

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 720

AN ACT

To amend Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to improve attorney accountability, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Lawsuit Abuse Reduc-
3 tion Act of 2017”.

4 **SEC. 2. ATTORNEY ACCOUNTABILITY.**

5 (a) SANCTIONS UNDER RULE 11.—Rule 11(c) of the
6 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “may” and in-
8 serting “shall”;

9 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “Rule 5” and
10 all that follows through “motion.” and inserting
11 “Rule 5.”; and

12 (3) in paragraph (4), by striking “situated”
13 and all that follows through the end of the para-
14 graph and inserting “situated, and to compensate
15 the parties that were injured by such conduct. Sub-
16 ject to the limitations in paragraph (5), the sanction
17 shall consist of an order to pay to the party or par-
18 ties the amount of the reasonable expenses incurred
19 as a direct result of the violation, including reason-
20 able attorneys’ fees and costs. The court may also
21 impose additional appropriate sanctions, such as
22 striking the pleadings, dismissing the suit, or other
23 directives of a non-monetary nature, or, if warranted
24 for effective deterrence, an order directing payment
25 of a penalty into the court.”.

1 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
2 or an amendment made by this Act shall be construed to
3 bar or impede the assertion or development of new claims,
4 defenses, or remedies under Federal, State, or local laws,
5 including civil rights laws, or under the Constitution of
6 the United States.

Passed the House of Representatives March 10,
2017.

Attest:

Clerk.

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 720

AN ACT

To amend Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil
Procedure to improve attorney accountability,
and for other purposes.