

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 81

AN ACT

To establish an advisory office within the Bureau of Consumer Protection of the Federal Trade Commission to prevent fraud targeting seniors, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Seniors Fraud Preven-
3 tion Act of 2017”.

4 **SEC. 2. OFFICE FOR THE PREVENTION OF FRAUD TAR-**
5 **GETING SENIORS.**

6 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY OFFICE.**—The
7 Federal Trade Commission shall establish an office within
8 the Bureau of Consumer Protection for the purpose of ad-
9 vising the Commission on the prevention of fraud tar-
10 geting seniors and to assist the Commission with the fol-
11 lowing:

12 (1) **OVERSIGHT.**—The advisory office shall
13 monitor the market for mail, television, Internet,
14 telemarketing, and recorded message telephone call
15 (hereinafter referred to as “robocall”) fraud tar-
16 geting seniors and shall coordinate with other rel-
17 evant agencies regarding the requirements of this
18 section.

19 (2) **CONSUMER EDUCATION.**—The Commission
20 through the advisory office shall, in consultation
21 with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health
22 and Human Services, the Postmaster General, the
23 Chief Postal Inspector for the United States Postal
24 Inspection Service, and other relevant agencies—

25 (A) disseminate to seniors and families and
26 caregivers of seniors general information on

1 mail, television, Internet, telemarketing, and
2 robocall fraud targeting seniors, including de-
3 scriptions of the most common fraud schemes;

4 (B) disseminate to seniors and families
5 and caregivers of seniors information on report-
6 ing complaints of fraud targeting seniors either
7 to the national toll-free telephone number estab-
8 lished by the Commission for reporting such
9 complaints, or to the Consumer Sentinel Net-
10 work, operated by the Commission, where such
11 complaints will become immediately available to
12 appropriate law enforcement agencies, including
13 the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the at-
14 torneys general of the States;

15 (C) in response to a specific request about
16 a particular entity or individual, provide pub-
17 lically available information of enforcement ac-
18 tion taken by the Commission for mail, tele-
19 vision, Internet, telemarketing, and robocall
20 fraud against such entity; and

21 (D) maintain a website to serve as a re-
22 source for information for seniors and families
23 and caregivers of seniors regarding mail, tele-
24 vision, Internet, telemarketing, robocall, and
25 other identified fraud targeting seniors.

1 (3) COMPLAINTS.—The Commission through
 2 the advisory office shall, in consultation with the At-
 3 torney General, establish procedures to—

4 (A) log and acknowledge the receipt of
 5 complaints by individuals who believe they have
 6 been a victim of mail, television, Internet, tele-
 7 marketing, and robocall fraud in the Consumer
 8 Sentinel Network, and shall make those com-
 9 plaints immediately available to Federal, State,
 10 and local law enforcement authorities; and

11 (B) provide to individuals described in sub-
 12 paragraph (A), and to any other persons, spe-
 13 cific and general information on mail, television,
 14 Internet, telemarketing, and robocall fraud, in-
 15 cluding descriptions of the most common
 16 schemes using such methods of communication.

17 (b) COMMENCEMENT.—The Commission shall com-
 18 mence carrying out the requirements of this section not
 19 later than one year after the date of the enactment of this
 20 Act.

Passed the Senate August 2, 2017.

Attest:

Secretary.

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