

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7799

To regulate the posting of personal information of government officials on the internet, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 2022

Mr. HILL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Reform, House Administration, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To regulate the posting of personal information of government officials on the internet, 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 “Public Servant Protec-
5 tion Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. PRIVACY OF PERSONAL INFORMATION OF GOVERN-**
7 **MENT OFFICIALS.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL.—The term “gov-
2 ernment official” means—

3 (A) any officer or employee described in
4 section 1114 of title 18 United States Code;
5 and

6 (B) any officer or employee of a State, a
7 political subdivision of a State, or a Tribal gov-
8 ernment.

9 (2) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER.—The term
10 “immediate family member” has the meaning given
11 the term in section 115 of title 18, United States
12 Code.

13 (3) INTERACTIVE COMPUTER SERVICE.—The
14 term “interactive computer service” has the meaning
15 given the term in section 230 of the Communica-
16 tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 230).

17 (4) PERSONAL INFORMATION.—The term “per-
18 sonal information” means—

19 (A) a home address; or

20 (B) a home phone number.

21 (5) STATE.—The term “State” means any
22 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
23 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-
24 lands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth

1 of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any possession
2 of the United States.

3 (6) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “Tribal
4 government” has the meaning given the term “In-
5 dian tribal government” in section 102 of the Robert
6 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
7 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

8 (b) WRITTEN DEMAND TO PERSONS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—A government official may
10 directly, or through an agent designated by the gov-
11 ernment official, make a written demand to a person
12 to refrain from publicly displaying on the internet
13 the personal information of the government official
14 or an immediate family member of the government
15 official.

16 (2) EFFECT OF WRITTEN DEMAND.—If a gov-
17 ernment official makes a written demand to a person
18 under paragraph (1), the person—

19 (A) shall, not later than 48 hours after the
20 receipt of the written demand, remove any per-
21 sonal information of the government official or
22 an immediate family member of the government
23 official displayed on the internet by the person;
24 and

1 (B) during the 4-year period following the
2 date of the receipt of the written demand, may
3 not publicly display on the internet the personal
4 information of the government official or an im-
5 mediate family member of the government offi-
6 cial.

7 (c) WRITTEN DEMAND TO INTERACTIVE COMPUTER
8 SERVICE PROVIDERS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—A government official may
10 directly, or through an agent designated by the gov-
11 ernment official, make a written demand to the pro-
12 vider of an interactive computer service to remove
13 the personal information of the government official
14 or an immediate family member of the government
15 official that is publicly displayed on the interactive
16 computer service.

17 (2) EFFECT OF WRITTEN DEMAND.—If a gov-
18 ernment official makes a written demand to the pro-
19 vider of an interactive computer service under para-
20 graph (1), the provider shall, not later than 48
21 hours after the receipt of the written demand, re-
22 move from the interactive computer service any per-
23 sonal information of the government official or an
24 immediate family member of the government official

1 that is publicly displayed on the interactive computer
2 service.

3 (d) CAUSE OF ACTION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—A government official who is
5 aggrieved by a violation of subsection (b)(2) or
6 (c)(2) may bring a civil action against the person or
7 the provider of an interactive computer service, re-
8 spectively, that violated that subsection in an appro-
9 priate district court of the United States.

10 (2) RELIEF.—In an action under paragraph
11 (1), the court may award—

12 (A) injunctive relief;

13 (B) if injury or damage results from the
14 violation of paragraph subsection (b)(2) or
15 (c)(2), the greater of—

16 (i) actual damages; or

17 (ii) \$1,000; and

18 (C) reasonable costs and attorney's fees.

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