

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4617

AN ACT

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to clarify the obligation to report acts of foreign election influence and require implementation of compliance and reporting systems by Federal campaigns to detect and report such acts, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
 3 “Stopping Harmful Interference in Elections for a Lasting
 4 Democracy Act” or the “SHIELD Act”.

5 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of
 6 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—ENHANCED REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Subtitle A—Establishing Duty To Report Foreign Election Interference

Sec. 101. Federal campaign reporting of foreign contacts.

Sec. 102. Federal campaign foreign contact reporting compliance system.

Sec. 103. Criminal penalties.

Sec. 104. Report to congressional intelligence committees.

Sec. 105. Rule of construction.

Subtitle B—Strengthening Oversight of Online Political Advertising

Sec. 111. Short title.

Sec. 112. Purpose.

Sec. 113. Expansion of definition of public communication.

Sec. 114. Expansion of definition of electioneering communication.

Sec. 115. Application of disclaimer statements to online communications.

Sec. 116. Political record requirements for online platforms.

Sec. 117. Preventing contributions, expenditures, independent expenditures,
 and disbursements for electioneering communications by for-
 eign nationals in the form of online advertising.

Sec. 118. Independent study on media literacy and online political content con-
 sumption.

**TITLE II—CLOSING LOOPHOLES ALLOWING SPENDING BY
 FOREIGN NATIONALS IN ELECTIONS**

Sec. 201. Clarification of prohibition on participation by foreign nationals in
 election-related activities.

Sec. 202. Clarification of application of foreign money ban to certain disburse-
 ments and activities.

Sec. 203. Audit and report on illicit foreign money in Federal elections.

Sec. 204. Prohibition on contributions and donations by foreign nationals in
 connections with ballot initiatives and referenda.

Sec. 205. Expansion of limitations on foreign nationals participating in political
 advertising.

Sec. 206. Prohibiting establishment of corporation to conceal election contribu-
 tions and donations by foreign nationals.

TITLE III—DETECTING FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN ELECTIONS

Subtitle A—Deterrence Under Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971

- Sec. 301. Restrictions on exchange of campaign information between candidates and foreign powers.
- Sec. 302. Clarification of standard for determining existence of coordination between campaigns and outside interests.
- Sec. 303. Prohibition on provision of substantial assistance relating to contribution or donation by foreign nationals.

Subtitle B—Prohibiting Deceptive Practices and Preventing Voter Intimidation

- Sec. 311. Short title.
- Sec. 312. Prohibition on deceptive practices in Federal elections.
- Sec. 313. Corrective action.
- Sec. 314. Reports to Congress.

Subtitle C—Inadmissibility and Deportability of Aliens Engaging in Improper Election Interference

- Sec. 321. Inadmissibility and deportability of aliens engaging in improper interference in United States elections.

Subtitle D—Notifying States of Disinformation Campaigns by Foreign Nationals

- Sec. 331. Notifying States of disinformation campaigns by foreign nationals.

Subtitle E—Prohibiting Use of Deepfakes in Election Campaigns

- Sec. 341. Prohibition on distribution of materially deceptive audio or visual media prior to election.

Subtitle F—Assessment of Exemption of Registration Requirements Under FARA for Registered Lobbyists

- Sec. 351. Assessment of exemption of registration requirements under FARA for registered lobbyists.

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- Sec. 401. Effective dates of provisions.
- Sec. 402. Severability.

1 **TITLE I—ENHANCED**
 2 **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**
 3 **Subtitle A—Establishing Duty To**
 4 **Report Foreign Election Inter-**
 5 **ference**
 6 **SEC. 101. FEDERAL CAMPAIGN REPORTING OF FOREIGN**
 7 **CONTACTS.**

8 (a) INITIAL NOTICE.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 304 of the Federal
2 Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104)
3 is amended by adding at the end the following new
4 subsection:

5 “(j) DISCLOSURE OF REPORTABLE FOREIGN CON-
6 TACTS.—

7 “(1) COMMITTEE OBLIGATION TO NOTIFY.—
8 Not later than 1 week after a reportable foreign con-
9 tact, each political committee shall notify the Fed-
10 eral Bureau of Investigation and the Commission of
11 the reportable foreign contact and provide a sum-
12 mary of the circumstances with respect to such re-
13 portable foreign contact. The Federal Bureau of In-
14 vestigation, not later than 1 week after receiving a
15 notification from a political committee under this
16 paragraph, shall submit to the political committee,
17 the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of
18 the House of Representatives, and the Select Com-
19 mittee on Intelligence of the Senate written or elec-
20 tronic confirmation of receipt of the notification.

21 “(2) INDIVIDUAL OBLIGATION TO NOTIFY.—
22 Not later than 3 days after a reportable foreign con-
23 tact—

24 “(A) each candidate and each immediate
25 family member of a candidate shall notify the

1 treasurer or other designated official of the
2 principal campaign committee of such candidate
3 of the reportable foreign contact and provide a
4 summary of the circumstances with respect to
5 such reportable foreign contact; and

6 “(B) each official, employee, or agent of a
7 political committee shall notify the treasurer or
8 other designated official of the committee of the
9 reportable foreign contact and provide a sum-
10 mary of the circumstances with respect to such
11 reportable foreign contact.

12 “(3) REPORTABLE FOREIGN CONTACT.—In this
13 subsection:

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘reportable
15 foreign contact’ means any direct or indirect
16 contact or communication that—

17 “(i) is between—

18 “(I) a candidate, an immediate
19 family member of the candidate, a po-
20 litical committee, or any official, em-
21 ployee, or agent of such committee;
22 and

23 “(II) an individual that the per-
24 son described in subclause (I) knows,
25 has reason to know, or reasonably be-

1 believes is a covered foreign national;
2 and

3 “(ii) the person described in clause
4 (i)(I) knows, has reason to know, or rea-
5 sonably believes involves—

6 “(I) an offer or other proposal
7 for a contribution, donation, expendi-
8 ture, disbursement, or solicitation de-
9 scribed in section 319; or

10 “(II) coordination or collabora-
11 tion with, an offer or provision of in-
12 formation or services to or from, or
13 persistent and repeated contact with,
14 a covered foreign national in connec-
15 tion with an election.

16 “(B) EXCEPTIONS.—

17 “(i) CONTACTS IN OFFICIAL CAPACITY
18 AS ELECTED OFFICIAL.—The term ‘report-
19 able foreign contact’ shall not include any
20 contact or communication with a covered
21 foreign national by an elected official or an
22 employee of an elected official solely in an
23 official capacity as such an official or em-
24 ployee.

1 “(ii) CONTACTS FOR PURPOSES OF
2 ENABLING OBSERVATION OF ELECTIONS
3 BY INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS.—The
4 term ‘reportable foreign contact’ shall not
5 include any contact or communication with
6 a covered foreign national by any person
7 which is made for purposes of enabling the
8 observation of elections in the United
9 States by a foreign national or the obser-
10 vation of elections outside of the United
11 States by a candidate, political committee,
12 or any official, employee, or agent of such
13 committee.

14 “(iii) EXCEPTIONS NOT APPLICABLE
15 IF CONTACTS OR COMMUNICATIONS IN-
16 VOLVE PROHIBITED DISBURSEMENTS.—A
17 contact or communication by an elected of-
18 ficial or an employee of an elected official
19 shall not be considered to be made solely
20 in an official capacity for purposes of
21 clause (i), and a contact or communication
22 shall not be considered to be made for pur-
23 poses of enabling the observation of elec-
24 tions for purposes of clause (ii), if the con-
25 tact or communication involves a contribu-

1 tion, donation, expenditure, disbursement,
2 or solicitation described in section 319.

3 “(C) COVERED FOREIGN NATIONAL DE-
4 FINED.—

5 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In this paragraph,
6 the term ‘covered foreign national’
7 means—

8 “(I) a foreign principal (as de-
9 fined in section 1(b) of the Foreign
10 Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22
11 U.S.C. 611(b)) that is a government
12 of a foreign country or a foreign polit-
13 ical party;

14 “(II) any person who acts as an
15 agent, representative, employee, or
16 servant, or any person who acts in
17 any other capacity at the order, re-
18 quest, or under the direction or con-
19 trol, of a foreign principal described in
20 subclause (I) or of a person any of
21 whose activities are directly or indi-
22 rectly supervised, directed, controlled,
23 financed, or subsidized in whole or in
24 major part by a foreign principal de-
25 scribed in subclause (I); or

1 “(III) any person included in the
2 list of specially designated nationals
3 and blocked persons maintained by
4 the Office of Foreign Assets Control
5 of the Department of the Treasury
6 pursuant to authorities relating to the
7 imposition of sanctions relating to the
8 conduct of a foreign principal de-
9 scribed in subclause (I).

10 “(ii) CLARIFICATION REGARDING AP-
11 PLICATION TO CITIZENS OF THE UNITED
12 STATES.—In the case of a citizen of the
13 United States, subclause (II) of clause (i)
14 applies only to the extent that the person
15 involved acts within the scope of that per-
16 son’s status as the agent of a foreign prin-
17 cipal described in subclause (I) of clause
18 (i).

19 “(4) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER.—In this
20 subsection, the term ‘immediate family member’
21 means, with respect to a candidate, a parent, parent-
22 in-law, spouse, adult child, or sibling.”.

23 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
24 by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to report-

1 able foreign contacts which occur on or after the
2 date of the enactment of this Act.

3 (b) INFORMATION INCLUDED ON REPORT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 304(b) of such Act
5 (52 U.S.C. 30104(b)) is amended—

6 (A) by striking “and” at the end of para-
7 graph (7);

8 (B) by striking the period at the end of
9 paragraph (8) and inserting “; and”; and

10 (C) by adding at the end the following new
11 paragraph:

12 “(9) for any reportable foreign contact (as de-
13 fined in subsection (j)(3))—

14 “(A) the date, time, and location of the
15 contact;

16 “(B) the date and time of when a des-
17 ignated official of the committee was notified of
18 the contact;

19 “(C) the identity of individuals involved;
20 and

21 “(D) a description of the contact, including
22 the nature of any contribution, donation, ex-
23 penditure, disbursement, or solicitation involved
24 and the nature of any activity described in sub-
25 section (j)(3)(A)(ii)(II) involved.”.

1 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
2 by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to reports
3 filed on or after the expiration of the 60-day period
4 which begins on the date of the enactment of this
5 Act.

6 **SEC. 102. FEDERAL CAMPAIGN FOREIGN CONTACT RE-**
7 **PORTING COMPLIANCE SYSTEM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 302 of the Federal Elec-
9 tion Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30102) is amended
10 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

11 “(j) REPORTABLE FOREIGN CONTACTS COMPLIANCE
12 POLICY.—

13 “(1) REPORTING.—Each political committee
14 shall establish a policy that requires all officials, em-
15 ployees, and agents of such committee to notify the
16 treasurer or other appropriate designated official of
17 the committee of any reportable foreign contact (as
18 defined in section 304(j)) not later than 3 days after
19 such contact was made.

20 “(2) RETENTION AND PRESERVATION OF
21 RECORDS.—Each political committee shall establish
22 a policy that provides for the retention and preserva-
23 tion of records and information related to reportable
24 foreign contacts (as so defined) for a period of not
25 less than 3 years.

1 “(3) CERTIFICATION.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon filing its state-
3 ment of organization under section 303(a), and
4 with each report filed under section 304(a), the
5 treasurer of each political committee (other
6 than an authorized committee) shall certify
7 that—

8 “(i) the committee has in place poli-
9 cies that meet the requirements of para-
10 graphs (1) and (2);

11 “(ii) the committee has designated an
12 official to monitor compliance with such
13 policies; and

14 “(iii) not later than 1 week after the
15 beginning of any formal or informal affili-
16 ation with the committee, all officials, em-
17 ployees, and agents of such committee
18 will—

19 “(I) receive notice of such poli-
20 cies;

21 “(II) be informed of the prohibi-
22 tions under section 319; and

23 “(III) sign a certification affirm-
24 ing their understanding of such poli-
25 cies and prohibitions.

1 “(B) AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES.—With
2 respect to an authorized committee, the can-
3 didate shall make the certification required
4 under subparagraph (A).”.

5 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by
7 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to political
8 committees which file a statement of organization
9 under section 303(a) of the Federal Election Cam-
10 paign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30103(a)) on or after
11 the date of the enactment of this Act.

12 (2) TRANSITION RULE FOR EXISTING COMMIT-
13 TEES.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the
14 enactment of this Act, each political committee
15 under the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971
16 shall file a certification with the Federal Election
17 Commission that the committee is in compliance
18 with the requirements of section 302(j) of such Act
19 (as added by subsection (a)).

20 **SEC. 103. CRIMINAL PENALTIES.**

21 Section 309(d)(1) of the Federal Election Campaign
22 Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30109(d)(1)) is amended by add-
23 ing at the end the following new subparagraphs:

24 “(E) Any person who knowingly and willfully com-
25 mits a violation of subsection (j) or (b)(9) of section 304

1 or section 302(j) shall be fined not more than \$500,000,
2 imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

3 “(F) Any person who knowingly and willfully conceals
4 or destroys any materials relating to a reportable foreign
5 contact (as defined in section 304(j)) shall be fined not
6 more than \$1,000,000, imprisoned not more than 5 years,
7 or both.”.

8 **SEC. 104. REPORT TO CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE**
9 **COMMITTEES.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
11 date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
12 the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall
13 submit to the congressional intelligence committees a re-
14 port relating to notifications received by the Federal Bu-
15 reau of Investigation under section 304(j)(1) of the Fed-
16 eral Election Campaign Act of 1971 (as added by section
17 101(a) of this Act).

18 (b) ELEMENTS.—Each report under subsection (a)
19 shall include, at a minimum, the following with respect
20 to notifications described in subsection (a):

21 (1) The number of such notifications received
22 from political committees during the year covered by
23 the report.

24 (2) A description of protocols and procedures
25 developed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation re-

1 lating to receipt and maintenance of records relating
2 to such notifications.

3 (3) With respect to such notifications received
4 during the year covered by the report, a description
5 of any subsequent actions taken by the Director re-
6 sulting from the receipt of such notifications.

7 (c) CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES
8 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “congressional intel-
9 ligence committees” has the meaning given that term in
10 section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C.
11 3003).

12 **SEC. 105. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

13 Nothing in this subtitle or the amendments made by
14 this subtitle shall be construed—

15 (1) to impede legitimate journalistic activities;

16 or

17 (2) to impose any additional limitation on the
18 right to express political views or to participate in
19 public discourse of any individual who—

20 (A) resides in the United States;

21 (B) is not a citizen of the United States or
22 a national of the United States, as defined in
23 section 101(a)(22) of the Immigration and Na-
24 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(22)); and

1 (C) is not lawfully admitted for permanent
2 residence, as defined by section 101(a)(20) of
3 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
4 1101(a)(20)).

5 **Subtitle B—Strengthening Over-**
6 **sight of Online Political Adver-**
7 **tising**

8 **SEC. 111. SHORT TITLE.**

9 This subtitle may be cited as the “Honest Ads Act”.

10 **SEC. 112. PURPOSE.**

11 The purpose of this subtitle is to enhance the integ-
12 rity of American democracy and national security by im-
13 proving disclosure requirements for online political adver-
14 tisements in order to uphold the Supreme Court’s well-
15 established standard that the electorate bears the right to
16 be fully informed.

17 **SEC. 113. EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF PUBLIC COMMU-**
18 **NICATION.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (22) of section 301 of
20 the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C.
21 30101(22)) is amended by striking “or satellite commu-
22 nication” and inserting “satellite, paid internet, or paid
23 digital communication”.

1 (b) TREATMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDI-
2 TURES.—Section 301 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30101) is
3 amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (8)(B)(v), by striking “on
5 broadcasting stations, or in newspapers, magazines,
6 or similar types of general public political adver-
7 tising” and inserting “in any public communica-
8 tion”; and

9 (2) in paragraph (9)(B)—

10 (A) by amending clause (i) to read as fol-
11 lows:

12 “(i) any news story, commentary, or
13 editorial distributed through the facilities
14 of any broadcasting station or any print,
15 online, or digital newspaper, magazine,
16 blog, publication, or periodical, unless such
17 broadcasting, print, online, or digital facili-
18 ties are owned or controlled by any polit-
19 ical party, political committee, or can-
20 didate;” and

21 (B) in clause (iv), by striking “on broad-
22 casting stations, or in newspapers, magazines,
23 or similar types of general public political ad-
24 vertising” and inserting “in any public commu-
25 nication”.

1 (c) DISCLOSURE AND DISCLAIMER STATEMENTS.—
2 Subsection (a) of section 318 of such Act (52 U.S.C.
3 30120) is amended—

4 (1) by striking “financing any communication
5 through any broadcasting station, newspaper, maga-
6 zine, outdoor advertising facility, mailing, or any
7 other type of general public political advertising”
8 and inserting “financing any public communication”;
9 and

10 (2) by striking “solicits any contribution
11 through any broadcasting station, newspaper, maga-
12 zine, outdoor advertising facility, mailing, or any
13 other type of general public political advertising”
14 and inserting “solicits any contribution through any
15 public communication”.

16 **SEC. 114. EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF ELECTIONEERING**
17 **COMMUNICATION.**

18 (a) EXPANSION TO ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS.—

19 (1) APPLICATION TO QUALIFIED INTERNET AND
20 DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of
22 section 304(f)(3) of the Federal Election Cam-
23 paign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104(f)(3)(A))
24 is amended by striking “or satellite communica-
25 tion” each place it appears in clauses (i) and

1 (ii) and inserting “satellite, or qualified internet
2 or digital communication”.

3 (B) QUALIFIED INTERNET OR DIGITAL
4 COMMUNICATION.—Paragraph (3) of section
5 304(f) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30104(f)) is
6 amended by adding at the end the following
7 new subparagraph:

8 “(D) QUALIFIED INTERNET OR DIGITAL
9 COMMUNICATION.—The term ‘qualified internet
10 or digital communication’ means any commu-
11 nication which is placed or promoted for a fee
12 on an online platform (as defined in subsection
13 (k)(3)).”.

14 (2) NONAPPLICATION OF RELEVANT ELEC-
15 TORATE TO ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS.—Section
16 304(f)(3)(A)(i)(III) of such Act (52 U.S.C.
17 30104(f)(3)(A)(i)(III)) is amended by inserting “any
18 broadcast, cable, or satellite” before “communica-
19 tion”.

20 (3) NEWS EXEMPTION.—Section
21 304(f)(3)(B)(i) of such Act (52 U.S.C.
22 30104(f)(3)(B)(i)) is amended to read as follows:

23 “(i) a communication appearing in a
24 news story, commentary, or editorial dis-
25 tributed through the facilities of any

1 broadcasting station or any online or dig-
2 ital newspaper, magazine, blog, publica-
3 tion, or periodical, unless such broad-
4 casting, online, or digital facilities are
5 owned or controlled by any political party,
6 political committee, or candidate;”.

7 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
8 this section shall apply with respect to communications
9 made on or after January 1, 2020.

10 **SEC. 115. APPLICATION OF DISCLAIMER STATEMENTS TO**
11 **ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS.**

12 (a) CLEAR AND CONSPICUOUS MANNER REQUIRE-
13 MENT.—Subsection (a) of section 318 of the Federal Elec-
14 tion Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30120(a)) is
15 amended—

16 (1) by striking “shall clearly state” each place
17 it appears in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) and in-
18 serting “shall state in a clear and conspicuous man-
19 ner”; and

20 (2) by adding at the end the following flush
21 sentence: “For purposes of this section, a commu-
22 nication does not make a statement in a clear and
23 conspicuous manner if it is difficult to read or hear
24 or if the placement is easily overlooked.”.

1 (b) SPECIAL RULES FOR QUALIFIED INTERNET OR
2 DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 318 of such Act (52
4 U.S.C. 30120) is amended by adding at the end the
5 following new subsection:

6 “(e) SPECIAL RULES FOR QUALIFIED INTERNET OR
7 DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS.—

8 “(1) SPECIAL RULES WITH RESPECT TO STATE-
9 MENTS.—In the case of any communication to which
10 this section applies which is a qualified internet or
11 digital communication (as defined in section
12 304(f)(3)(D)) which is disseminated through a me-
13 dium in which the provision of all of the information
14 specified in this section is not possible, the commu-
15 nication shall, in a clear and conspicuous manner—

16 “(A) state the name of the person who
17 paid for the communication; and

18 “(B) provide a means for the recipient of
19 the communication to obtain the remainder of
20 the information required under this section with
21 minimal effort and without receiving or viewing
22 any additional material other than such re-
23 quired information.

24 “(2) SAFE HARBOR FOR DETERMINING CLEAR
25 AND CONSPICUOUS MANNER.—A statement in a

1 qualified internet or digital communication (as de-
2 fined in section 304(f)(3)(D)) shall be considered to
3 be made in a clear and conspicuous manner as pro-
4 vided in subsection (a) if the communication meets
5 the following requirements:

6 “(A) TEXT OR GRAPHIC COMMUNICA-
7 TIONS.—In the case of a text or graphic com-
8 munication, the statement—

9 “(i) appears in letters at least as large
10 as the majority of the text in the commu-
11 nication; and

12 “(ii) meets the requirements of para-
13 graphs (2) and (3) of subsection (c).

14 “(B) AUDIO COMMUNICATIONS.—In the
15 case of an audio communication, the statement
16 is spoken in a clearly audible and intelligible
17 manner at the beginning or end of the commu-
18 nication and lasts at least 3 seconds.

19 “(C) VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS.—In the
20 case of a video communication which also in-
21 cludes audio, the statement—

22 “(i) is included at either the beginning
23 or the end of the communication; and

24 “(ii) is made both in—

1 “(I) a written format that meets
2 the requirements of subparagraph (A)
3 and appears for at least 4 seconds;
4 and

5 “(II) an audible format that
6 meets the requirements of subpara-
7 graph (B).

8 “(D) OTHER COMMUNICATIONS.—In the
9 case of any other type of communication, the
10 statement is at least as clear and conspicuous
11 as the statement specified in subparagraph (A),
12 (B), or (C).”.

13 (2) NONAPPLICATION OF CERTAIN EXCEP-
14 TIONS.—The exceptions provided in section
15 110.11(f)(1)(i) and (ii) of title 11, Code of Federal
16 Regulations, or any successor to such rules, shall
17 have no application to qualified internet or digital
18 communications (as defined in section 304(f)(3)(D)
19 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as
20 added by this Act).

21 (c) MODIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
22 FOR CERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS.—Section 318(d) of such
23 Act (52 U.S.C. 30120(d)) is amended—

24 (1) in paragraph (1)(A)—

1 (A) by striking “which is transmitted
2 through radio” and inserting “which is in an
3 audio format”; and

4 (B) by striking “BY RADIO” in the heading
5 and inserting “AUDIO FORMAT”;

6 (2) in paragraph (1)(B)—

7 (A) by striking “which is transmitted
8 through television” and inserting “which is in
9 video format”; and

10 (B) by striking “BY TELEVISION” in the
11 heading and inserting “VIDEO FORMAT”; and

12 (3) in paragraph (2)—

13 (A) by striking “transmitted through radio
14 or television” and inserting “made in audio or
15 video format”; and

16 (B) by striking “through television” in the
17 second sentence and inserting “in video for-
18 mat”.

19 **SEC. 116. POLITICAL RECORD REQUIREMENTS FOR ONLINE**
20 **PLATFORMS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 304 of the Federal Elec-
22 tion Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104), as amend-
23 ed by section 101(a), is further amended by adding at the
24 end the following new subsection:

1 “(k) DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN ONLINE ADVERTISE-
2 MENTS.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

4 “(A) REQUIREMENTS FOR ONLINE PLAT-
5 FORMS.—An online platform shall maintain,
6 and make available for online public inspection
7 in machine readable format, a complete record
8 of any request to purchase on such online plat-
9 form a qualified political advertisement which is
10 made by a person whose aggregate requests to
11 purchase qualified political advertisements on
12 such online platform during the calendar year
13 exceeds \$500.

14 “(B) REQUIREMENTS FOR ADVER-
15 TISERS.—Any person who requests to purchase
16 a qualified political advertisement on an online
17 platform shall provide the online platform with
18 such information as is necessary for the online
19 platform to comply with the requirements of
20 subparagraph (A).

21 “(2) CONTENTS OF RECORD.—A record main-
22 tained under paragraph (1)(A) shall contain—

23 “(A) a digital copy of the qualified political
24 advertisement;

1 “(B) a description of the audience targeted
2 by the advertisement, the number of views gen-
3 erated from the advertisement, and the date
4 and time that the advertisement is first dis-
5 played and last displayed; and

6 “(C) information regarding—

7 “(i) the average rate charged for the
8 advertisement;

9 “(ii) the name of the candidate to
10 which the advertisement refers and the of-
11 fice to which the candidate is seeking elec-
12 tion, the election to which the advertise-
13 ment refers, or the national legislative
14 issue to which the advertisement refers (as
15 applicable);

16 “(iii) in the case of a request made
17 by, or on behalf of, a candidate, the name
18 of the candidate, the authorized committee
19 of the candidate, and the treasurer of such
20 committee; and

21 “(iv) in the case of any request not
22 described in clause (iii), the name of the
23 person purchasing the advertisement, the
24 name and address of a contact person for
25 such person, a list of the chief executive of-

1 ficers or members of the executive com-
2 mittee or of the board of directors of such
3 person, and, if the person purchasing the
4 advertisement is acting as the agent of a
5 foreign principal under the Foreign Agents
6 Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22
7 U.S.C. 611 et seq.), a statement that the
8 person is acting as the agent of a foreign
9 principal and the identification of the for-
10 eign principal involved.

11 “(3) ONLINE PLATFORM.—For purposes of this
12 subsection, the term ‘online platform’ means any
13 public-facing website, web application, or digital ap-
14 plication (including a social network, ad network, or
15 search engine) which—

16 “(A) sells qualified political advertise-
17 ments; and

18 “(B) has 50,000,000 or more unique
19 monthly United States visitors or users for a
20 majority of months during the preceding 12
21 months.

22 “(4) QUALIFIED POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT.—
23 For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘qualified
24 political advertisement’ means any advertisement
25 (including search engine marketing, display adver-

1 tisements, video advertisements, native advertise-
2 ments, and sponsorships) that—

3 “(A) is made by or on behalf of a can-
4 didate; or

5 “(B) communicates a message relating to
6 any political matter of national importance, in-
7 cluding—

8 “(i) a candidate;

9 “(ii) any election to Federal office; or

10 “(iii) a national legislative issue of
11 public importance.

12 “(5) TIME TO MAINTAIN FILE.—The informa-
13 tion required under this subsection shall be made
14 available as soon as possible and shall be retained by
15 the online platform for a period of not less than 4
16 years.

17 “(6) SAFE HARBOR FOR PLATFORMS MAKING
18 BEST EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY REQUESTS WHICH ARE
19 SUBJECT TO RECORD MAINTENANCE REQUIRE-
20 MENTS.—In accordance with rules established by the
21 Commission, if an online platform shows that the
22 platform used best efforts to determine whether or
23 not a request to purchase a qualified political adver-
24 tisement was subject to the requirements of this sub-

1 section, the online platform shall not be considered
2 to be in violation of such requirements.

3 “(7) PENALTIES.—For penalties for failure by
4 online platforms, and persons requesting to purchase
5 a qualified political advertisement on online plat-
6 forms, to comply with the requirements of this sub-
7 section, see section 309.”.

8 (b) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 120 days after the
9 date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Election
10 Commission shall establish rules—

11 (1) requiring common data formats for the
12 record required to be maintained under section
13 304(k) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of
14 1971 (as added by subsection (a)) so that all online
15 platforms submit and maintain data online in a com-
16 mon, machine-readable and publicly accessible for-
17 mat;

18 (2) establishing search interface requirements
19 relating to such record, including searches by can-
20 didate name, issue, purchaser, and date; and

21 (3) establishing the criteria for the safe harbor
22 exception provided under paragraph (6) of section
23 304(k) of such Act (as added by subsection (a)).

24 (c) REPORTING.—Not later than 2 years after the
25 date of the enactment of this Act, and biannually there-

1 after, the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission
2 shall submit a report to Congress on—

3 (1) matters relating to compliance with and the
4 enforcement of the requirements of section 304(k) of
5 the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as
6 added by subsection (a);

7 (2) recommendations for any modifications to
8 such section to assist in carrying out its purposes;
9 and

10 (3) identifying ways to bring transparency and
11 accountability to political advertisements distributed
12 online for free.

13 **SEC. 117. PREVENTING CONTRIBUTIONS, EXPENDITURES,**
14 **INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES, AND DIS-**
15 **BURSEMENTS FOR ELECTIONEERING COM-**
16 **MUNICATIONS BY FOREIGN NATIONALS IN**
17 **THE FORM OF ONLINE ADVERTISING.**

18 Section 319 of the Federal Election Campaign Act
19 of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121) is amended by adding at the
20 end the following new subsection:

21 “(c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF BROADCAST STATIONS,
22 PROVIDERS OF CABLE AND SATELLITE TELEVISION, AND
23 ONLINE PLATFORMS.—

24 “(1) RESPONSIBILITIES DESCRIBED.—Each tel-
25 evision or radio broadcast station, provider of cable

1 or satellite television, or online platform (as defined
2 in section 304(k)(3)) shall make reasonable efforts
3 to ensure that communications described in section
4 318(a) and made available by such station, provider,
5 or platform are not purchased by a foreign national,
6 directly or indirectly. For purposes of the previous
7 sentence, a station, provider, or online platform shall
8 not be considered to have made reasonable efforts
9 under this paragraph in the case of the availability
10 of a communication unless the station, provider, or
11 online platform directly inquires from the individual
12 or entity making such purchase whether the pur-
13 chase is to be made by a foreign national, directly
14 or indirectly.

15 “(2) SPECIAL RULES FOR DISBURSEMENT PAID
16 WITH CREDIT CARD.—For purposes of paragraph
17 (1), a television or radio broadcast station, provider
18 of cable or satellite television, or online platform
19 shall be considered to have made reasonable efforts
20 under such paragraph in the case of a purchase of
21 the availability of a communication which is made
22 with a credit card if—

23 “(A) the individual or entity making such
24 purchase is required, at the time of making

1 such purchase, to disclose the credit verification
2 value of such credit card; and

3 “(B) the billing address associated with
4 such credit card is located in the United States
5 or, in the case of a purchase made by an indi-
6 vidual who is a United States citizen living out-
7 side of the United States, the individual pro-
8 vides the television or radio broadcast station,
9 provider of cable or satellite television, or online
10 platform with the United States mailing ad-
11 dress the individual uses for voter registration
12 purposes.”.

13 **SEC. 118. INDEPENDENT STUDY ON MEDIA LITERACY AND**
14 **ONLINE POLITICAL CONTENT CONSUMPTION.**

15 (a) INDEPENDENT STUDY.—Not later than 30 days
16 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Elec-
17 tion Commission shall commission an independent study
18 and report on media literacy with respect to online polit-
19 ical content consumption among voting-age Americans.

20 (b) ELEMENTS.—The study and report under sub-
21 section (a) shall include the following:

22 (1) An evaluation of media literacy skills, such
23 as the ability to evaluate sources, synthesize multiple
24 accounts into a coherent understanding of an issue,
25 understand the context of communications, and re-

1 sponsibly create and share information, among vot-
2 ing-age Americans.

3 (2) An analysis of the effects of media literacy
4 education and particular media literacy skills on the
5 ability to critically consume online political content,
6 including political advertising.

7 (3) Recommendations for improving voting-age
8 Americans' ability to critically consume online polit-
9 ical content, including political advertising.

10 (c) DEADLINE.—Not later than 270 days after the
11 date of enactment of this Act, the entity conducting the
12 study and report under subsection (a) shall submit the re-
13 port to the Commission.

14 (d) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30
15 days after receiving the report under subsection (c), the
16 Commission shall submit the report to the Committee on
17 House Administration of the House of Representatives
18 and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the
19 Senate, together with such comments on the report as the
20 Commission considers appropriate.

21 (e) DEFINITION OF MEDIA LITERACY.—The term
22 “media literacy” means the ability to—

23 (1) access relevant and accurate information
24 through media;

1 (2) critically analyze media content and the in-
2 fluences of media;

3 (3) evaluate the comprehensiveness, relevance,
4 credibility, authority, and accuracy of information;

5 (4) make educated decisions based on informa-
6 tion obtained from media and digital sources;

7 (5) operate various forms of technology and
8 digital tools; and

9 (6) reflect on how the use of media and tech-
10 nology may affect private and public life.

11 **TITLE II—CLOSING LOOPHOLES**
12 **ALLOWING SPENDING BY**
13 **FOREIGN NATIONALS IN**
14 **ELECTIONS**

15 **SEC. 201. CLARIFICATION OF PROHIBITION ON PARTICIPA-**
16 **TION BY FOREIGN NATIONALS IN ELECTION-**
17 **RELATED ACTIVITIES.**

18 (a) CLARIFICATION OF PROHIBITION.—Section
19 319(a) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52
20 U.S.C. 30121(a)) is amended—

21 (1) by striking “or” at the end of paragraph
22 (1);

23 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-
24 graph (2) and inserting “; or”; and

1 (3) by adding at the end the following new
2 paragraph:

3 “(3) a foreign national to direct, dictate, con-
4 trol, or directly or indirectly participate in the deci-
5 sion making process of any person (including a cor-
6 poration, labor organization, political committee, or
7 political organization) with regard to such person’s
8 Federal or non-Federal election-related activity, in-
9 cluding any decision concerning the making of con-
10 tributions, donations, expenditures, or disbursements
11 in connection with an election for any Federal,
12 State, or local office or any decision concerning the
13 administration of a political committee.”.

14 (b) CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE.—Section 319
15 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30121), as amended by section
16 117, is further amended by adding at the end the following
17 new subsection:

18 “(d) CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE REQUIRED
19 PRIOR TO CARRYING OUT ACTIVITY.—Prior to the mak-
20 ing in connection with an election for Federal office of any
21 contribution, donation, expenditure, independent expendi-
22 ture, or disbursement for an electioneering communication
23 by a corporation, labor organization (as defined in section
24 316(b)), limited liability corporation, or partnership dur-
25 ing a year, the chief executive officer of the corporation,

1 labor organization, limited liability corporation, or part-
2 nership (or, if the corporation, labor organization, limited
3 liability corporation, or partnership does not have a chief
4 executive officer, the highest ranking official of the cor-
5 poration, labor organization, limited liability corporation,
6 or partnership), shall file a certification with the Commis-
7 sion, under penalty of perjury, that a foreign national did
8 not direct, dictate, control, or directly or indirectly partici-
9 pate in the decision making process relating to such activ-
10 ity in violation of subsection (a)(3), unless the chief execu-
11 tive officer has previously filed such a certification during
12 that calendar year.”.

13 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
14 this section shall take effect upon the expiration of the
15 180-day period which begins on the date of the enactment
16 of this Act.

17 **SEC. 202. CLARIFICATION OF APPLICATION OF FOREIGN**
18 **MONEY BAN TO CERTAIN DISBURSEMENTS**
19 **AND ACTIVITIES.**

20 (a) APPLICATION TO DISBURSEMENTS TO SUPER
21 PACS.—Section 319(a)(1)(A) of the Federal Election
22 Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121(a)(1)(A)) is
23 amended by striking the semicolon and inserting the fol-
24 lowing: “, including any disbursement to a political com-
25 mittee which accepts donations or contributions that do

1 not comply with the limitations, prohibitions, and report-
2 ing requirements of this Act (or any disbursement to or
3 on behalf of any account of a political committee which
4 is established for the purpose of accepting such donations
5 or contributions);”.

6 (b) CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH CORPORATE PACS
7 MAY MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES.—Sec-
8 tion 316(b) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30118(b)) is amended
9 by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

10 “(8) A separate segregated fund established by a cor-
11 poration may not make a contribution or expenditure dur-
12 ing a year unless the fund has certified to the Commission
13 the following during the year:

14 “(A) Each individual who manages the fund,
15 and who is responsible for exercising decisionmaking
16 authority for the fund, is a citizen of the United
17 States or is lawfully admitted for permanent resi-
18 dence in the United States.

19 “(B) No foreign national under section 319
20 participates in any way in the decisionmaking proc-
21 esses of the fund with regard to contributions or ex-
22 penditures under this Act.

23 “(C) The fund does not solicit or accept rec-
24 ommendations from any foreign national under sec-

1 tion 319 with respect to the contributions or expend-
2 itures made by the fund.

3 “(D) Any member of the board of directors of
4 the corporation who is a foreign national under sec-
5 tion 319 abstains from voting on matters concerning
6 the fund or its activities.”.

7 **SEC. 203. AUDIT AND REPORT ON ILLICIT FOREIGN MONEY**
8 **IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Federal Election
10 Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101 et seq.) is
11 amended by inserting after section 319 the following new
12 section:

13 **“SEC. 319A. AUDIT AND REPORT ON DISBURSEMENTS BY**
14 **FOREIGN NATIONALS.**

15 “(a) AUDIT.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall con-
17 duct an audit after each Federal election cycle to de-
18 termine the incidence of illicit foreign money in such
19 Federal election cycle.

20 “(2) PROCEDURES.—In carrying out paragraph
21 (1), the Commission shall conduct random audits of
22 any disbursements required to be reported under
23 this Act, in accordance with procedures established
24 by the Commission.

1 “(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the end
2 of each Federal election cycle, the Commission shall sub-
3 mit to Congress a report containing—

4 “(1) results of the audit required by subsection
5 (a)(1);

6 “(2) an analysis of the extent to which illicit
7 foreign money was used to carry out disinformation
8 and propaganda campaigns focused on depressing
9 turnout among rural communities and the success or
10 failure of these efforts, together with recommenda-
11 tions to address these efforts in future elections;

12 “(3) an analysis of the extent to which illicit
13 foreign money was used to carry out disinformation
14 and propaganda campaigns focused on depressing
15 turnout among African-American and other minority
16 communities and the success or failure of these ef-
17 forts, together with recommendations to address
18 these efforts in future elections;

19 “(4) an analysis of the extent to which illicit
20 foreign money was used to carry out disinformation
21 and propaganda campaigns focused on influencing
22 military and veteran communities and the success or
23 failure of these efforts, together with recommenda-
24 tions to address these efforts in future elections; and

1 “(5) recommendations to address the presence
2 of illicit foreign money in elections, as appropriate.

3 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section:

4 “(1) The term ‘Federal election cycle’ means
5 the period which begins on the day after the date of
6 a regularly scheduled general election for Federal of-
7 fice and which ends on the date of the first regularly
8 scheduled general election for Federal office held
9 after such date.

10 “(2) The term ‘illicit foreign money’ means any
11 disbursement by a foreign national (as defined in
12 section 319(b)) prohibited under such section.”.

13 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
14 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to the Federal elec-
15 tion cycle that began during November 2018, and each
16 succeeding Federal election cycle.

17 **SEC. 204. PROHIBITION ON CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONA-**
18 **TIONS BY FOREIGN NATIONALS IN CONNEX-**
19 **TIONS WITH BALLOT INITIATIVES AND**
20 **REFERENDA.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 319(a)(1)(A) of the Fed-
22 eral Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C.
23 30121(a)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “election” and in-
24 serting the following: “election, including a State or local
25 ballot initiative or referendum”.

1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
2 this section shall apply with respect to elections held in
3 2020 or any succeeding year.

4 **SEC. 205. EXPANSION OF LIMITATIONS ON FOREIGN NA-**
5 **TIONALS PARTICIPATING IN POLITICAL AD-**
6 **VERTISING.**

7 (a) DISBURSEMENTS DESCRIBED.—Section
8 319(a)(1) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971
9 (52 U.S.C. 30121(a)(1)) is amended—

10 (1) by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph
11 (B); and

12 (2) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting
13 the following:

14 “(C) an expenditure;

15 “(D) an independent expenditure;

16 “(E) a disbursement for an electioneering
17 communication (within the meaning of section
18 304(f)(3));

19 “(F) a disbursement for a communication
20 which is placed or promoted for a fee on a
21 website, web application, or digital application
22 that refers to a clearly identified candidate for
23 election for Federal office and is disseminated
24 within 60 days before a general, special or run-
25 off election for the office sought by the can-

1 didate or 30 days before a primary or pref-
2 erence election, or a convention or caucus of a
3 political party that has authority to nominate a
4 candidate for the office sought by the can-
5 didate;

6 “(G) a disbursement for a broadcast, cable
7 or satellite communication, or for a communica-
8 tion which is placed or promoted for a fee on
9 a website, web application, or digital applica-
10 tion, that promotes, supports, attacks or op-
11 poses the election of a clearly identified can-
12 didate for Federal, State, or local office (re-
13 gardless of whether the communication contains
14 express advocacy or the functional equivalent of
15 express advocacy);

16 “(H) a disbursement for a broadcast,
17 cable, or satellite communication, or for any
18 communication which is placed or promoted for
19 a fee on an online platform (as defined in sec-
20 tion 304(k)(3)), that discusses a national legis-
21 lative issue of public importance in a year in
22 which a regularly scheduled general election for
23 Federal office is held, but only if the disburse-
24 ment is made by a covered foreign national de-
25 scribed in section 304(j)(3)(C); or

1 “(I) a disbursement by a covered foreign
2 national described in section 304(j)(3)(C) to
3 compensate any person for internet activity that
4 promotes, supports, attacks or opposes the elec-
5 tion of a clearly identified candidate for Fed-
6 eral, State, or local office (regardless of whether
7 the activity communication contains express ad-
8 vocacy or the functional equivalent of express
9 advocacy);”.

10 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
11 this section shall apply with respect to disbursements
12 made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

13 **SEC. 206. PROHIBITING ESTABLISHMENT OF CORPORATION**
14 **TO CONCEAL ELECTION CONTRIBUTIONS**
15 **AND DONATIONS BY FOREIGN NATIONALS.**

16 (a) PROHIBITION.—Chapter 29 of title 18, United
17 States Code is amended by adding at the end the fol-
18 lowing:

19 **“§ 612. Establishment of corporation to conceal elec-**
20 **tion contributions and donations by for-**
21 **oreign nationals**

22 “(a) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful for an owner,
23 officer, attorney, or incorporation agent of a corporation,
24 company, or other entity to establish or use the corpora-
25 tion, company, or other entity with the intent to conceal

1 an activity of a foreign national (as defined in section 319
2 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C.
3 30121)) prohibited under such section 319.

4 “(b) PENALTY.—Any person who violates subsection
5 (a) shall be imprisoned for not more than 5 years, fined
6 under this title, or both.”.

7 (b) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for
8 chapter 29 of title 18, United States Code, is amended
9 by inserting after the item relating to section 611 the fol-
10 lowing:

“612. Establishment of corporation to conceal election contributions and dona-
tions by foreign nationals.”.

11 **TITLE III—DETECTING FOREIGN**
12 **INTERFERENCE IN ELECTIONS**
13 **Subtitle A—Deterrence Under Fed-**
14 **eral Election Campaign Act of**
15 **1971**

16 **SEC. 301. RESTRICTIONS ON EXCHANGE OF CAMPAIGN IN-**
17 **FORMATION BETWEEN CANDIDATES AND**
18 **FOREIGN POWERS.**

19 Section 319 of the Federal Election Campaign Act
20 of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121), as amended by section 117
21 and section 201(b), is further amended by adding at the
22 end the following new subsection:

23 “(e) RESTRICTIONS ON EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION
24 BETWEEN CANDIDATES AND FOREIGN POWERS.—

1 “(1) TREATMENT OF OFFER TO SHARE NON-
2 PUBLIC CAMPAIGN MATERIAL AS SOLICITATION OF
3 CONTRIBUTION FROM FOREIGN NATIONAL.—If a
4 candidate or an individual affiliated with the cam-
5 paign of a candidate, or if a political committee or
6 an individual affiliated with a political committee,
7 provides or offers to provide nonpublic campaign
8 material to a covered foreign national or to another
9 person whom the candidate, committee, or individual
10 knows or has reason to know will provide the mate-
11 rial to a covered foreign national, the candidate,
12 committee, or individual (as the case may be) shall
13 be considered for purposes of this section to have so-
14 licited a contribution or donation described in sub-
15 section (a)(1)(A) from a foreign national.

16 “(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the fol-
17 lowing definitions apply:

18 “(A) The term ‘candidate’ means an indi-
19 vidual who seeks nomination for, or election to,
20 any Federal, State, or local public office.

21 “(B) The term ‘covered foreign national’
22 has the meaning given such term in section
23 304(j)(3)(C).

24 “(C) The term ‘individual affiliated with a
25 campaign’ means, with respect to a candidate,

1 an employee of any organization legally author-
2 ized under Federal, State, or local law to sup-
3 port the candidate’s campaign for nomination
4 for, or election to, any Federal, State, or local
5 public office, as well as any independent con-
6 tractor of such an organization and any indi-
7 vidual who performs services on behalf of the
8 organization, whether paid or unpaid.

9 “(D) The term ‘individual affiliated with a
10 political committee’ means, with respect to a
11 political committee, an employee of the com-
12 mittee as well as any independent contractor of
13 the committee and any individual who performs
14 services on behalf of the committee, whether
15 paid or unpaid.

16 “(E) The term ‘nonpublic campaign mate-
17 rial’ means, with respect to a candidate or a po-
18 litical committee, campaign material that is
19 produced by the candidate or the committee or
20 produced at the candidate or committee’s ex-
21 pense or request which is not distributed or
22 made available to the general public or other-
23 wise in the public domain, including polling and
24 focus group data and opposition research, ex-
25 cept that such term does not include material

1 produced for purposes of consultations relating
2 solely to the candidate's or committee's position
3 on a legislative or policy matter.”.

4 **SEC. 302. CLARIFICATION OF STANDARD FOR DETER-**
5 **MINING EXISTENCE OF COORDINATION BE-**
6 **TWEEN CAMPAIGNS AND OUTSIDE INTER-**
7 **ESTS.**

8 Section 315(a) of the Federal Election Campaign Act
9 of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30116(a)) is amended by adding at
10 the end the following new paragraph:

11 “(10) For purposes of paragraph (7), an expenditure
12 or disbursement may be considered to have been made in
13 cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or coordinated
14 with, a person without regard to whether or not the co-
15 operation, consultation, or coordination is carried out pur-
16 suant to agreement or formal collaboration.”.

17 **SEC. 303. PROHIBITION ON PROVISION OF SUBSTANTIAL**
18 **ASSISTANCE RELATING TO CONTRIBUTION**
19 **OR DONATION BY FOREIGN NATIONALS.**

20 Section 319 of the Federal Election Campaign Act
21 of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121), as amended by section 117,
22 section 201(a), section 201(b), and section 301, is further
23 amended—

24 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) by striking “or” at the end of para-
2 graph (2);

3 (B) by striking the period at the end of
4 paragraph (3) and inserting “; or”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(4) a person to knowingly provide substantial
7 assistance to another person in carrying out an ac-
8 tivity described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3).”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
10 sections:

11 “(f) KNOWINGLY DESCRIBED.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection
13 (a)(4), the term ‘knowingly’ means actual knowl-
14 edge, constructive knowledge, awareness of pertinent
15 facts that would lead a reasonable person to con-
16 clude there is a substantial probability, or awareness
17 of pertinent facts that would lead a reasonable per-
18 son to conduct a reasonable inquiry to establish—

19 “(A) with respect to an activity described
20 in subsection (a)(1), that the contribution, do-
21 nation, expenditure, independent expenditure,
22 or disbursement is from a foreign national;

23 “(B) with respect to an activity described
24 in subsection (a)(2), that the contribution or

1 donation solicited, accepted, or received is from
2 a foreign national; and

3 “(C) with respect to an activity described
4 in subsection (a)(3), that the person directing,
5 dictating, controlling, or directly or indirectly
6 participating in the decision making process is
7 a foreign national.

8 “(2) PERTINENT FACTS.—For purposes of
9 paragraph (1), pertinent facts include, but are not
10 limited to, that the person making the contribution,
11 donation, expenditure, independent expenditure, or
12 disbursement, or that the person from whom the
13 contribution or donation is solicited, accepted, or re-
14 ceived, or that the person directing, dictating, con-
15 trolling, or directly or indirectly participating in the
16 decision making process—

17 “(A) uses a foreign passport or passport
18 number for identification purposes;

19 “(B) provides a foreign address;

20 “(C) uses a check or other written instru-
21 ment drawn on a foreign bank, or by a wire
22 transfer from a foreign bank, in carrying out
23 the activity; or

24 “(D) resides abroad.

1 “(g) SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE DEFINED.—As used
2 in this section, the term ‘substantial assistance’ means,
3 with respect to an activity prohibited by paragraph (1),
4 (2), or (3) of subsection (a), involvement with an intent
5 to facilitate successful completion of the activity.”.

6 **Subtitle B—Prohibiting Deceptive**
7 **Practices and Preventing Voter**
8 **Intimidation**

9 **SEC. 311. SHORT TITLE.**

10 This subtitle may be cited as the “Deceptive Prac-
11 tices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act of 2019”.

12 **SEC. 312. PROHIBITION ON DECEPTIVE PRACTICES IN FED-**
13 **ERAL ELECTIONS.**

14 (a) PROHIBITION.—Subsection (b) of section 2004 of
15 the Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10101(b)) is amended—

16 (1) by striking “No person” and inserting the
17 following:

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—No person”; and

19 (2) by inserting at the end the following new
20 paragraphs:

21 “(2) FALSE STATEMENTS REGARDING FEDERAL
22 ELECTIONS.—

23 “(A) PROHIBITION.—No person, whether
24 acting under color of law or otherwise, shall,
25 within 90 days before an election described in

1 paragraph (5), by any means, including by
2 means of written, electronic, or telephonic com-
3 munications, communicate or cause to be com-
4 municated information described in subpara-
5 graph (B), or produce information described in
6 subparagraph (B) with the intent that such in-
7 formation be communicated, if such person—

8 “(i) knows such information to be ma-
9 terially false; and

10 “(ii) has the intent to impede or pre-
11 vent another person from exercising the
12 right to vote in an election described in
13 paragraph (5).

14 “(B) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—Infor-
15 mation is described in this subparagraph if such
16 information is regarding—

17 “(i) the time, place, or manner of
18 holding any election described in para-
19 graph (5); or

20 “(ii) the qualifications for or restric-
21 tions on voter eligibility for any such elec-
22 tion, including—

23 “(I) any criminal penalties asso-
24 ciated with voting in any such elec-
25 tion; or

1 “(II) information regarding a
2 voter’s registration status or eligi-
3 bility.

4 “(3) FALSE STATEMENTS REGARDING PUBLIC
5 ENDORSEMENTS.—

6 “(A) PROHIBITION.—No person, whether
7 acting under color of law or otherwise, shall,
8 within 90 days before an election described in
9 paragraph (5), by any means, including by
10 means of written, electronic, or telephonic com-
11 munications, communicate, or cause to be com-
12 municated, a materially false statement about
13 an endorsement, if such person—

14 “(i) knows such statement to be false;
15 and

16 “(ii) has the intent to impede or pre-
17 vent another person from exercising the
18 right to vote in an election described in
19 paragraph (5).

20 “(B) DEFINITION OF ‘MATERIALLY
21 FALSE’.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), a
22 statement about an endorsement is ‘materially
23 false’ if, with respect to an upcoming election
24 described in paragraph (5)—

1 “(i) the statement states that a spe-
2 cifically named person, political party, or
3 organization has endorsed the election of a
4 specific candidate for a Federal office de-
5 scribed in such paragraph; and

6 “(ii) such person, political party, or
7 organization has not endorsed the election
8 of such candidate.

9 “(4) HINDERING, INTERFERING WITH, OR PRE-
10 VENTING VOTING OR REGISTERING TO VOTE.—No
11 person, whether acting under color of law or other-
12 wise, shall intentionally hinder, interfere with, or
13 prevent another person from voting, registering to
14 vote, or aiding another person to vote or register to
15 vote in an election described in paragraph (5).

16 “(5) ELECTION DESCRIBED.—An election de-
17 scribed in this paragraph is any general, primary,
18 run-off, or special election held solely or in part for
19 the purpose of nominating or electing a candidate
20 for the office of President, Vice President, presi-
21 dential elector, Member of the Senate, Member of
22 the House of Representatives, or Delegate or Com-
23 missioner from a Territory or possession.”.

24 (b) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section
2 2004 of the Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10101(e))
3 is amended—

4 (A) by striking “Whenever any person”
5 and inserting the following:

6 “(1) Whenever any person”; and

7 (B) by adding at the end the following new
8 paragraph:

9 “(2) Any person aggrieved by a violation of
10 subsection (b)(2), (b)(3), or (b)(4) may institute a
11 civil action for preventive relief, including an appli-
12 cation in a United States district court for a perma-
13 nent or temporary injunction, restraining order, or
14 other order. In any such action, the court, in its dis-
15 cretion, may allow the prevailing party a reasonable
16 attorney’s fee as part of the costs.”.

17 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

18 (A) Subsection (e) of section 2004 of the
19 Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10101(e)) is
20 amended by striking “subsection (e)” and in-
21 serting “subsection (e)(1)”.

22 (B) Subsection (g) of section 2004 of the
23 Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10101(g)) is
24 amended by striking “subsection (e)” and in-
25 serting “subsection (e)(1)”.

1 (c) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—

2 (1) DECEPTIVE ACTS.—Section 594 of title 18,
3 United States Code, is amended—

4 (A) by striking “Whoever” and inserting
5 the following:

6 “(a) INTIMIDATION.—Whoever”;

7 (B) in subsection (a), as inserted by sub-
8 paragraph (A), by striking “at any election”
9 and inserting “at any general, primary, run-off,
10 or special election”; and

11 (C) by adding at the end the following new
12 subsections:

13 “(b) DECEPTIVE ACTS.—

14 “(1) FALSE STATEMENTS REGARDING FEDERAL
15 ELECTIONS.—

16 “(A) PROHIBITION.—It shall be unlawful
17 for any person, whether acting under color of
18 law or otherwise, within 90 days before an elec-
19 tion described in subsection (e), by any means,
20 including by means of written, electronic, or tel-
21 ephonic communications, to communicate or
22 cause to be communicated information de-
23 scribed in subparagraph (B), or produce infor-
24 mation described in subparagraph (B) with the

1 intent that such information be communicated,
2 if such person—

3 “(i) knows such information to be ma-
4 terially false; and

5 “(ii) has the intent to mislead voters,
6 or the intent to impede or prevent another
7 person from exercising the right to vote in
8 an election described in subsection (e).

9 “(B) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—Infor-
10 mation is described in this subparagraph if such
11 information is regarding—

12 “(i) the time or place of holding any
13 election described in subsection (e); or

14 “(ii) the qualifications for or restric-
15 tions on voter eligibility for any such elec-
16 tion, including—

17 “(I) any criminal penalties asso-
18 ciated with voting in any such elec-
19 tion; or

20 “(II) information regarding a
21 voter’s registration status or eligi-
22 bility.

23 “(2) PENALTY.—Any person who violates para-
24 graph (1) shall be fined not more than \$100,000,
25 imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.

1 “(c) HINDERING, INTERFERING WITH, OR PRE-
2 VENTING VOTING OR REGISTERING TO VOTE.—

3 “(1) PROHIBITION.—It shall be unlawful for
4 any person, whether acting under color of law or
5 otherwise, to intentionally hinder, interfere with, or
6 prevent another person from voting, registering to
7 vote, or aiding another person to vote or register to
8 vote in an election described in subsection (e).

9 “(2) PENALTY.—Any person who violates para-
10 graph (1) shall be fined not more than \$100,000,
11 imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.

12 “(d) ATTEMPT.—Any person who attempts to commit
13 any offense described in subsection (a), (b)(1), or (c)(1)
14 shall be subject to the same penalties as those prescribed
15 for the offense that the person attempted to commit.

16 “(e) ELECTION DESCRIBED.—An election described
17 in this subsection is any general, primary, run-off, or spe-
18 cial election held solely or in part for the purpose of nomi-
19 nating or electing a candidate for the office of President,
20 Vice President, presidential elector, Member of the Senate,
21 Member of the House of Representatives, or Delegate or
22 Commissioner from a Territory or possession.”.

23 (2) MODIFICATION OF PENALTY FOR VOTER IN-
24 TIMIDATION.—Section 594(a) of title 18, United
25 States Code, as amended by paragraph (1), is

1 amended by striking “fined under this title or im-
2 prisoned not more than one year” and inserting
3 “fined not more than \$100,000, imprisoned for not
4 more than 5 years”.

5 (3) SENTENCING GUIDELINES.—

6 (A) REVIEW AND AMENDMENT.—Not later
7 than 180 days after the date of enactment of
8 this Act, the United States Sentencing Commis-
9 sion, pursuant to its authority under section
10 994 of title 28, United States Code, and in ac-
11 cordance with this section, shall review and, if
12 appropriate, amend the Federal sentencing
13 guidelines and policy statements applicable to
14 persons convicted of any offense under section
15 594 of title 18, United States Code, as amend-
16 ed by this section.

17 (B) AUTHORIZATION.—The United States
18 Sentencing Commission may amend the Federal
19 Sentencing Guidelines in accordance with the
20 procedures set forth in section 21(a) of the Sen-
21 tencing Act of 1987 (28 U.S.C. 994 note) as
22 though the authority under that section had not
23 expired.

24 (4) PAYMENTS FOR REFRAINING FROM VOT-
25 ING.—Subsection (c) of section 11 of the Voting

1 Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10307) is amended
2 by striking “either for registration to vote or for vot-
3 ing” and inserting “for registration to vote, for vot-
4 ing, or for not voting”.

5 **SEC. 313. CORRECTIVE ACTION.**

6 (a) CORRECTIVE ACTION.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Attorney General re-
8 ceives a credible report that materially false informa-
9 tion has been or is being communicated in violation
10 of paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 2004(b) of the
11 Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10101(b)), as added by
12 section 312(a), and if the Attorney General deter-
13 mines that State and local election officials have not
14 taken adequate steps to promptly communicate accu-
15 rate information to correct the materially false infor-
16 mation, the Attorney General shall, pursuant to the
17 written procedures and standards under subsection
18 (b), communicate to the public, by any means, in-
19 cluding by means of written, electronic, or telephonic
20 communications, accurate information designed to
21 correct the materially false information.

22 (2) COMMUNICATION OF CORRECTIVE INFORMA-
23 TION.—Any information communicated by the Attor-
24 ney General under paragraph (1)—

25 (A) shall—

1 (i) be accurate and objective;

2 (ii) consist of only the information
3 necessary to correct the materially false in-
4 formation that has been or is being com-
5 municated; and

6 (iii) to the extent practicable, be by a
7 means that the Attorney General deter-
8 mines will reach the persons to whom the
9 materially false information has been or is
10 being communicated; and

11 (B) shall not be designed to favor or dis-
12 favor any particular candidate, organization, or
13 political party.

14 (b) WRITTEN PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS FOR
15 TAKING CORRECTIVE ACTION.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
17 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney
18 General shall publish written procedures and stand-
19 ards for determining when and how corrective action
20 will be taken under this section.

21 (2) INCLUSION OF APPROPRIATE DEADLINES.—
22 The procedures and standards under paragraph (1)
23 shall include appropriate deadlines, based in part on
24 the number of days remaining before the upcoming
25 election.

1 (3) CONSULTATION.—In developing the proce-
2 dures and standards under paragraph (1), the Attor-
3 ney General shall consult with the Election Assist-
4 ance Commission, State and local election officials,
5 civil rights organizations, voting rights groups, voter
6 protection groups, and other interested community
7 organizations.

8 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
9 are authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General
10 such sums as may be necessary to carry out this subtitle.

11 **SEC. 314. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after
13 each general election for Federal office, the Attorney Gen-
14 eral shall submit to Congress a report compiling all allega-
15 tions received by the Attorney General of deceptive prac-
16 tices described in paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of section
17 2004(b) of the Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10101(b)), as
18 added by section 312(a), relating to the general election
19 for Federal office and any primary, run-off, or a special
20 election for Federal office held in the 2 years preceding
21 the general election.

22 (b) CONTENTS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each report submitted
24 under subsection (a) shall include—

1 (A) a description of each allegation of a
2 deceptive practice described in subsection (a),
3 including the geographic location, racial and
4 ethnic composition, and language minority-
5 group membership of the persons toward whom
6 the alleged deceptive practice was directed;

7 (B) the status of the investigation of each
8 allegation described in subparagraph (A);

9 (C) a description of each corrective action
10 taken by the Attorney General under section
11 4(a) in response to an allegation described in
12 subparagraph (A);

13 (D) a description of each referral of an al-
14 legation described in subparagraph (A) to other
15 Federal, State, or local agencies;

16 (E) to the extent information is available,
17 a description of any civil action instituted under
18 section 2004(c)(2) of the Revised Statutes (52
19 U.S.C. 10101(c)(2)), as added by section
20 312(b), in connection with an allegation de-
21 scribed in subparagraph (A); and

22 (F) a description of any criminal prosecu-
23 tion instituted under section 594 of title 18,
24 United States Code, as amended by section
25 3(e), in connection with the receipt of an allega-

1 tion described in subparagraph (A) by the At-
2 torney General.

3 (2) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General
5 shall not include in a report submitted under
6 subsection (a) any information protected from
7 disclosure by rule 6(e) of the Federal Rules of
8 Criminal Procedure or any Federal criminal
9 statute.

10 (B) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN OTHER IN-
11 FORMATION.—The Attorney General may deter-
12 mine that the following information shall not be
13 included in a report submitted under subsection
14 (a):

15 (i) Any information that is privileged.

16 (ii) Any information concerning an
17 ongoing investigation.

18 (iii) Any information concerning a
19 criminal or civil proceeding conducted
20 under seal.

21 (iv) Any other nonpublic information
22 that the Attorney General determines the
23 disclosure of which could reasonably be ex-
24 pected to infringe on the rights of any in-

1 dividual or adversely affect the integrity of
2 a pending or future criminal investigation.

3 (c) REPORT MADE PUBLIC.—On the date that the
4 Attorney General submits the report under subsection (a),
5 the Attorney General shall also make the report publicly
6 available through the Internet and other appropriate
7 means.

8 **Subtitle C—Inadmissibility and De-**
9 **portability of Aliens Engaging**
10 **in Improper Election Inter-**
11 **ference**

12 **SEC. 321. INADMISSIBILITY AND DEPORTABILITY OF**
13 **ALIENS ENGAGING IN IMPROPER INTER-**
14 **ERENCE IN UNITED STATES ELECTIONS.**

15 (a) INADMISSIBILITY.—Section 212(a)(3) of the Im-
16 migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)) is
17 amended by adding at the end the following:

18 “(H) IMPROPER INTERFERENCE IN A
19 UNITED STATES ELECTION.—Any alien who a
20 consular officer, the Secretary of Homeland Se-
21 curity, the Secretary of State, or the Attorney
22 General knows, or has reasonable grounds to
23 believe, is seeking admission to the United
24 States to engage in improper interference in a
25 United States election, or has engaged in im-

1 proper interference in a United States election,
2 is inadmissible.”.

3 (b) DEPORTABILITY.—Section 237(a) of such Act (8
4 U.S.C. 1227(a)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(8) IMPROPER INTERFERENCE IN A UNITED
7 STATES ELECTION.—Any alien who has engaged, is
8 engaged, or at any time after admission engages in
9 improper interference in a United States election is
10 deportable.”.

11 (c) DEFINITION.—Section 101(a) of such Act (8
12 U.S.C. 1101(a)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(53) The term ‘improper interference in a
15 United States election’ means conduct by an alien
16 that—

17 “(A)(i) violates Federal criminal, voting
18 rights, or campaign finance law; or

19 “(ii) is performed by any person acting as
20 an agent of or on behalf of a foreign govern-
21 ment or criminal enterprise; and

22 “(B) includes any covert, fraudulent, de-
23 ceptive, or unlawful act or attempted act, un-
24 dertaken with the purpose or effect of under-
25 mining public confidence in election processes

1 or institutions, or influencing, undermining con-
2 fidence in, or altering the result or reported re-
3 sult of, a general or primary Federal, State, or
4 local election or caucus, including—

5 “(i) the campaign of a candidate; or

6 “(ii) a ballot measure, including an
7 amendment, a bond issue, an initiative, a
8 recall, a referral, or a referendum.”.

9 **Subtitle D—Notifying States of**
10 **Disinformation Campaigns by**
11 **Foreign Nationals**

12 **SEC. 331. NOTIFYING STATES OF DISINFORMATION CAM-**
13 **PAIGNS BY FOREIGN NATIONALS.**

14 (a) **REQUIRING DISCLOSURE.**—If the Federal Elec-
15 tion Commission makes a determination that a foreign na-
16 tional has initiated or has attempted to initiate a
17 disinformation campaign targeted at an election for public
18 office held in a State, the Commission shall notify the
19 State involved of the determination not later than 30 days
20 after making the determination.

21 (b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section the term “foreign
22 national” has the meaning given such term in section
23 319(b) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52
24 U.S.C. 30121(b)).

1 **Subtitle E—Prohibiting Use of**
2 **Deepfakes in Election Campaigns**

3 **SEC. 341. PROHIBITION ON DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALLY**
4 **DECEPTIVE AUDIO OR VISUAL MEDIA PRIOR**
5 **TO ELECTION.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Federal Election
7 Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101 et seq.), as
8 amended by section 203, is further amended by adding
9 at the end the following new section:

10 **“SEC. 325. PROHIBITION ON DISTRIBUTION OF MATERI-**
11 **ALLY DECEPTIVE MEDIA PRIOR TO ELEC-**
12 **TION.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in sub-
14 sections (b) and (c), a person, political committee, or other
15 entity shall not, within 60 days of a election for Federal
16 office at which a candidate for elective office will appear
17 on the ballot, distribute, with actual malice, materially de-
18 ceptive audio or visual media of the candidate with the
19 intent to injure the candidate’s reputation or to deceive
20 a voter into voting for or against the candidate.

21 “(b) EXCEPTION.—

22 “(1) REQUIRED LANGUAGE.—The prohibition
23 in subsection (a) does not apply if the audio or vis-
24 ual media includes—

1 “(A) a disclosure stating: “This
2 _____ has been manipulated.”; and

3 “(B) filled in the blank in the disclosure
4 under subparagraph (A), the term ‘image’,
5 ‘video’, or ‘audio’, as most accurately describes
6 the media.

7 “(2) VISUAL MEDIA.—For visual media, the
8 text of the disclosure shall appear in a size that is
9 easily readable by the average viewer and no smaller
10 than the largest font size of other text appearing in
11 the visual media. If the visual media does not in-
12 clude any other text, the disclosure shall appear in
13 a size that is easily readable by the average viewer.
14 For visual media that is video, the disclosure shall
15 appear for the duration of the video.

16 “(3) AUDIO-ONLY MEDIA.—If the media con-
17 sists of audio only, the disclosure shall be read in a
18 clearly spoken manner and in a pitch that can be
19 easily heard by the average listener, at the beginning
20 of the audio, at the end of the audio, and, if the
21 audio is greater than 2 minutes in length, inter-
22 spersed within the audio at intervals of not greater
23 than 2 minutes each.

24 “(c) INAPPLICABILITY TO CERTAIN ENTITIES.—This
25 section does not apply to the following:

1 “(1) A radio or television broadcasting station,
2 including a cable or satellite television operator, pro-
3 grammer, or producer, that broadcasts materially
4 deceptive audio or visual media prohibited by this
5 section as part of a bona fide newscast, news inter-
6 view, news documentary, or on-the-spot coverage of
7 bona fide news events, if the broadcast clearly ac-
8 knowledges through content or a disclosure, in a
9 manner that can be easily heard or read by the aver-
10 age listener or viewer, that there are questions about
11 the authenticity of the materially deceptive audio or
12 visual media.

13 “(2) A radio or television broadcasting station,
14 including a cable or satellite television operator, pro-
15 grammer, or producer, when it is paid to broadcast
16 materially deceptive audio or visual media.

17 “(3) An internet website, or a regularly pub-
18 lished newspaper, magazine, or other periodical of
19 general circulation, including an internet or elec-
20 tronic publication, that routinely carries news and
21 commentary of general interest, and that publishes
22 materially deceptive audio or visual media prohibited
23 by this section, if the publication clearly states that
24 the materially deceptive audio or visual media does

1 not accurately represent the speech or conduct of the
2 candidate.

3 “(4) Materially deceptive audio or visual media
4 that constitutes satire or parody.

5 “(d) CIVIL ACTION.—

6 “(1) INJUNCTIVE OR OTHER EQUITABLE RE-
7 LIEF.—A candidate for elective office whose voice or
8 likeness appears in a materially deceptive audio or
9 visual media distributed in violation of this section
10 may seek injunctive or other equitable relief prohib-
11 iting the distribution of audio or visual media in vio-
12 lation of this section. An action under this para-
13 graph shall be entitled to precedence in accordance
14 with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

15 “(2) DAMAGES.—A candidate for elective office
16 whose voice or likeness appears in a materially de-
17 ceptive audio or visual media distributed in violation
18 of this section may bring an action for general or
19 special damages against the person, committee, or
20 other entity that distributed the materially deceptive
21 audio or visual media. The court may also award a
22 prevailing party reasonable attorney’s fees and costs.
23 This paragraph shall not be construed to limit or
24 preclude a plaintiff from securing or recovering any
25 other available remedy.

1 “(3) BURDEN OF PROOF.—In any civil action
2 alleging a violation of this section, the plaintiff shall
3 bear the burden of establishing the violation through
4 clear and convincing evidence.

5 “(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This section shall
6 not be construed to alter or negate any rights, obligations,
7 or immunities of an interactive service provider under sec-
8 tion 230 of title 47, United States Code.

9 “(f) MATERIALLY DECEPTIVE AUDIO OR VISUAL
10 MEDIA DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘materially
11 deceptive audio or visual media’ means an image or an
12 audio or video recording of a candidate’s appearance,
13 speech, or conduct that has been intentionally manipulated
14 in a manner such that both of the following conditions
15 are met:

16 “(1) The image or audio or video recording
17 would falsely appear to a reasonable person to be
18 authentic.

19 “(2) The image or audio or video recording
20 would cause a reasonable person to have a fun-
21 damentally different understanding or impression of
22 the expressive content of the image or audio or video
23 recording than that person would have if the person
24 were hearing or seeing the unaltered, original
25 version of the image or audio or video recording.”.

1 (b) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—Section 309(d)(1) of the
2 Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C.
3 30109(d)(1)), as amended by section 103, is further
4 amended by adding at the end the following new subpara-
5 graph:

6 “(G) Any person who knowingly and will-
7 fully commits a violation of section 325 shall be
8 fined not more than \$100,000, imprisoned not
9 more than 5 years, or both.”.

10 (c) EFFECT ON DEFAMATION ACTION.—For pur-
11 poses of an action for defamation, a violation of section
12 325 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as
13 added by subsection (a), shall constitute defamation per
14 se.

15 **Subtitle F—Assessment of Exemp-**
16 **tion of Registration Require-**
17 **ments Under FARA for Reg-**
18 **istered Lobbyists**

19 **SEC. 351. ASSESSMENT OF EXEMPTION OF REGISTRATION**
20 **REQUIREMENTS UNDER FARA FOR REG-**
21 **ISTERED LOBBYISTS.**

22 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
23 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
24 States shall conduct and submit to Congress an assess-
25 ment of the implications of the exemption provided under

1 the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended
2 (22 U.S.C. 611 et seq.) for agents of foreign principals
3 who are also registered lobbyists under the Lobbying Dis-
4 closure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), and shall
5 include in the assessment an analysis of the extent to
6 which revisions in such Acts might mitigate the risk of
7 foreign government money influencing elections or political
8 processes in the United States.

9 **TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS**
10 **PROVISIONS**

11 **SEC. 401. EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROVISIONS.**

12 Each provision of this Act and each amendment made
13 by a provision of this Act shall take effect on the effective
14 date provided under this Act for such provision or such
15 amendment without regard to whether or not the Federal
16 Election Commission, the Attorney General, or any other
17 person has promulgated regulations to carry out such pro-
18 vision or such amendment.

19 **SEC. 402. SEVERABILITY.**

20 If any provision of this Act or any amendment made
21 by this Act, or the application of a provision of this Act
22 or an amendment made by this Act to any person or cir-
23 cumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder
24 of this Act, and the application of the provisions to any

1 person or circumstance, shall not be affected by the hold-
2 ing.

Passed the House of Representatives October 23,
2019.

Attest:

Clerk.

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4617

AN ACT

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to clarify the obligation to report acts of foreign election influence and require implementation of compliance and reporting systems by Federal campaigns to detect and report such acts, and for other purposes.