

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 529

To establish in the Department of Justice the Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Task Force to address mortgage fraud in the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 14, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish in the Department of Justice the Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Task Force to address mortgage fraud in the United States, 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 “Nationwide Mortgage
5 Fraud Task Force Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONWIDE MORTGAGE FRAUD TASK FORCE.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
8 Department of Justice the Nationwide Mortgage Fraud
9 Task Force (hereinafter referred to in this section as the

1 “Task Force”) to address mortgage fraud in the United
2 States.

3 (b) SUPPORT.—The Attorney General shall provide
4 the Task Force with the appropriate staff, administrative
5 support, and other resources necessary to carry out the
6 duties of the Task Force.

7 (c) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Attorney General
8 shall appoint one staff member provided to the Task Force
9 to be the Executive Director of the Task Force and such
10 Executive Director shall ensure that the duties of the Task
11 Force are carried out.

12 (d) BRANCHES.—The Task Force shall establish,
13 oversee, and direct branches in each of the 10 States de-
14 termined by the Attorney General to have the highest con-
15 centration of mortgage fraud.

16 (e) MANDATORY FUNCTIONS.—The Task Force, in-
17 cluding the branches of the Task Force established under
18 subsection (d), shall—

19 (1) establish coordinating entities, and solicit
20 the voluntary participation of Federal, State, and
21 local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies in
22 such entities, to organize initiatives to address mort-
23 gage fraud, including initiatives to enforce State
24 mortgage fraud laws and other related Federal and
25 State laws;

1 (2) provide training to Federal, State, and local
2 law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies with re-
3 spect to mortgage fraud, including related Federal
4 and State laws;

5 (3) collect and disseminate data with respect to
6 mortgage fraud, including Federal, State, and local
7 data relating to mortgage fraud investigations and
8 prosecutions; and

9 (4) perform other functions determined by the
10 Attorney General to enhance the detection of, pre-
11 vention of, and response to mortgage fraud in the
12 United States.

13 (f) OPTIONAL FUNCTIONS.—The Task Force, includ-
14 ing the branches of the Task Force established under sub-
15 section (d), may—

16 (1) initiate and coordinate Federal mortgage
17 fraud investigations and, through the coordinating
18 entities established under subsection (e), State and
19 local mortgage fraud investigations;

20 (2) establish a toll-free hotline for—

21 (A) reporting mortgage fraud;

22 (B) providing the public with access to in-
23 formation and resources with respect to mort-
24 gage fraud; and

1 (C) directing reports of mortgage fraud to
2 the appropriate Federal, State, and local law
3 enforcement and prosecutorial agency, including
4 to the appropriate branch of the Task Force es-
5 tablished under subsection (d);

6 (3) create a database with respect to suspen-
7 sions and revocations of mortgage industry licenses
8 and certifications to facilitate the sharing of such in-
9 formation by States;

10 (4) make recommendations with respect to the
11 need for and resources available to provide the
12 equipment and training necessary for the Task
13 Force to combat mortgage fraud; and

14 (5) propose legislation to Federal, State, and
15 local legislative bodies with respect to the elimination
16 and prevention of mortgage fraud, including meas-
17 ures to address mortgage loan procedures and prop-
18 erty appraiser practices that provide opportunities
19 for mortgage fraud.

20 (g) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “mort-
21 gage fraud” means a material misstatement, misrepresen-
22 tation, or omission relating to the property or potential
23 mortgage relied on by an underwriter or lender to fund,
24 purchase, or insure a loan.

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