

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6627

To amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to require the application of the administrative and judicial dispute-resolution procedures to registered lobbyists for claims alleging sexual harassment or sexual assault, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 7, 2022

Mr. GAETZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to require the application of the administrative and judicial dispute-resolution procedures to registered lobbyists for claims alleging sexual harassment or sexual assault, 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 “Lobbyist Account-
5 ability Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL**
2 **DISPUTE-RESOLUTION PROCEDURES FOR**
3 **CERTAIN CLAIMS AGAINST REGISTERED LOB-**
4 **BYISTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Congressional Ac-
6 countability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) is amend-
7 ed by adding at the end the following new section:

8 **“SEC. 418. APPLICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDI-**
9 **CIAL DISPUTE-RESOLUTION PROCEDURES TO**
10 **REGISTERED LOBBYISTS.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a claim by a cov-
12 ered employee alleging sexual harassment or sexual as-
13 sault by an individual who is a registered lobbyist under
14 the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et
15 seq.), the lobbying firm (as such term is defined in section
16 3 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 1602)) that employs such reg-
17 istered lobbyist shall be deemed an employing office for
18 the purpose of the application of the procedures under this
19 title for the consideration of any such claim.

20 “(b) REMEDY.—The remedy with respect to an alle-
21 gation described in subsection (a) shall be—

22 “(1) such remedy as would be appropriate if
23 awarded under section 706(g) of the Civil Rights
24 Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e–5(g)); and

25 “(2) such compensatory damages as would be
26 appropriate if awarded under section 1977 of the

1 Revised Statutes (42 U.S.C. 1981), or as would be
2 appropriate if awarded under sections 1977A(a)(1),
3 1977A(b)(2), and, irrespective of the size of the em-
4 ploying office, 1977A(b)(3)(D) of the Revised Stat-
5 utes (42 U.S.C. 1981a(a)(1), 1981a(b)(2), and
6 1981a(b)(3)(D)).

7 “(c) REIMBURSEMENT FOR PAYMENT OF AWARD OR
8 SETTLEMENT.—If a payment is made from the account
9 described in section 415(a) for an award or settlement in
10 connection with a claim described in subsection (a), the
11 lobbying firm that employs such individual shall reimburse
12 the account for the amount of the award or settlement
13 for the claim involved.”.

14 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

15 (1) FILING AND REVIEW OF CLAIMS.—Section
16 401 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995
17 (2 U.S.C. 1401) is amended—

18 (A) in subsection (a), by inserting “or an
19 allegation described in section 418(a)” after
20 “part A of title II”; and

21 (B) in subsection (e), by inserting “or an
22 allegation described in section 418(a)” after
23 “the consideration of an alleged violation of
24 part A of title II”.

1 (2) INITIATION OF PROCEDURES.—Section
2 402(a)(1) of the Congressional Accountability Act of
3 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1402(a)(1)) is amended by inserting
4 “or an allegation described in section 418(a)” after
5 “under part A of title II”.

6 (3) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Section 407(a)(1)(A)
7 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2
8 U.S.C. 1407(a)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting “or
9 an allegation described in section 418(a)” after
10 “arising under part A of title II”.

11 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
12 of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating
13 to section 417 the following new item:

 “Sec. 418. Application of administrative and judicial dispute-resolution proce-
 dures to registered lobbyists.”.

14 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amend-
15 ments made by this section shall apply to any claims filed
16 or payments made on or after the date of the enactment
17 of this Act.

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