

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5097

To amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to require the termination of inactive investigations after a period of six months.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2016

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana (for herself, Mr. LANCE, Mr. HARPER, Mr. OLSON, Mr. POMPEO, and Mr. BURGESS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to require the termination of inactive investigations after a period of six months.

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 “Start Taking Action
5 on Lingering Liabilities Act” or the “STALL Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. TERMINATION OF INACTIVE INVESTIGATIONS.**

7 Section 20 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15
8 U.S.C. 57b–1) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subsection (j) as sub-
2 section (k); and

3 (2) by inserting after subsection (i) the fol-
4 lowing new subsection:

5 “(j) TERMINATION OF INACTIVE INVESTIGATION.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
7 graph (2), a covered investigation shall terminate at
8 the expiration of the six-month period beginning on
9 the date on which a covered verifiable written com-
10 munication is sent by the Commission.

11 “(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not
12 apply if—

13 “(A) an additional covered verifiable writ-
14 ten communication is sent by the Commission
15 during the period described in paragraph (1); or

16 “(B) the Commission votes to extend the
17 covered investigation before the expiration of
18 such period.

19 “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

20 “(A) COVERED INVESTIGATION.—The term
21 ‘covered investigation’ means an investigation
22 conducted pursuant to this section in which the
23 Commission has notified the person that is the
24 subject of the investigation by verifiable written
25 communication.

1 “(B) COVERED VERIFIABLE WRITTEN
2 COMMUNICATION.—The term ‘covered verifiable
3 written communication’ means a verifiable writ-
4 ten communication relating to an investigation
5 conducted pursuant to this section that is sent
6 to the person that is the subject of the inves-
7 tigation.”.

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