

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 2978

To permit State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies that receive eligible Federal grant funds to use such funds for investigating elder financial fraud, pig butchering, and general financial fraud, and to clarify that Federal law enforcement agencies may assist State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies in the use of tracing tools for blockchain and related technology, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 21, 2025

Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. FITZGERALD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, 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

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## A BILL

To permit State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies that receive eligible Federal grant funds to use such funds for investigating elder financial fraud, pig butchering, and general financial fraud, and to clarify that Federal law enforcement agencies may assist State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies in the use of tracing tools for blockchain and related technology, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Guarding Unprotected  
3 Aging Retirees from Deception Act” or the “GUARD  
4 Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this Act:

7 (1) **ELDER FINANCIAL FRAUD.**—The term  
8 “elder financial fraud” means the illegal or improper  
9 use of an elderly or adult with a disability’s money,  
10 property, or other resources for monetary or per-  
11 sonal benefit, profit, or gain.

12 (2) **ELIGIBLE FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS.**—The  
13 term “eligible Federal grant funds” means funds re-  
14 ceived under the following:

15 (A) The Department of Justice Economic,  
16 High-Technology, White Collar, and Internet  
17 Crime Prevention National Training and Tech-  
18 nical Assistance Program.

19 (B) The Department of Justice Informa-  
20 tion Sharing Training and Technical Assistance  
21 Program.

22 (C) The Department of Justice Internet of  
23 Things National Training and Technical Assist-  
24 ance Program.

25 (D) Section 1401 of the Violence Against  
26 Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (34

1 U.S.C. 30107; relating to Local Law Enforce-  
2 ment Grants for Enforcement of Cybercrimes  
3 Against Individuals).

4 (E) The Department of Justice COPS  
5 Technology and Equipment Program.

6 (3) GENERAL FINANCIAL FRAUD.—The term  
7 “general financial fraud” means the intentional mis-  
8 representation of information or identity to deceive  
9 others, the unlawful use of a credit card, debit card,  
10 or automated teller machine or the use of electronic  
11 means to transmit deceptive information, in order to  
12 obtain money or other things of value.

13 (4) PIG BUTCHERING.—The term “pig butch-  
14 ering” means a confidence and investment fraud in  
15 which the victim is gradually lured into making in-  
16 creasing monetary contributions, generally in the  
17 form of cryptocurrency, to a seemingly sound invest-  
18 ment before the scammer disappears with the con-  
19 tributed monies.

20 (5) SCAM.—The term “scam” means a financial  
21 crime undertaken through the use of social engineer-  
22 ing that uses deceptive inducement to acquire—

23 (A) authorized access to funds; or

24 (B) personal or sensitive information that  
25 can facilitate the theft of financial assets.

1           (6) STATE.—The term “State” means each of  
2           the several States, the District of Columbia, and  
3           each territory of the United States.

4 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL GRANTS USED FOR INVESTIGATING**  
5                           **ELDER FINANCIAL FRAUD, PIG BUTCHERING,**  
6                           **AND GENERAL FINANCIAL FRAUD.**

7           (a) IN GENERAL.—State, local, and Tribal law en-  
8           forcement agencies that receive eligible Federal grant  
9           funds may use such funds for investigating elder financial  
10          fraud, pig butchering, and general financial fraud, includ-  
11          ing by—

12                   (1) hiring and retaining analysts, agents, ex-  
13                   perts, and other personnel;

14                   (2) providing training specific to complex finan-  
15                   cial investigations, including training on—

16                           (A) coordination and collaboration between  
17                           State, local, Tribal, and Federal law enforce-  
18                           ment agencies;

19                           (B) assisting victims of financial fraud and  
20                           exploitation;

21                           (C) the use of blockchain intelligence tools  
22                           and related capabilities related to emerging  
23                           technologies identified in the February 2024  
24                           “Critical and Emerging Technology List Up-  
25                           date” of the Fast Track Action Subcommittee

1 on Critical and Emerging Technologies of the  
2 National Science and Technology Council (the  
3 “Critical and Emerging Technology List”); and

4 (D) unique aspects of fraud investigations,  
5 including transnational financial investigations  
6 and emerging technologies identified in the  
7 Critical and Emerging Technology List;

8 (3) obtaining software and technical tools to  
9 conduct financial fraud and exploitation investiga-  
10 tions;

11 (4) encouraging improved data collection and  
12 reporting;

13 (5) supporting training and tabletop exercises  
14 to enhance coordination and communication between  
15 financial institutions and State, local, Tribal and  
16 Federal law enforcement agencies for the purpose of  
17 stopping fraud and scams; and

18 (6) designating a financial sector liaison to  
19 serve as a point of contact for financial institutions  
20 to share and exchange with State, local, Tribal and  
21 Federal law enforcement agencies information rel-  
22 evant to the investigation of fraud and scams.

23 (b) REPORT TO GRANT PROVIDER.—Each law en-  
24 forcement agency that makes use of eligible Federal grant  
25 funds for a purpose specified under subsection (a) shall,

1 not later than 1 year after making such use of the funds,  
2 issue a report to the Federal agency that provided the eli-  
3 gible Federal grant funds, containing—

4 (1) an explanation of the amount of funds so  
5 used, and the specific purpose for which the funds  
6 were used;

7 (2) statistics with respect to elder financial  
8 fraud, pig butchering, and general financial fraud in  
9 the jurisdiction of the law enforcement agency, along  
10 with an analysis of how the use of the funds for a  
11 purpose specified under subsection (a) affected such  
12 statistics; and

13 (3) an assessment of the ability of the law en-  
14 forcement agency to deter elder financial fraud, pig  
15 butchering, and general financial fraud.

16 **SEC. 4. REPORT ON GENERAL FINANCIAL FRAUD, PIG**  
17 **BUTCHERING, AND ELDER FINANCIAL**  
18 **FRAUD.**

19 No later than a year after the date of the enactment  
20 of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director  
21 of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network in con-  
22 sultation with the Attorney General, the Secretary of  
23 Homeland Security, and the appropriate Federal banking  
24 agencies and Federal functional regulators shall, jointly,  
25 submit to Congress a report on efforts and recommenda-

1 tions related to general financial fraud, pig butchering,  
2 elder financial fraud, and scams.

3 **SEC. 5. REPORT ON THE STATE OF SCAMS IN THE UNITED**  
4 **STATES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the  
6 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the  
7 Treasury and the Director of the Financial Crimes En-  
8 forcement Network in consultation with the Attorney Gen-  
9 eral, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the appro-  
10 priate Federal banking agencies and Federal functional  
11 regulators shall submit a report to the Congress on the  
12 state of scams in the United States that—

13 (1) estimates—

14 (A) the number of financial fraud, pig  
15 butchering, elder financial fraud, and scams  
16 committed against American consumers each  
17 year, including—

18 (i) attempted scams, including  
19 through social media, online dating serv-  
20 ices, email, impersonation of financial in-  
21 stitutions and non-bank financial institu-  
22 tions;

23 (ii) successful scams, including  
24 through social media, online dating serv-  
25 ices, email, impersonation of financial in-

1                   stitutions and non-bank financial institu-  
2                   tions;

3                   (B) the number of consumers each year  
4                   that lose money to one or more scams;

5                   (C) the dollar amount of consumer losses  
6                   to scams each year;

7                   (D) the percentage of scams each year that  
8                   can be attributed to—

9                               (i) overseas actors; and

10                              (ii) organized crime;

11                   (E) the number of attempted scams each  
12                   year that involve the impersonation of phone  
13                   numbers associated with financial institutions  
14                   and non-bank financial institutions;

15                   (F) an estimate of the number of synthetic  
16                   identities impersonating American consumers  
17                   each year;

18                   (2) provides an overview of the Federal civil  
19                   and criminal enforcement actions brought against  
20                   the recipients of the proceeds of financial fraud, pig  
21                   butchering, elder financial fraud, and scams in the  
22                   period covered by the report that includes—

23                               (A) the number of such enforcement ac-  
24                   tions;

1 (B) an evaluation of the effectiveness of  
2 such enforcement actions;

3 (C) an identification of the types of claims  
4 brought against the recipients the recipients of  
5 the proceeds of financial fraud, pig butchering,  
6 elder financial fraud, and scams;

7 (D) an identification of the types of pen-  
8 alties imposed through such enforcement ac-  
9 tions;

10 (E) an identification of the types of relief  
11 obtained through such enforcement actions; and

12 (F) the number of such enforcement ac-  
13 tions that are connected to a Suspicious Activ-  
14 ity Report; and

15 (3) identifies amounts made available and  
16 amounts expended to address financial fraud, pig  
17 butchering, elder financial fraud, and scams during  
18 the period covered by the report by—

19 (A) the Bureau of Consumer Financial  
20 Protection;

21 (B) the Department of Justice;

22 (C) the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

23 (D) the Federal Communications Commis-  
24 sion;

1 (E) the Board of Governors of the Federal  
2 Reserve Board;

3 (F) the Federal Trade Commission;

4 (G) the Financial Crimes Enforcement  
5 Network;

6 (H) the Securities and Exchange Commis-  
7 sion; and

8 (I) the Social Security Administration.

9 (b) SOLICITATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT.—In car-  
10 rying out the report required under subsection (a), the  
11 Secretary of the Treasury shall solicit comments from con-  
12 sumers, social media companies, email providers, tele-  
13 communications companies, financial institutions, non-  
14 bank financial institutions.

15 **SEC. 6. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

16 Each Federal agency that provides eligible Federal  
17 grant funds that are used for a purpose specified under  
18 section 3(a) shall issue an annual report to the Committee  
19 on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and  
20 the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
21 of the Senate containing the information received from law  
22 enforcement agencies under section 3(b).

1 **SEC. 7. FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ASSIST-**  
2 **ING STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL LAW EN-**  
3 **FORCEMENT AND FUSION CENTERS.**

4 Federal law enforcement agencies may assist State,  
5 local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies and fusion cen-  
6 ters in the use of tracing tools for blockchain and related  
7 technology tools.

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