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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To establish a Task Force for Recognizing and Averting Payment Scams,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. NUNN of Iowa introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish a Task Force for Recognizing and Averting
Payment Scams, 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 “Taskforce for Recog-
5 nizing and Averting Payment Scams Act” or the “TRAPS
6 Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

1 (1) PAYMENT.—The term “payment” means
2 any mechanism through which an individual can
3 electronically transfer funds to another individual via
4 a platform or intermediary.

5 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
6 the Secretary of the Treasury.

7 (3) TASK FORCE.—The term “Task Force”
8 means the Task Force on Payment Scams estab-
9 lished under section 3(a).

10 **SEC. 3. TASK FORCE ON PAYMENT SCAMS.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
12 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-
13 tablish a task force, to be known as the Task Force for
14 Recognizing and Averting Payment Scams.

15 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

16 (1) COMPOSITION.—The Task Force shall be
17 chaired by the Secretary or a designee thereof, and
18 shall consist of representatives from the following:

19 (A) The Bureau of Consumer Financial
20 Protection.

21 (B) The Federal Communications Commis-
22 sion.

23 (C) The Federal Trade Commission.

24 (D) The Department of Justice.

1 (E) The Office of the Comptroller of the
2 Currency.

3 (F) The Board of Governors of the Federal
4 Reserve System.

5 (G) The National Credit Union Adminis-
6 tration.

7 (H) The Federal Deposit Insurance Cor-
8 poration.

9 (I) The Financial Crimes Enforcement
10 Network.

11 (J) A representative, appointed by the Sec-
12 retary in consultation with the Task Force,
13 from a financial institution with expertise in
14 identifying, preventing, and combating payment
15 scams.

16 (K) A representative, appointed by the
17 Secretary in consultation with the Task Force,
18 from a credit union with expertise in identi-
19 fying, preventing, and combating payment
20 scams.

21 (L) A representative, appointed by the Sec-
22 retary in consultation with the Task Force,
23 from a digital payment network with expertise
24 in identifying, preventing, and combating pay-
25 ment scams.

1 (M) A representative, appointed by the
2 Secretary in consultation with the Task Force,
3 from a community bank.

4 (N) A representative, appointed by the
5 Secretary in consultation with the Task Force,
6 from a consumer group.

7 (O) A representative, appointed by the
8 Secretary in consultation with the Task Force,
9 from an industry association representing tech-
10 nology or online platforms.

11 (P) Not more than 5 representatives ap-
12 pointed by the Secretary to represent victims,
13 scam support networks, and other relevant
14 stakeholders in order to better assist consumers
15 and stakeholders.

16 (2) TERM OF APPOINTMENT.—The term of a
17 member of the Task Force shall continue until the
18 termination of the Task Force.

19 (3) VACANCY.—Any vacancy occurring in the
20 membership of the Task Force shall be filled in the
21 same manner in which the original appointment was
22 made.

23 (c) PURPOSE.—The Task Force shall—

24 (1) examine current trends and developments in
25 payment scams, identify effective methods for pre-

1 venting such scams, and issue recommendations to
2 enhance efforts to identify and prevent such activi-
3 ties;

4 (2) adopt a cross-sector approach to ensure its
5 recommendations reflect the full scope of the issue,
6 given that scams impact individuals across a wide
7 range of industries, including financial services, tele-
8 communications, and technology; and

9 (3) include representation from stakeholders
10 with direct experience supporting victims of scams,
11 as well as industry participants with insight into
12 scam tactics and prevention strategies.

13 (d) MEETINGS.—The Task Force shall meet not less
14 than 3 times during the 1-year period beginning on the
15 date of enactment of this Act, and thereafter at such times
16 and places, and by such means, as the Chair of the Task
17 Force determines to be appropriate, which may include the
18 use of remote conference technology.

19 (e) DUTIES.—The duties of the Task Force shall in-
20 clude—

21 (1) evaluating best practices for combating
22 methods used by scammers, including spoofed calls,
23 scam text messages, and malicious advertisements,
24 pop-ups, and websites;

1 (2) assessing how international jurisdictions
2 have tried to prevent payment scams;

3 (3) identifying and reviewing current methods
4 used to scam a consumer through payment plat-
5 forms;

6 (4) determining a strategy for education pro-
7 grams that better equip consumers to identify, avoid,
8 and report payment scam attempts to the appro-
9 priate authorities;

10 (5) coordinating efforts to ensure perpetrators
11 of payment scams can be identified and pursued by
12 law enforcement;

13 (6) consulting with other relevant stakeholders,
14 including State, local, and Tribal agencies and finan-
15 cial services providers;

16 (7) determining whether any additional Federal
17 legislation would be beneficial for law enforcement
18 and industry in mitigating payment scams; and

19 (8) identifying potential solutions to payment
20 scams involving business email compromise.

21 (f) COMPENSATION.—Each member of the Task
22 Force who is a civilian or employee of the United States
23 shall serve without compensation, other than compensa-
24 tion to which entitled as an employee of the United States,
25 as the case may be.

1 (g) REPORT.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
3 the date on which the Secretary establishes the Task
4 Force, the Task Force shall submit to the Com-
5 mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of
6 the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services
7 of the House of Representatives and make publicly
8 available online a report detailing—

9 (A) the results of the reviews and evalua-
10 tions of the Task Force under subsection (e);

11 (B) the strategy identified under sub-
12 section (e);

13 (C) any legislative or regulatory rec-
14 ommendations that would enhance the ability to
15 detect and prevent payment scams described in
16 subsection (e); and

17 (D) recommendations to enhance coopera-
18 tion among Federal, State, local, and Tribal au-
19 thorities in the investigation and prosecution of
20 scams and other financial crimes, including har-
21 monizing data collection, improving reporting
22 mechanisms and streams, estimating the num-
23 ber of complaints and consumers affected, and
24 evaluating the effectiveness of anti-scam train-
25 ing programs

1 (2) ANNUAL UPDATES.—After submitting an
2 initial report required under paragraph (1), the
3 Task Force shall, on an annual basis, submit to the
4 Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
5 of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Serv-
6 ices of the House of Representatives and make pub-
7 licly available online an updated version of the re-
8 port.

9 (h) APPLICABLE LAW.—Chapter 4 of title 5, United
10 States Code, shall not apply to the Task Force.

11 (i) SUNSET.—The Task Force shall terminate on the
12 date that is 3 years after the date on which the Task
13 Force submits the report required under subsection (h)(1).