

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4692

To amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to provide procedures for guidance issued by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to provide procedures for guidance issued by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, 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 “Give Useful Informa-
5 tion to Define Effective Compliance Act” or the “GUIDE
6 Compliance Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROCEDURES FOR BUREAU GUIDANCE.**

2 Section 1022(b) of the Consumer Financial Protec-
 3 tion Act of 2010 is amended by adding at the end the
 4 following:

5 “(5) PROCEDURES FOR BUREAU GUIDANCE.—

6 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

7 “(i) the term ‘Bureau’ means—

8 “(I) the Director of the Bureau;

9 “(II) the Deputy Director of the
 10 Bureau; and

11 “(III) any employee of the Bu-
 12 reau described in section
 13 1013(a)(1)(B); and

14 “(ii) the term ‘guidance’—

15 “(I) means—

16 “(aa) an agency statement
 17 of general applicability and fu-
 18 ture effect, other than a regu-
 19 latory action, that sets forth a
 20 policy on a statutory, regulatory,
 21 or technical issue or an interpre-
 22 tation of a statutory or regu-
 23 latory issue; and

24 “(bb) any written interpre-
 25 tive rule, bulletin, statement of
 26 policy, letter, examination man-

1 ual, frequently asked question,
2 notice, directive, news release,
3 blog post, small entity compliance
4 guide, or other authoritative doc-
5 ument issued by the Bureau re-
6 garding compliance with a Fed-
7 eral consumer financial law; and
8 “(II) does not include—

9 “(aa) a purely internal Bu-
10 reau policy;

11 “(bb) a law enforcement
12 communication such as a com-
13 plaint, consent order, judgment,
14 legal opinion, warning letter, in-
15 vestigatory letter, notice of hear-
16 ing, civil investigative demand,
17 subpoena, no-action letter, advi-
18 sory opinion, or any request in
19 lieu of the foregoing;

20 “(cc) an individualized su-
21 pervisory communication such as
22 a supervisory letter, report of ex-
23 amination, memorandum of un-
24 derstanding, board resolution,
25 matter requiring attention, or in-

dividualized communication or
agreement pursuant to the super-
visory authority of the Bureau;
or

“(dd) a decision issued
under subtitle E.

“(B) GUIDANCE REQUIREMENTS.—The Di-
rector shall issue guidance that is necessary or
appropriate to enable the Bureau to carry out
Federal consumer financial law, including facili-
tating compliance with such law.

“(C) RULEMAKING.—

“(i) PROPOSED RULE.—Not later
than 18 months after the date of enact-
ment of this paragraph, the Bureau shall
publish in the Federal Register and on the
website of the Bureau a proposed rule de-
fining—

“(I) each type of guidance the
Bureau shall provide;

“(II) the criteria the Bureau
shall use for selecting each type of
guidance;

“(III) the process and timelines
for requests for guidance;

1 “(IV) the time periods for the re-
2 sponse of the Bureau to a request for
3 each type of guidance; and

4 “(V) a process for amending or
5 revoking guidance issued under the
6 rule, including a process for public
7 input on any proposal to amend or re-
8 voke guidance, unless the Bureau de-
9 termines public input is not required
10 due to public exigency.

11 “(ii) FINAL RULE.—Not later than 1
12 year after the date on which the proposed
13 rule described in clause (i) is published,
14 the Bureau shall publish a final rule based
15 on the proposed rule.

16 “(D) RELIANCE ON BUREAU GUIDANCE.—
17 No person shall be held liable for any act done
18 or omitted in good faith in conformity with any
19 applicable guidance from the Bureau or any
20 predecessor agency that was in effect at the
21 time of the act or omission, even if the guidance
22 is later revoked, amended, or rendered incon-
23 sistent by guidance or action by the Bureau or
24 a determination by a court of competent juris-
25 diction.

“(E) DEVELOPMENT OF A PENALTY MA-
TRIX.—

“(i) PROPOSED RULE.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, the Bureau shall publish in the Federal Register and on the website of the Bureau a proposed rule establishing guidelines for determining the size of any civil monetary penalties issued by the Bureau based on the severity of the actionable conduct in violation of a Federal consumer financial law and the level of culpability. The regulations prescribed under this paragraph shall, to the extent possible, align with any chart, matrix, rule, or guideline published by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Corporation, or the Board of Governors.

“(ii) FINAL RULE.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the proposed rule described in clause (i) is published, the Bureau shall publish a final rule based on the proposed rule.”.

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