

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1025

To authorize the Federal Communications Commission to enforce its own forfeiture penalties with respect to violations of restrictions on the use of telephone equipment, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 13, 2025

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

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## A BILL

To authorize the Federal Communications Commission to enforce its own forfeiture penalties with respect to violations of restrictions on the use of telephone equipment, 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 “FCC Legal Enforce-  
5       ment Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ENFORCEMENT OF FORFEITURE PENALTIES BY**  
 2 **FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Communications  
 4 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 501 et seq.) is amended—

5 (1) in section 503(b)(3)(B) (47 U.S.C.  
 6 503(b)(3)(B)), by striking “In such action,” and in-  
 7 serting the following: “If, during the 120-day period  
 8 beginning on the date of a referral of an unpaid for-  
 9 feiture penalty imposed for a violation of section 227  
 10 (relating to restrictions on the use of telephone  
 11 equipment), the Attorney General does not com-  
 12 mence an action to recover the amount assessed, the  
 13 Commission may commence and supervise the litiga-  
 14 tion of such an action and any appeal of such an ac-  
 15 tion in its own name by any of its attorneys des-  
 16 ignated by it for such purpose. In any action under  
 17 this subparagraph,”; and

18 (2) in section 504(a) (47 U.S.C. 504(a))—

19 (A) by striking “It shall be the duty” and  
 20 inserting “Except as provided in the subsequent  
 21 sentence, it shall be the duty”; and

22 (B) by striking “The costs and expenses of  
 23 such prosecutions” and inserting the following:  
 24 “If, during the 120-day period beginning on the  
 25 date on which the Commission refers an unpaid  
 26 forfeiture penalty imposed for a violation of sec-

1           tion 227 (relating to restrictions on the use of  
 2           telephone equipment) to the Attorney General  
 3           for prosecution under this subsection, the At-  
 4           torney General does not commence such a pros-  
 5           ecution, the Commission may prosecute for the  
 6           recovery of the forfeiture penalty. The costs and  
 7           expenses of a prosecution under this sub-  
 8           section”.

9           (b) **PRIORITY.**—In carrying out the amendments  
 10       made by subsection (a) of this section, the Federal Com-  
 11       munications Commission shall prioritize enforcement of  
 12       unpaid forfeiture penalties imposed for a violation of sec-  
 13       tion 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C.  
 14       227) (relating to restrictions on the use of telephone  
 15       equipment) that are greater than \$25,000,000.

16       **SEC. 3. REGULATIONS FOR RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF**  
 17               **AUTOMATED TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT.**

18       Section 227(b)(2) of the Communications Act of  
 19       1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(b)(2)) is amended, in the matter  
 20       preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting before the pe-  
 21       riod the following: “as necessary in the judgment of the  
 22       Commission to protect subscribers from unwanted calls”.

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