the information available

1	from the original source and ensuring that
2	the information received is the most current
3	information;
4	"(v) develop standards and procedures
5	for consumer reporting agencies to identify
6	furnishers that repeatedly fail to provide ac-
7	curate and complete information, to take
8	corrective action against such furnishers,
9	and to reject information submitted by such
10	furnishers;
11	"(vi) develop standards and procedures
12	for consumer reporting agencies to adopt re-
13	garding collection of public record data, in-
14	cluding standards and procedures to con-
15	sider the ultimate data source, how the pub-
16	lic record information is filed and its avail-
17	ability and accessibility, and whether infor-
18	mation relating to the satisfaction of judg-
19	ments or other updates to the public record
20	are available on a reasonably timely basis
21	from a particular source; and
22	"(vii) establish any other factors, pro-
23	cedures, or processes determined by the Bu-
24	reau to be necessary to assist consumer re-
25	porting agencies in achieving maximum

1	possible accuracy and completeness of the
2	information in consumer reports.
3	"(3) Corrective action for furnishers
4	THAT REPEATEDLY FURNISH INACCURATE OR INCOM-
5	PLETE INFORMATION.—Upon identifying a furnisher
6	that repeatedly fails to furnish accurate, complete, or
7	verifiable information to consumer reporting agencies,
8	the Bureau shall—
9	"(A) ensure the prompt removal of any ad-
10	verse information relating to a consumer's ac-
11	counts submitted by such furnisher; and
12	"(B) take corrective action, which may in-
13	clude—
14	"(i) mandatory revised training and
15	training materials for the staff of the fur-
16	nisher regarding the furnishing of accurate
17	and complete information;
18	"(ii) sharing industry best practices
19	and procedures regarding accuracy and
20	$completeness;\ or$
21	"(iii) temporarily prohibiting a fur-
22	nisher from providing information to a con-
23	sumer reporting agency.".

1	SEC. 109. INCLUSION OF PUBLIC RECORD DATA SOURCES
2	IN CONSUMER REPORTS.
3	Section 605(d) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15
4	U.S.C. 1681c(d)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5	lowing:
6	"(3) Public record data source.—Any con-
7	sumer reporting agency that furnishes a consumer re-
8	port that contains public record data shall also in-
9	clude in such report the source from which that data
10	was obtained, including the particular court, if any,
11	and the date that the data was initially reported or
12	publicized.".
13	SEC. 110. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF FOR VICTIMS.
14	(a) In General.—The Fair Credit Reporting Act (15
15	U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) is amended—
16	(1) in section 616—
17	(A) in subsection (a), by amending the sub-
18	section heading to read as follows: "DAMAGES";
19	(B) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d)
20	as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and
21	(C) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
22	lowing new subsection:
23	"(c) Injunctive Relief.—In addition to any other
24	remedy set forth in this section, a court may award injunc-
25	tive relief to require compliance with the requirements im-
26	posed under this title with respect to any consumer. In the

1	event of any successful action for injunctive relief under this
2	subsection, the court may award to the prevailing party
3	costs and reasonable attorney fees (as determined by the
4	court) incurred during the action by such party."; and
5	(2) in section 617—
6	(A) in subsection (a), by amending the sub-
7	section heading to read as follows: "DAMAGES";
8	(B) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
9	section (c); and
10	(C) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
11	lowing new subsection:
12	"(b) Injunctive Relief.—In addition to any other
13	remedy set forth in this section, a court may award injunc-
14	tive relief to require compliance with the requirements im-
15	posed under this title with respect to any consumer. In the
16	event of any successful action for injunctive relief under this
17	subsection, the court may award to the prevailing party
18	costs and reasonable attorney fees (as determined by the
19	court) incurred during the action by such party.".
20	(b) Enforcement by Federal Trade Commis-
21	SION.—Section 621(a)(2)(A) of the Fair Credit Reporting
22	Act (15 U.S.C. 1681s(a)(2)(A)) is amended—
23	(1) by amending the subparagraph heading to
24	read as follows: "Negligent, willful, or knowing
25	VIOLATIONS''; and

1	(2) by inserting "negligent, willful, or" before
2	"knowing".
3	TITLE II—PROHIBITION ON MIS-
4	LEADING AND UNFAIR CON-
5	SUMER REPORTING PRAC-
6	TICES
7	SEC. 201. PROHIBITION ON AUTOMATIC RENEWALS FOR
8	PROMOTIONAL CONSUMER REPORTING AND
9	CREDIT SCORING PRODUCTS AND SERVICES.
10	The Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.)
11	is amended—
12	(1) by adding at the end the following new sec-
13	tion:
14	"§ 630. Promotional periods
15	"(a) Termination Notice.—With respect to any
16	product or service related to a consumer report or a credit
17	score that is provided to a consumer under promotional
18	terms, the seller or provider of such product or service shall
19	provide clear and conspicuous notice to the consumer with-
20	in a reasonable period of time before the promotional period
21	ends.
22	"(b) Opt-In.—With respect to any such product or
23	service, the seller or provider may not continue to sell or
24	provide such product or service to the consumer after the
25	end of the promotional period unless the consumer specifi-

1	cally agrees at the end of the promotional period to continue
2	receiving the product or service."; and
3	(2) in the table of contents for such Act, by in-
4	serting after the item relating to section 629 the fol-
5	lowing new item:
	"630. Promotional periods.".
6	SEC. 202. PROHIBITION ON MISLEADING AND DECEPTIVE
7	MARKETING RELATED TO THE PROVISION OF
8	CONSUMER REPORTING AND CREDIT SCOR-
9	ING PRODUCTS AND SERVICES.
10	Section 609 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15
11	U.S.C. 1681g) is amended—
12	(1) in subsection (a)—
13	(A) in paragraph (1)—
14	(i) by striking "request, except" and
15	all that follows through "consumer to
16	whom" and inserting "request, unless the
17	consumer to whom";
18	(ii) by striking "disclosure; and" and
19	inserting "disclosure."; and
20	(iii) by striking subparagraph (B);
21	and
22	(B) in paragraph (6), by inserting "or edu-
23	cational credit score (if applicable) under sub-
24	section (f) or section 612" before the period at
25	the end: and

1	(2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
2	section:
3	"(h) Disclosures on Products and Services.—
4	The Bureau, in consultation with the Federal Trade Com-
5	mission, shall issue regulations within 18 months of the
6	date of the enactment of this subsection requiring each con-
7	sumer reporting agency and reseller to clearly and con-
8	spicuously disclose all material terms and conditions, in-
9	cluding any fee and pricing information associated with
10	any products or services offered, advertised, marketed, or
11	sold to consumers by the agency or reseller. Such disclosures
12	shall be made in all forms of communication to consumers
13	and displayed prominently on the agency or reseller's
14	website and all other locations where products or services
15	are offered, advertised, marketed, or sold to consumers.".
16	SEC. 203. PROHIBITON ON EXCESSIVE DIRECT-TO-CON-
17	SUMER SALES.
18	The Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681 et
19	seq.), as amended by section 201, is further amended—
20	(1) by adding at the end the following new sec-
21	tion:
22	"§ 631. Fair and reasonable fees for products and
23	services
24	"The Bureau may, with respect to any product or serv-
25	ice offered by a consumer reporting agency to a consumer,

1	set a fair and reasonable maximum fee that may be charged
2	for such product or service, except where such maximum
3	fee is otherwise provided under this title."; and
4	(2) in the table of contents for such Act, as
5	amended by section 201, by adding at the end the fol-
6	lowing new item:
	"631. Fair and reasonable fees for products and services.".
7	SEC. 204. FAIR ACCESS TO CONSUMER REPORTING AND
8	CREDIT SCORING DISCLOSURES FOR NON-
9	NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS AND THE VIS-
10	UALLY AND HEARING IMPAIRED.
11	The Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681 et
12	seq.), as amended by section 203, is further amended—
13	(1) by adding at the end the following new sec-
14	tion:
15	"§ 632. Fair access to information for nonnative
16	English speakers and the visually and
17	hearing impaired
18	"(a) In General.—Not later than 180 days after the
19	date of the enactment of this section, the Bureau shall issue
20	a rule to require consumer reporting agencies and persons
21	who furnish information to consumer reporting agencies
22	under this title, to the maximum extent reasonably prac-
23	ticable—
24	"(1) to provide any information, disclosures, or
25	other communication with consumers—

1	"(A) in each of the 10 most commonly spo-
2	ken languages, other than English, in the United
3	States, as determined by the Bureau of the Cen-
4	sus on an ongoing basis; and
5	"(B) in formats accessible to individuals
6	with hearing or vision impairments; and
7	"(2) to ensure that—
8	"(A) customer service representatives, in-
9	cluding employees assigned to handle disputes or
10	appeals under sections 611 and 623, who are
11	available to assist consumers are highly familian
12	with the requirements of this title;
13	"(B) such representatives are available dur-
14	ing regular business hours and outside of regular
15	business hours, including evenings and weekends,
16	and
17	"(C) at least one among such representa-
18	tives is fluent in each of the 10 most commonly
19	spoken languages, other than English, in the
20	United States, as determined by the Bureau of
21	the Census on an ongoing basis.
22	"(b) Bureau Consultation.—The Bureau shall con-
23	sult with advocates for civil rights, consumer groups, com-
24	munity groups, and organizations that serve traditionally

1	underserved communities and populations in issuing the
2	rule described in subsection (a)."; and
3	(2) in the table of contents for such Act, as
4	amended by section 203, by adding at the end the fol-
5	lowing new item:
	"632. Fair access to information for nonnative English speakers and the visually and hearing impaired.".
6	SEC. 205. COMPARISON SHOPPING FOR LOANS WITHOUT
7	HARM TO CREDIT STANDING.
8	Section 605 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15
9	U.S.C. 1681c) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
10	lowing new subsection:
11	"(i) Encouraging Consumers To Comparison
12	Shop for Loans by Treating Grouped Enquiries of
13	THE SAME TYPE WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD AS A SIN-
14	GLE ENQUIRY.—
15	"(1) In general.—With respect to multiple
16	enquiries of the same type made to a consumer re-
17	porting agency for a consumer report or credit score
18	with respect to a consumer, any credit scoring model
19	shall treat such enquiries as a single enquiry if the
20	enquiries are made within a 120-day period.
21	"(2) Definition of enquiries of the same
22	TYPE.—With respect to multiple enquiries made to a
23	consumer reporting agency for a consumer report or
24	credit score with respect to a consumer, such enquiries

1	are 'of the same type' if the consumer reporting agen-
2	cy has reason to believe that the enquiries are all
3	made for the purpose of determining the consumer's
4	creditworthiness for an extension of credit described
5	in one of the following:
6	"(A) Any loan primarily for personal, fam-
7	ily, or household use that is secured by a mort-
8	gage, deed of trust, or other equivalent consen-
9	sual security interest on a dwelling (as defined
10	in section 103(w) of the Truth in Lending Act),
11	including a loan in which the proceeds will be
12	used for—
13	"(i) a manufactured home (as defined
14	in section 603 of the Housing and Commu-
15	nity Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C.
16	5402));
17	"(ii) any installment sales contract,
18	land contract, or contract for deed on a res-
19	idential property; or
20	"(iii) a reverse mortgage transaction
21	(as defined in section 103 of the Truth in
22	$Lending\ Act).$
23	"(B) A motor vehicle loan or lease (as de-
24	scribed in section $609(j)$).
25	"(C) A private education loan.

1	"(D) Any other consumer financial product
2	or service, as determined by the Bureau.".
3	SEC. 206. NATIONWIDE CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCIES
4	REGISTRY.
5	The Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681 et
6	seq.), as amended by section 204, is further amended—
7	(1) by adding at the end the following new sec-
8	tion:
9	"§ 633. Nationwide consumer reporting agencies reg-
10	istry
11	"(a) In General.—Not later than 1 year after the
12	date of enactment of this section, the Bureau shall establish
13	and maintain a publicly accessible registry of consumer re-
14	porting agencies described in subsection (p) or (x) of section
15	603 (and any other agencies the Bureau determines provide
16	similar services to such consumer reporting agencies) that
17	includes current contact information of each such agency,
18	including the Internet website address of the Internet
19	website described under section 611(h), and information on
20	how consumers can obtain their consumer report, credit
21	scores, or educational credit scores (as applicable) by toll-
22	free telephone, postal mail, or electronic means.
23	"(b) Registry Requirements.—The registry de-
24	scribed in subsection (a) shall—

1	"(1) identify the largest agencies and the mar-
2	kets and demographics covered by such agencies; and
3	"(2) disclose, with respect to each agency, wheth-
4	er the agency is subject to the supervisory authority
5	of the Bureau under this title.
6	"(c) Information Updates.—Each agency described
7	under subsection (a) shall submit to the Bureau contact in-
8	formation for the registry, including any updates to such
9	information. The Bureau shall—
10	"(1) independently verify information submitted
11	by each agency; and
12	"(2) update the registry not less frequently than
13	annually."; and
14	(2) in the table of contents for such Act, as
15	amended by section 204, by adding at the end the fol-
16	lowing new item:

Union Calendar No. 288

116TH CONGRESS H. R. 3642

[Report No. 116-363]

A BILL

To amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to fix the consumer report dispute process, to ban misleading and unfair consumer reporting practices, and for other purposes.

December 23, 2019

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed