

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1051

To amend title 5, United States Code, to lower the standard for removing employees who disclose tax return information without authorization, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 29, 2023

Mr. BRAUN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To amend title 5, United States Code, to lower the standard for removing employees who disclose tax return information without authorization, 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 “Protect Taxpayers’  
5 Privacy Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASE OF PENALTY FOR UNAUTHORIZED DIS-**  
2 **CLOSURE OF TAXPAYER INFORMATION.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 7213(a)  
4 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by strik-  
5 ing “\$5,000” and inserting “\$250,000”.

6 (b) DISCLOSURES BY TAX RETURN PREPARERS.—  
7 Subsection (a) of section 7216 of the Internal Revenue  
8 Code of 1986 is amended by striking “\$1,000 (\$100,000  
9 in the case of a disclosure or use to which section 6713(b)  
10 applies)” and inserting “\$250,000”.

11 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
12 this section shall apply to disclosures made on or after  
13 the date of the enactment of this Act.

14 **SEC. 3. REMOVAL.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7701(c)(1)(A) of title 5,  
16 United States Code, is amended by inserting “or in the  
17 case of an action involving a removal from the service for  
18 an alleged violation of section 7213(a)(1) of the Internal  
19 Revenue Code of 1986,” after “described in section  
20 4303,”.

21 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The amendments  
22 made by subsection (a) may not be construed to permit  
23 an officer or employee of the United States to submit an  
24 appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board if that indi-  
25 vidual is dismissed from office or discharged from employ-

1 ment upon conviction for a violation of section 7213(a)(1)  
2 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

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