

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7824

To require certain businesses to disclose the use of forced labor in their direct supply chain, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2020

Mr. BUCK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To require certain businesses to disclose the use of forced labor in their direct supply chain, 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 “Slave-Free Business  
5 Certification Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. REQUIRED REPORTING ON USE OF FORCED LABOR**  
7 **FROM COVERED BUSINESS ENTITIES.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) COVERED BUSINESS ENTITY.—The term  
10 “covered business entity” means any issuer, as that

1 term is defined in section 2(a) of the Securities Act  
2 of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77b(a)), that has annual, world-  
3 wide gross receipts that exceed \$500,000,000.

4 (2) FORCED LABOR.—The term “forced labor”  
5 means any labor practice or human trafficking activ-  
6 ity in violation of national and international stand-  
7 ards, including—

8 (A) International Labor Organization Con-  
9 vention No. 182;

10 (B) the Trafficking Victims Protection Act  
11 of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.); and

12 (C) any act that would violate the criminal  
13 provisions related to slavery and human traf-  
14 ficking under chapter 77 of title 18, United  
15 States Code, if the act had been committed  
16 within the jurisdiction of the United States.

17 (3) GROSS RECEIPTS.—The term “gross re-  
18 ceipts”—

19 (A) means the gross amount, including  
20 cash and the fair market value of other prop-  
21 erty or services received, gained in a transaction  
22 that produces business income from—

23 (i) the sale or exchange of property;

24 (ii) the performance of services; or

1 (iii) the use of property or capital;

2 and

3 (B) does not include—

4 (i) repayment, maturity, or redemp-  
5 tion of the principal of a—

6 (I) loan;

7 (II) bond;

8 (III) mutual fund;

9 (IV) certificate of deposit; or

10 (V) similar marketable instru-  
11 ment;

12 (ii) proceeds from—

13 (I) the issuance of a company's  
14 own stock; or

15 (II) the sale of treasury stock;

16 (iii) amounts received as the result of  
17 litigation, including damages;

18 (iv) property acquired by an agent on  
19 behalf of another party;

20 (v) Federal, State, or local tax re-  
21 funds or other tax benefit recoveries;

22 (vi) certain contributions to capital;

23 (vii) income from discharge of indebt-  
24 edness; or

1 (viii) amounts realized from exchanges  
2 of inventory that are not recognized under  
3 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

4 (4) ON-SITE SERVICE.—The term “on-site serv-  
5 ice” means any service work provided on the site of  
6 a covered business entity, including food service  
7 work and catering services.

8 (5) ON-SITE SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term  
9 “on-site service provider” means any entity that pro-  
10 vides workers who perform, collectively, a total of  
11 not less than 30 hours per week of on-site services  
12 for a covered business entity.

13 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
14 the Secretary of Labor.

15 (b) AUDIT AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
17 the date of enactment of this Act, and every year  
18 thereafter, each covered business entity shall—

19 (A) conduct an audit of its supply chain,  
20 pursuant to the requirements of section 3, to  
21 investigate the presence or use of forced labor  
22 by the covered business entity or its suppliers,  
23 including by direct suppliers, secondary sup-  
24 pliers, and on-site service providers of the cov-  
25 ered business entity;

1 (B) submit a report to the Secretary con-  
2 taining the information described in paragraph  
3 (2) on the results of such audit and efforts of  
4 the covered business entity to eradicate forced  
5 labor from the supply chain and on-site services  
6 of the covered business entity; and

7 (C)(i) publish the report described in sub-  
8 paragraph (B) on the public website of the cov-  
9 ered business entity, and provide a conspicuous  
10 and easily understood link on the homepage of  
11 the website that leads to the report; or

12 (ii) in the case of a covered business entity  
13 that does not have a public website, provide the  
14 report in written form to any consumer of the  
15 covered business entity not later than 30 days  
16 after the consumer submits a request for the  
17 report.

18 (2) REQUIRED REPORT CONTENTS.—Each re-  
19 port required under paragraph (1)(B) shall contain,  
20 at a minimum—

21 (A) a disclosure of the covered business en-  
22 tity's policies to prevent the use of forced labor  
23 by the covered business entity, its direct sup-  
24 pliers, and its on-site service providers;

1 (B) a disclosure of what policies or proce-  
2 dures, if any, the covered business entity uses—

3 (i) for the verification of product sup-  
4 ply chains and on-site service provider  
5 practices to evaluate and address risks of  
6 forced labor and whether the verification  
7 was conducted by a third party;

8 (ii) to require direct suppliers and on-  
9 site service providers to provide written  
10 certification that materials incorporated  
11 into the product supplied or on-site serv-  
12 ices, respectively, comply with the laws re-  
13 garding forced labor of each country in  
14 which the supplier or on-site service pro-  
15 vider is engaged in business;

16 (iii) to maintain internal account-  
17 ability standards and procedures for em-  
18 ployees or contractors of the covered busi-  
19 ness entity failing to meet requirements re-  
20 garding forced labor; and

21 (iv) to provide training on recognizing  
22 and preventing forced labor, particularly  
23 with respect to mitigating risks within the  
24 supply chains of products and on-site serv-  
25 ices of the covered business entity, to em-

1 employees, including management personnel,  
2 of the covered business entity who have di-  
3 rect responsibility for supply chain man-  
4 agement or on-site services;

5 (C) a description of the findings of each  
6 audit required under paragraph (1)(A), includ-  
7 ing the details of any instances of found or sus-  
8 pected forced labor; and

9 (D) a written certification, signed by the  
10 chief executive officer of the covered business  
11 entity, that—

12 (i) the covered business entity has  
13 complied with the requirements of this Act  
14 and exercised due diligence in order to  
15 eradicate forced labor from the supply  
16 chain and on-site services of the covered  
17 business entity;

18 (ii) to the best of the chief executive  
19 officer's knowledge, the covered business  
20 entity has found no instances of the use of  
21 forced labor by the covered business entity  
22 or has disclosed every known instance of  
23 the use of forced labor; and

24 (iii) the chief executive officer and any  
25 other officers submitting the report or cer-

1                   tification understand that section 1001 of  
2                   title 18, United States Code (popularly  
3                   known as the “False Statements Act”),  
4                   applies to the information contained in the  
5                   report submitted to the Secretary.

6           (c) REPORT OF VIOLATIONS TO CONGRESS.—Each  
7 year, the Secretary shall prepare and submit a report to  
8 Congress regarding the covered business entities that—

9                   (1) have failed to conduct audits required under  
10                  this Act for the preceding year or have been adju-  
11                  dicated in violation of any other provision of this  
12                  Act; or

13                  (2) have been found to have used forced labor,  
14                  including the use of forced labor in their supply  
15                  chain or by their on-site service providers.

16 **SEC. 3. AUDIT REQUIREMENTS.**

17           (a) IN GENERAL.—Each audit conducted under sec-  
18 tion 2(b)(1)(A) shall meet the following requirements:

19                   (1) WORKER INTERVIEWS.—The auditor  
20                  shall—

21                           (A) select a cross-section of workers to  
22                           interview that represents the full diversity of  
23                           the workplace, and includes, if applicable, men  
24                           and women, migrant workers and local workers,  
25                           workers on different shifts, workers performing



1 different tasks, and members of various produc-  
2 tion teams;

3 (B) if individuals under the age of 18 are  
4 employed at the facility of the direct supplier or  
5 on-site service provider, interview a representa-  
6 tive group using age-sensitive interview tech-  
7 niques;

8 (C) conduct interviews—

9 (i) on-site and, particularly in cases  
10 where there are indications of egregious  
11 violations about which employees may hesi-  
12 tate to discuss at work, off-site of the facil-  
13 ity and during non-work hours; and

14 (ii) individually or in groups (except  
15 for purposes of subparagraph (B));

16 (D) use audit tools to ensure that each  
17 worker is asked a comprehensive set of ques-  
18 tions;

19 (E) collect from interviewed workers copies  
20 of the workers' pay stubs, in order to compare  
21 the pay stubs with payment records provided by  
22 the direct supplier;

23 (F) ensure that all worker responses are  
24 confidential and are never shared with manage-  
25 ment; and

1           (G) interview a representative of the labor  
2 organization or other worker representative or-  
3 ganization that represents workers at the facil-  
4 ity or, if no such organization is present, at-  
5 tempt to interview a representative from a local  
6 worker advocacy group.

7           (2) MANAGEMENT INTERVIEWS.—The auditor  
8 shall—

9           (A) interview a cross-section of the man-  
10 agement of the supplier, including human re-  
11 sources personnel, production supervisors, and  
12 others; and

13           (B) use audit tools to ensure that man-  
14 agers are asked a comprehensive set of ques-  
15 tions.

16           (3) DOCUMENTATION REVIEW.—The auditor  
17 shall—

18           (A) conduct a documentation review to  
19 provide tangible proof of compliance and to cor-  
20 roborate or find discrepancies in the informa-  
21 tion gathered through the worker and manage-  
22 ment interviews; and

23           (B) review, at a minimum, the following  
24 types of documents:

- 1 (i) Age verification procedures and  
2 documents.
- 3 (ii) A master list of juvenile workers.
- 4 (iii) Selection and recruitment proce-  
5 dures.
- 6 (iv) Contracts with labor brokers, if  
7 any.
- 8 (v) Worker contracts and employment  
9 agreements.
- 10 (vi) Introduction program materials.
- 11 (vii) Personnel files.
- 12 (viii) Employee communication and  
13 training plans, including certifications pro-  
14 vided to workers including skills training,  
15 worker preparedness, government certifi-  
16 cation programs, and systems or policy ori-  
17 entations.
- 18 (ix) Collective bargaining agreements,  
19 including collective bargaining representa-  
20 tive certification, descriptions of the role of  
21 the labor organization, and minutes of the  
22 labor organization's meetings.
- 23 (x) Contracts with any security agen-  
24 cy, and descriptions of the scope of respon-  
25 sibilities of the security agency.

- 1 (xi) Payroll and time records.
- 2 (xii) Production capacity reports.
- 3 (xiii) Written human resources poli-  
4 cies and procedures.
- 5 (xiv) Occupational health and safety  
6 plans and records including legal permits,  
7 maintenance and monitoring records, in-  
8 jury and accident reports, investigation  
9 procedures, chemical inventories, personal  
10 protective equipment inventories, training  
11 certificates, and evacuation plans.
- 12 (xv) Disciplinary notices.
- 13 (xvi) Grievance reports.
- 14 (xvii) Performance evaluations.
- 15 (xviii) Promotion or merit increase  
16 records.
- 17 (xix) Dismissal and suspension  
18 records of workers.
- 19 (xx) Records of employees who have  
20 resigned.
- 21 (xxi) Worker pay stubs.

22 (4) CLOSING MEETING WITH MANAGEMENT.—

23 The auditor shall hold a closing meeting with the  
24 management of the covered business entity to—

1 (A) report violations and nonconformities  
2 found in the facility; and

3 (B) determine the steps forward to address  
4 and remediate any problems.

5 (5) REPORT PREPARATION.—The auditor shall  
6 prepare a full report of the audit, which shall in-  
7 clude—

8 (A) a disclosure of the direct supplier’s or  
9 on-site service provider’s—

10 (i) documented processes and proce-  
11 dures that relate to eradicating forced  
12 labor; and

13 (ii) documented risk assessment and  
14 prioritization policies as such policies relate  
15 to eradicating forced labor;

16 (B) a description of the worker interviews,  
17 manager interviews, and documentation review  
18 required under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3);

19 (C) a description of all violations or sus-  
20 pected violations by the direct supplier of any  
21 forced labor laws of the United States or, if ap-  
22 plicable, the laws of another country as de-  
23 scribed in section 2(b)(2)(B)(ii); and

24 (D) for each violation described in sub-  
25 paragraph (C), a description of any corrective

1 and protective actions recommended for the di-  
2 rect supplier consisting of, at a minimum—

3 (i) the issues relating to the violation  
4 and any root causes of the violation;

5 (ii) the implementation of a solution;

6 and

7 (iii) a method to check the effective-  
8 ness of the solution.

9 (b) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO AU-**  
10 **DITS.**—Each covered business entity shall include, in any  
11 contract with a direct supplier or on-site service provider,  
12 a requirement that—

13 (1) the supplier or provider shall not retaliate  
14 against any worker for participating in an audit re-  
15 lating to forced labor; and

16 (2) worker participation in an audit shall be  
17 protected through the same grievance mechanisms  
18 available to the worker available for any other type  
19 of workplace grievance.

20 **SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT.**

21 (a) **CIVIL DAMAGES.**—The Secretary may assess civil  
22 damages in an amount of not more than \$100,000,000  
23 if, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, the Sec-  
24 retary determines that a covered business entity has vio-  
25 lated any requirement of section 2(b).

1 (b) PUNITIVE DAMAGES.—In addition to damages  
2 under subsection (a), the Secretary may assess punitive  
3 damages in an amount of not more than \$500,000,000  
4 against a covered business entity if, after notice and an  
5 opportunity for a hearing, the Secretary determines the  
6 covered business entity willfully violated any requirement  
7 of section 2(b).

8 (c) DECLARATIVE OR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—The  
9 Secretary may request the Attorney General institute a  
10 civil action for relief, including a permanent or temporary  
11 injunction, restraining order, or any other appropriate  
12 order, in the district court of the United States for any  
13 district in which the covered business entity conducts busi-  
14 ness, whenever the Secretary believes that a violation of  
15 section 2(b) constitutes a hazard to workers.

16 **SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.**

17 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment  
18 of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate rules to carry  
19 out this Act.

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