

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6430

To limit and eliminate excessive, hidden, and unnecessary fees imposed on consumers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 4, 2025

Ms. BYNUM (for herself and Mrs. SYKES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 limit and eliminate excessive, hidden, and unnecessary fees imposed on consumers, 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 “Junk Fee Prevention
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROTECTING CONSUMERS FROM EXCESSIVE AND**
2 **HIDDEN FEES.**

3 (a) PROTECTING CONSUMERS FROM HIDDEN
4 FEES.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—A covered entity shall clearly
6 and conspicuously display, in each advertisement
7 and when a price is first shown to a consumer, the
8 total price of the good or service provided by the
9 covered entity, including any mandatory fees a con-
10 sumer would incur during the purchase of the good
11 or service and any mandatory government charge re-
12 lated to such purchase.

13 (2) PRICE CONSISTENCY.—A covered entity
14 shall ensure that any mandatory fee incurred by a
15 consumer during the purchase process does not
16 change from that advertised to the consumer.

17 (b) EXCESSIVE FEES.—A covered entity shall not im-
18 pose on a consumer or advertise any mandatory fees that
19 are excessive or deceptive for any good or service offered
20 by the covered entity.

21 (c) TICKET HOLDBACKS.—If a good or service pro-
22 vided by a covered entity is a ticket to a sporting event,
23 theater, musical performance, or other live performance
24 that an audience watches as the live performance occurs,
25 the covered entity shall, not less than 72 hours prior to
26 the first public sale or presale of such ticket, clearly and

1 conspicuously disclose to the public, including at the point
2 of sale, the total number of tickets offered for sale by the
3 covered entity or available for the given event.

4 (d) PROTECTING REFUNDS.—A covered entity shall
5 clearly and conspicuously disclose any guarantee or refund
6 policy prior to the completion of a transaction by the con-
7 sumer and, in the event of a refund, provide a refund in
8 the amount of the total cost of the ticket including any
9 mandatory fees.

10 (e) SPECULATIVE TICKETING.—If a covered entity
11 does not possess a ticket at the time of the sale, it shall
12 provide to the consumer—

13 (1) a clear and conspicuous notice that the cov-
14 ered entity does not possess the ticket; and

15 (2) a full refund if the covered entity cannot
16 provide the ticket advertised to the consumer in a
17 timely manner prior to the event.

18 (f) RULEMAKING ON EXCESSIVE AND HIDDEN
19 FEES.—The Federal Trade Commission may promulgate
20 rules in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United
21 States Code, regarding the disclosure and imposition of
22 mandatory or deceptive fees, including any such fee not
23 described in subsections (a) through (e).

1 (g) EXCESSIVE FEES.—In considering whether a
2 mandatory fee is excessive, the Federal Trade Commission
3 or court shall take into consideration—

4 (1) whether the fee is reasonable and propor-
5 tional to the cost of the good or service provided by
6 the covered entity;

7 (2) the reason for which the covered entity
8 charges such fee; and

9 (3) any other factors determined appropriate by
10 the Federal Trade Commission or the court.

11 (h) ENFORCEMENT.—

12 (1) ENFORCEMENT BY THE COMMISSION.—

13 (A) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRAC-
14 TICES.—A violation of this section or a regula-
15 tion promulgated thereunder shall be treated as
16 a violation of a rule defining an unfair or de-
17 ceptive act or practice under section
18 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission
19 Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

20 (B) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

21 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Trade
22 Commission shall enforce this section in
23 the same manner, by the same means, and
24 with the same jurisdiction, powers, and du-
25 ties as though all applicable terms and pro-

1 visions of the Federal Trade Commission
2 Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incor-
3 porated into and made a part of this sec-
4 tion.

5 (ii) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—

6 Any person who violates this section or a
7 regulation promulgated thereunder shall be
8 subject to the penalties and entitled to the
9 privileges and immunities provided in the
10 Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C.
11 41 et seq.).

12 (iii) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Noth-

13 ing in this section shall be construed to
14 limit the authority of the Federal Trade
15 Commission under any other provision of
16 law.

17 (2) ENFORCEMENT BY STATES.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—If the attorney general

19 of a State has reason to believe that a covered
20 entity has violated or is violating this section or
21 a regulation promulgated thereunder that af-
22 fects the residents of that State, the State, as
23 *parens patriae*, may bring a civil action in any
24 appropriate district court of the United States,
25 to—

1 (i) enjoin any further violation by the
2 covered entity;

3 (ii) enforce compliance with this sec-
4 tion or such regulation;

5 (iii) obtain other remedies permitted
6 under State law; and

7 (iv) obtain damages, restitution, or
8 other compensation on behalf of residents
9 of the State.

10 (B) NOTICE.—The attorney general of a
11 State shall provide prior written notice of any
12 action under subparagraph (A) to the Commis-
13 sion and provide the Commission with a copy of
14 the complaint in the action, except in any case
15 in which such prior notice is not feasible, in
16 which case the attorney general shall serve such
17 notice immediately upon instituting such action.

18 (C) INTERVENTION BY THE COMMIS-
19 SION.—Upon receiving notice under subpara-
20 graph (B), the Commission shall have the
21 right—

22 (i) to intervene in the action;

23 (ii) upon so intervening, to be heard
24 on all matters arising therein; and

25 (iii) to file petitions for appeal.

1 (D) LIMITATION ON STATE ACTION WHILE
2 FEDERAL ACTION IS PENDING.—If the Commis-
3 sion has instituted a civil action for violation of
4 this section or a regulation promulgated there-
5 under, no attorney general of a State, or official
6 or agency of a State, may bring a separate ac-
7 tion under subparagraph (A) during the pend-
8 ency of that action against any defendant
9 named in the complaint of the Commission for
10 any violation of this section or a regulation pro-
11 mulgated thereunder that is alleged in the com-
12 plaint. An attorney general of a State, or offi-
13 cial or agency of a State, may join a civil action
14 for a violation of this section or a regulation
15 promulgated thereunder filed by the Commis-
16 sion.

17 (E) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For pur-
18 poses of bringing a civil action under subpara-
19 graph (A), nothing in this section shall be con-
20 strued to prevent the chief law enforcement of-
21 ficer or official or agency of a State, from exer-
22 cising the powers conferred on such chief law
23 enforcement officer or official or agency of a
24 State, by the laws of the State to conduct inves-
25 tigations, administer oaths or affirmations, or

1 compel the attendance of witnesses or the pro-
2 duction of documentary and other evidence.

3 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) COVERED ENTITY.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “covered en-
6 tity” means—

7 (i) a provider of short-term lodging or
8 an online platform that allows for the
9 booking of short-term lodging;

10 (ii) a provider of a ticketing service
11 that sells tickets for an event or retains the
12 authority to otherwise distribute tickets for
13 such event, whether as a primary seller of
14 tickets or in the secondary marketplace for
15 ticket sales; or

16 (iii) any other entity determined ap-
17 propriate by the Commission through a
18 rulemaking in accordance with section 553
19 of title 5, United States Code.

20 (B) SHORT-TERM LODGING.—

21 (i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided
22 in clause (ii), the term “short-term lodg-
23 ing” means any lodging that is offered for
24 an occupancy of less than 6 months or
25 temporary sleeping accommodations at a

1 hotel, motel, inn, short-term rental, vaca-
2 tion rental, or other place of lodging.

3 (ii) EXCLUSION.—The term “short-
4 term lodging” shall not include an accom-
5 modation of 6 months or more through a
6 landlord-tenant relationship.

7 (2) DECEPTIVE FEE.—The term “deceptive
8 fee” includes—

9 (A) any fee for which the nature, purpose,
10 amount, or refundability of such fee is mis-
11 represented; and

12 (B) any mandatory fee misrepresented as
13 an optional fee that a consumer must opt out
14 of.

15 (3) MANDATORY FEE.—The term “mandatory
16 fee” includes—

17 (A) any fee or surcharge that a consumer
18 is required to pay to purchase a good or service
19 being advertised;

20 (B) a fee or surcharge that is not reason-
21 ably avoidable;

22 (C) a fee or surcharge for a good or service
23 that a reasonable consumer would not expect to
24 be included with the purchase of the good or
25 service being advertised; or

1 (D) any other fee or surcharge determined
2 appropriate by the Commission.

3 **SEC. 3. COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE FEES.**

4 (a) ENDING EARLY TERMINATION FEES.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—A provider of a covered serv-
6 ice may not charge a fee to, or impose a requirement
7 that is excessive or unreasonable on, a consumer for
8 the termination of a covered service before the end
9 of any period specified in any agreement between the
10 provider and the consumer.

11 (2) ENDING EXCESS BILLING CYCLE
12 CHARGES.—After termination of a covered service,
13 the provider of the covered service shall provide to
14 the consumer a prorated credit or rebate for the re-
15 maining days in the billing cycle.

16 (3) DEVICE PURCHASE AND RETURN.—This
17 subsection does not prevent a provider of a covered
18 service from charging a consumer for—

19 (A) the cost of rental or loan equipment
20 that is not returned to the provider within a
21 reasonable period of time; or

22 (B) the outstanding cost of a purchased
23 device.

1 (4) REGULATIONS.—The Federal Communica-
2 tions Commission may promulgate regulations to
3 carry out this subsection.

4 (b) TRUTH IN BILLING AND ADVERTISING.—

5 (1) AGGREGATE PRICE TRANSPARENCY IN BILL-
6 ING.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—A provider of a covered
8 service shall state an aggregate price for the
9 covered service through a single, clear, easy-to-
10 understand, and accurate line item on the bill
11 of a consumer, including a bill for a legacy or
12 grandfathered covered service plan.

13 (B) DISCLOSURE OF END DATE OF INTRO-
14 DUCTORY OR TEMPORARY PRICE.—A provider
15 of a covered service shall state, on the bill of
16 each consumer paying an introductory or tem-
17 porary price, the date on which the introductory
18 or temporary price ends by disclosing—

19 (i) either—

20 (I) the period during which the
21 discounted price will be charged; or

22 (II) the date on which the period
23 will end, resulting in a price change
24 for the covered service; and

1 (ii) the post-promotion rate not later
2 than—

3 (I) 60 days before the date on
4 which the introductory or temporary
5 price ends; and

6 (II) 30 days before such date.

7 (C) ITEMIZATION.—A provider of a cov-
8 ered service may state an itemized explanation
9 of the elements that compose the aggregate
10 price required by subparagraph (A) on the bill
11 of a consumer.

12 (2) AGGREGATE PRICE TRANSPARENCY FOR
13 PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—A provider of a covered
15 service that communicates a price for the cov-
16 ered service in promotional materials shall state
17 an aggregate price for the covered service and,
18 at the option of the provider of the covered
19 service, an itemized explanation of the elements
20 of such price in a clear, easy-to-understand, and
21 accurate manner.

22 (B) DISCLOSURE OF LOCATION-DEPEND-
23 ENT PRICING.—If the aggregate price described
24 in subparagraph (A) fluctuates based on service
25 location, the provider of a covered service shall

1 state where and how a consumer may obtain
2 the location-specific aggregate price, such as
3 electronically or by contacting a customer serv-
4 ice or sales representative.

5 (C) DISCLOSURE OF TEMPORARY AGGREGATE
6 GATE PRICING.—If part or all of the aggregate
7 price described in subparagraph (A) is tem-
8 porary, a provider of a covered service shall
9 state the post-promotion rate, the date on
10 which the post-promotion rate was calculated,
11 and the period for which each rate applies in
12 the promotional materials.

13 (D) ITEMIZATION.—A provider of a cov-
14 ered service may state an itemized explanation
15 of the elements that compose the aggregate
16 price required by subparagraph (A) in the pro-
17 motional materials.

18 (E) EXCEPTION.—The requirements under
19 this paragraph shall not apply to the marketing
20 of legacy or grandfathered covered service plans
21 that are not generally available to new cus-
22 tomers.

23 (c) RULEMAKING ON MANDATORY FEES.—

24 (1) INITIAL RULEMAKING PROCEEDING.—Not
25 later than 180 days after the date of enactment of

1 this Act, the Federal Communications Commission
2 shall commence a rulemaking proceeding—

3 (A) to consider whether and how the Fed-
4 eral Communications Commission should—

5 (i) require the disclosure of manda-
6 tory fees with respect to a covered service;
7 or

8 (ii) prohibit the imposition of manda-
9 tory fees with respect to a covered service,
10 in particular any such fee that a consumer
11 would reasonably assume to be included in
12 the advertised price of such service; and

13 (B) in which the Federal Communications
14 Commission may promulgate regulations to im-
15 plement the requirements or prohibitions de-
16 scribed in subparagraph (A).

17 (2) SUBSEQUENT STUDY OR REGULATIONS.—

18 Any time after the completion of the rulemaking
19 proceeding required under paragraph (1), the Fed-
20 eral Communications Commission may conduct a
21 study or promulgate regulations regarding manda-
22 tory fees with respect to covered services.

23 (d) ENFORCEMENT.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—A violation of this section or
25 a regulation promulgated under this section shall be

1 treated as a violation of the Communications Act of
2 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) or a regulation pro-
3 mulgated under that Act.

4 (2) MANNER OF ENFORCEMENT.—The Federal
5 Communications Commission shall enforce this sec-
6 tion and the regulations promulgated under this sec-
7 tion in the same manner, by the same means, and
8 with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as
9 though all applicable terms and provisions of the
10 Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et
11 seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this
12 section.

13 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 (1) COVERED SERVICE.—The term “covered
15 service”—

16 (A) means—

17 (i) broadband internet access service
18 (as defined in section 8.1(b) of title 47,
19 Code of Federal Regulations (or any suc-
20 cessor regulation));

21 (ii) voice service (as defined in section
22 227(e)(8) of the Communications Act of
23 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(e)(8)));

1 (iii) commercial mobile service (as de-
2 fined in section 332(d) of the Communica-
3 tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(d)));

4 (iv) commercial mobile data service
5 (as defined in section 6001 of the Middle
6 Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of
7 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1401)); or

8 (v) a service provided by a multi-
9 channel video programming distributor (as
10 defined in section 602 of the Communica-
11 tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 522)), to the
12 extent that such distributor is acting as a
13 multichannel video programming dis-
14 tributor; and

15 (B) includes any other service offered or
16 provided as part of a bundle or package with
17 any service described in clauses (i) through (v)
18 of subparagraph (A).

19 (2) MANDATORY FEE.—The term “mandatory
20 fee” includes—

21 (A) any fee or surcharge that a consumer
22 is required to pay to purchase a covered service;

23 (B) any fee or surcharge that is not rea-
24 sonably avoidable;

1 (C) a fee or surcharge for a good or service
2 that a reasonable consumer would not expect to
3 be included with the purchase of the good or
4 service being advertised; and

5 (D) any other fee or surcharge determined
6 appropriate by the Federal Communications
7 Commission.

8 (3) PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL.—The term “pro-
9 motional material” includes video programming in
10 which a provider of a covered service advertises or
11 markets a covered service to consumers.

12 **SEC. 4. AIR CARRIER ANCILLARY FEE TRANSPARENCY.**

13 (a) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 41708 of
14 title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
15 end the following new subsection:

16 “(d) ANCILLARY FEES.—

17 “(1) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
19 require any air carrier or foreign air carrier op-
20 erating in the United States to file with the
21 Secretary a report for each quarter of the fiscal
22 year on the total revenue such air carrier or
23 foreign air carrier earned from ancillary fees
24 (as defined in paragraph (2)).

1 “(B) CONTENTS.—A quarterly report filed
2 by an air carrier or foreign air carrier under
3 subparagraph (A) shall include, at a minimum,
4 the following information:

5 “(i) The revenue received from ancil-
6 lary fees during the reporting period, pro-
7 vided in an exact dollar amount, includ-
8 ing—

9 “(I) the total amount received;

10 “(II) the total amount
11 disaggregated by each critical ancil-
12 lary service provided; and

13 “(III) the total amount
14 disaggregated by class of service.

15 “(ii) The manner in which the air car-
16 rier or foreign air carrier collects ancillary
17 fees, including whether the fee for a crit-
18 ical ancillary service is included in the base
19 fare price or charged to the consumer
20 through another method.

21 “(iii) The average dollar amount
22 charged to a consumer for each critical an-
23 cillary service provided.

24 “(C) PUBLICATION.—Notwithstanding sec-
25 tion 329(b)(1)(A), the Secretary shall compile

1 the information provided in the quarterly re-
2 ports filed pursuant to subparagraph (A) in a
3 single quarterly report (which shall include a
4 comparison of the total revenue received from
5 ancillary fees by each air carrier or foreign air
6 carrier) and publish such report on the internet
7 website of the Department of Transportation.

8 “(2) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-
9 section:

10 “(A) ANCILLARY FEES.—The term ‘ancil-
11 lary fees’ means any fee charged, through a di-
12 rect payment or other form of compensation, by
13 an air carrier or foreign air carrier for the pro-
14 vision of—

15 “(i) a critical ancillary service; or

16 “(ii) any other service not subject to
17 taxation under section 4261 of the Internal
18 Revenue Code of 1986.

19 “(B) CRITICAL ANCILLARY SERVICE.—The
20 term ‘critical ancillary service’ means, with re-
21 spect to an air carrier or foreign air carrier,
22 any supplemental service provided by the air
23 carrier or foreign air carrier that is critical to
24 the purchasing decision of a consumer, includ-
25 ing—

1 “(i) transporting checked or carry-on
2 baggage;

3 “(ii) modifying or canceling a reserva-
4 tion;

5 “(iii) selecting or otherwise indicating
6 a preference for seating on an aircraft; or

7 “(iv) any other service determined ap-
8 propriate by the Secretary.”.

9 (b) RECORD REQUIREMENTS.—Section 41709(a) of
10 title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting “(in-
11 cluding information regarding the source of revenue and
12 whether such money was received from a base fare price
13 or from an ancillary fee (as defined in section 41708(d))”
14 after “receipts and expenditures of money”.

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