

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1551

To amend title 49, United States Code, to establish an Office of Consumer Protection in the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 11, 2023

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to establish an Office of Consumer Protection in the Department of Transportation, 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 “Improved Transpor-
5 tation Consumer Protection Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF CONSUMER PRO-**
7 **TECTION.**

8 Section 102 of title 49, United States Code, is
9 amended—

1 (1) in subsection (e)(1)—

2 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
3 (A), by striking “7” and inserting “8”; and

4 (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and
5 an Assistant Secretary for Transportation Pol-
6 icy” and inserting “an Assistant Secretary for
7 Transportation Policy, and an Assistant Sec-
8 retary for Consumer Protection”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(j) OFFICE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION.—

11 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in
12 the Department an Office of Consumer Protection
13 (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Office’) to ad-
14 minister and enforce the authority provided to the
15 Department by statute—

16 “(A) to assist, educate, and protect con-
17 sumers;

18 “(B) to monitor compliance with, conduct
19 investigations relating to, and enforce, including
20 by taking appropriate action to address viola-
21 tions of, consumer protection, civil rights, and
22 licensing requirements; and

23 “(C) to promulgate, as appropriate, con-
24 sumer protection and civil rights regulations.

1 “(2) LEADERSHIP.—The Office shall be headed
2 by the Assistant Secretary for Consumer Protection
3 (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Assistant Sec-
4 retary’).

5 “(3) COORDINATION.—The Assistant Secretary
6 shall coordinate with the General Counsel appointed
7 under subsection (e)(1)(E), in accordance with sec-
8 tion 1.26 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations
9 (or a successor regulation), on all legal matters re-
10 lating to—

11 “(A) consumer protection; or

12 “(B) the duties and activities of the Office
13 described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of
14 paragraph (1).

15 “(4) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Assistant Sec-
16 retary shall submit to Congress and make publicly
17 available on the website of the Department an an-
18 nual report that, with respect to matters under the
19 jurisdiction of the Department, or otherwise within
20 the statutory authority of the Department to ad-
21 dress—

22 “(A) analyzes trends in consumer protec-
23 tion, civil rights, and licensing;

24 “(B) identifies major challenges facing
25 consumers; and

1 “(C) addresses any other relevant issues,
2 as the Assistant Secretary determines to be ap-
3 propriate.”.

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