

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7922

To minimize increases in the cost of complying with Federal rules during the coronavirus pandemic, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 4, 2020

Mr. COMER (for himself, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. CLOUD, Ms. FOXX of North Carolina, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, and Mr. KELLER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on 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 minimize increases in the cost of complying with Federal rules during the coronavirus pandemic, 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 “Pandemic Regulatory
5 Cost Relief Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION AGAINST INCREASING REGULATORY**
2 **COMPLIANCE COSTS DURING CORONAVIRUS**
3 **PANDEMIC.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—A Federal rule for which an agen-
5 cy has estimated the costs of compliance may not be pro-
6 mulgated during the covered period if such rule increases
7 the total Federal regulatory compliance costs for the class
8 of entities to be subject to the rule, unless—

9 (1) such increase is offset by a corresponding
10 rescission of rules that reduces the total Federal reg-
11 ulatory compliance cost for that class of entities by
12 an equal or greater amount; or

13 (2) the Director of the Office of Management
14 and Budget—

15 (A) determines—

16 (i) that no such corresponding rescis-
17 sion of rules is available to be made; or

18 (ii) the rule is necessary for the pro-
19 tection of—

20 (I) public health against the
21 coronavirus pandemic; or

22 (II) national security; and

23 (B) publishes a notice to that effect in the
24 Federal Register at the time the rule is promul-
25 gated.

26 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC.—The term
2 “coronavirus pandemic” means the SARS-CoV-2
3 pandemic of 2019–2020.

4 (2) COVERED PERIOD.—The term “covered pe-
5 riod” means the period that—

6 (A) begins on the date of the enactment of
7 this section; and

8 (B) ends on the date that is 1 year after
9 the date on which the public health emergency
10 declared under section 319 of the Public Health
11 Services Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) as a result of the
12 coronavirus pandemic expires, or any renewal
13 thereof.

14 (3) REGULATORY COMPLIANCE COST.—The
15 term “regulatory compliance cost” means any direct
16 cost, and any reasonably foreseeable indirect cost
17 (including revenue lost), of complying with a Federal
18 rule.

19 (4) RULE.—The term “rule” has the meaning
20 given that term in section 551 of title 5, United
21 States Code.

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