

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 424

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for penalties for the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information by officers or employees of the Supreme Court, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 20, 2023

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. BABIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for penalties for the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information by officers or employees of the Supreme Court, 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 “Leaker Accountability
5 Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. OBSTRUCTION OF SUPREME COURT DELIBERA-**
2 **TIONS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 73 of title 18, United
4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing new section:

6 **“SEC. 1522. OBSTRUCTION OF SUPREME COURT DELIBERA-**
7 **TIONS.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Whoever, while serving as an of-
9 ficer or employee of the Supreme Court, violates this sec-
10 tion by knowingly publishing, divulging, disclosing, or
11 making known in any manner or to any extent not author-
12 ized by law any confidential information coming to that
13 officer or employee in the course of the employment or
14 official duties of that officer or employee shall be impris-
15 oned not more than 5 years or fined under this title, or
16 both.

17 “(b) CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION DEFINED.—In
18 this section, the term ‘confidential information’ includes
19 internal notes on cases heard by the Supreme Court, any
20 communication between a Justice of the Supreme Court
21 and an employee or officer of the Supreme Court or com-
22 munication between officers and employees of the Su-
23 preme Court on a matter pending before the Supreme
24 Court, a draft opinion, a final opinion prior to the date
25 on which such opinion is released to the public, personal
26 information of a Justice of the Supreme Court that is not

1 otherwise legally available to the public, and any other in-
2 formation designated to be confidential by the Chief Jus-
3 tice of the Supreme Court prior to the date on which a
4 violation of subsection (a) occurs.”.

5 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of sections at
6 the beginning of chapter 73 of title 18, United States
7 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“1522. Obstruction of Supreme Court deliberations.”.

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