

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4990

To improve transparency in charity regulation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 18, 2016

Ms. TITUS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To improve transparency in charity regulation.

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 “Strengthening Char-
5 ities Through Transparency Act of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. MANDATORY ELECTRONIC FILING FOR ANNUAL RE-**
7 **URNS OF EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6033 of the Internal Rev-
9 enue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating subsection

1 (n) as subsection (o) and by inserting after subsection (m)
 2 the following new subsection:

3 “(n) MANDATORY ELECTRONIC FILING.—Any orga-
 4 nization required to file a return under this section shall
 5 file such return in electronic form.”.

6 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 7 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
 8 the date of the enactment of this Act.

9 **SEC. 3. INSPECTION OF ELECTRONICALLY FILED ANNUAL**
 10 **RETURNS OF EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6104(b) of the Internal
 12 Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end
 13 the following: “Any annual return required to be filed elec-
 14 tronically under section 6033(n) shall be made available
 15 by the Secretary to the public in machine readable format
 16 as soon as practicable.”.

17 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 18 this section shall apply to returns filed for taxable years
 19 beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

20 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF DATABASE LISTING CHARITIES**
 21 **AND CHARITY MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS CON-**
 22 **VICTED OF FRAUD.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Upon request by the Attorney
 24 General, a State shall make available information regard-
 25 ing a charity or a charity management official that has

1 been convicted of a fraud, theft, or a financial offense. Be-
2 ginning not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
3 of this Act, the Attorney General shall establish a data-
4 base that lists each such charity or charity management
5 official. Information received under this subsection shall
6 be made available to State Attorneys General for regu-
7 latory and law enforcement purposes.

8 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) The terms “charity”, “charity management
10 official”, “information”, and “financial offenses”
11 have such meanings as the Attorney General shall by
12 rule establish.

13 (2) The term “State” means any of the several
14 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth
15 of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern
16 Mariana Islands, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Amer-
17 ican Samoa, and any other territory or possession of
18 the United States.

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