

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2671

To amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to specify certain effects of guidelines, general statements of policy, and similar guidance issued by the Federal Trade Commission.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 20, 2021

Mr. ARMSTRONG introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to specify certain effects of guidelines, general statements of policy, and similar guidance issued by the Federal Trade Commission.

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 “Solidifying Habitual
5 and Institutional Explanations of Liability and Defenses
6 Act” or the “SHIELD Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EFFECTS OF GUIDELINES, GENERAL STATEMENTS**
2 **OF POLICY, AND SIMILAR GUIDANCE.**

3 Section 18(a) of the Federal Trade Commission Act
4 (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)) is amended by adding at the end the
5 following:

6 “(3)(A) No guidelines, general statements of policy,
7 or similar guidance issued by the Commission shall confer
8 any rights upon any person, State, or locality, nor shall
9 operate to bind the Commission or any person, State, or
10 locality to the approach recommended in such guidelines,
11 general statements of policy, or similar guidance. In any
12 enforcement action, the Commission shall prove a violation
13 of a provision of law enforced by the Commission. The
14 Commission may not base an enforcement action on, or
15 execute a consent order based on, acts or practices that
16 are alleged to be inconsistent with any such guidelines,
17 general statements of policy, or similar guidance, unless
18 the acts or practices violate a provision of law enforced
19 by the Commission.

20 “(B) In any enforcement action, a defendant may
21 offer as evidence of compliance with a provision of law en-
22 forced by the Commission, any guidelines, general state-
23 ments of policy, or similar guidance issued by the Commis-
24 sion pursuant to that law.”

25 “(C) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to
26 confer any authority upon or negate any authority of the

- 1 Commission to issue guidelines, general statements of pol-
- 2 icy, or similar guidance.”.

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