

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4483

To establish a coordinator within the Federal Trade Commission to prevent fraud and scams targeting or adversely affecting military veterans and servicemembers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2021

Miss RICE of New York (for herself and Mr. UPTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish a coordinator within the Federal Trade Commission to prevent fraud and scams targeting or adversely affecting military veterans and servicemembers, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans and Service-
5 member Consumer Protection Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. COORDINATOR FOR THE PREVENTION OF FRAUD**
2 **AND SCAMS TARGETING OR ADVERSELY AF-**
3 **FECTING VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF COORDINATOR.—The Chair-
5 man of the Federal Trade Commission shall designate a
6 coordinator (in this section referred to as the “coordi-
7 nator”) within the Bureau of Consumer Protection for the
8 purpose of advising the Commission on the prevention of
9 fraud and other scams targeting or adversely affecting
10 United States military veterans and servicemembers and
11 to assist the Commission with the following:

12 (1) OVERSIGHT.—The coordinator shall collabo-
13 rate with other staff of the Bureau of Consumer
14 Protection to monitor the market for fraud and
15 scams using mail, television, internet, telemarketing,
16 or recorded message telephone call (in this section
17 referred to as “robocall”) solicitations and mar-
18 keting that target or adversely affect United States
19 military veterans and servicemembers and shall as-
20 sist in coordinating with other relevant agencies as
21 appropriate regarding the requirements of this sec-
22 tion.

23 (2) CONSUMER EDUCATION.—The coordinator
24 shall, in consultation with the Attorney General, the
25 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of De-
26 fense, the Postmaster General, the Chief Postal In-

1 spectator for the United States Postal Inspection
2 Service, and other relevant agencies as appropriate,
3 coordinate and support the Commission's work to—

4 (A) disseminate to United States military
5 veterans and servicemembers and the families
6 and caregivers of such individuals general infor-
7 mation on fraud and scams using mail, tele-
8 vision, internet, telemarketing, or robocall so-
9 licitations and marketing that target or ad-
10 versely affect United States military veterans
11 and servicemembers, including descriptions of
12 the most common fraud and other scams;

13 (B) disseminate to United States military
14 veterans and servicemembers and the families
15 and caregivers of such individuals information
16 on reporting fraud and scams targeting or ad-
17 versely affecting United States military vet-
18 erans and servicemembers to
19 ReportFraud.ftc.gov (or another appropriate
20 website operated by the Commission, as deter-
21 mined by the Chairman of the Commission)
22 where such complaints will become available to
23 applicable law enforcement agencies, including
24 the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the at-
25 torneys general of the States;

1 (C) provide publicly available information
2 about enforcement actions taken by the Com-
3 mission related to fraud or scams using mail,
4 television, internet, telemarketing, or robocall
5 solicitations and marketing; and

6 (D) maintain a website to serve as a re-
7 source for information for United States mili-
8 tary veterans and servicemembers and the fami-
9 lies and caregivers of such individuals regarding
10 fraud or scams using mail, television, internet,
11 telemarketing, or robocall solicitations and mar-
12 keting, and other identified fraud and other
13 scams, that target or adversely affect United
14 States military veterans and servicemembers.

15 (3) COMPLAINTS.—The coordinator shall co-
16 ordinate and support the Commission’s establish-
17 ment of procedures to—

18 (A) review complaints by United States
19 military veterans and servicemembers who be-
20 lieve they have been a victim of fraud or scams
21 using mail, television, internet, telemarketing,
22 or robocall solicitations and marketing in the
23 Consumer Sentinel Network, and shall make
24 those complaints immediately available to appli-

1 cable Federal, State, and local law enforcement
2 authorities; and

3 (B) regularly update the Consumer Sen-
4 tinel Network’s Military Dashboard Report to
5 make public aggregated, general information on
6 reports of fraud and scams using mail, tele-
7 vision, internet, telemarketing, or robocall so-
8 licitations and marketing, including descriptions
9 of the most common fraud and other scams
10 using such methods of communication.

11 (b) COMMISSION DEFINED.—In this section, the term
12 “Commission” means the Federal Trade Commission.

13 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
14 on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment
15 of this Act.

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