

Union Calendar No. 425

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7412

[Report No. 119-499]

To amend the Small Business Act to establish the Office of Whistleblower Awards, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 5, 2026

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas (for himself and Mr. OLSZEWSKI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

FEBRUARY 20, 2026

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to establish the Office of Whistleblower Awards, 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 “Put America on Com-
5 mission Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF WHISTLE-**
7 **BLOWER AWARDS.**

8 The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is
9 amended—

10 (1) in section 7(b), by redesignating the second
11 paragraph (16) (relating to statute of limitations) as
12 paragraph (17);

13 (2) by redesignating section 49 as section 50;
14 and

15 (3) by inserting after section 48 the following
16 new section:

17 **“SEC. 49. OFFICE OF WHISTLEBLOWER AWARDS.**

18 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
19 the Office of Performance, Planning, and the Chief Finan-
20 cial Officer of the Administration an Office of Whistle-
21 blower Awards.

22 “(b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Office of Whistleblower
23 Awards shall be administered by an employee in the com-
24 petitive service.

25 “(c) AWARDS TO WHISTLEBLOWERS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise pro-
2 vided in this section, the head of the Office of Whis-
3 tleblower Awards shall—

4 “(A) with respect to information submitted
5 to head of the Office of Whistleblower Awards
6 by whistleblowers relating to financial mis-
7 conduct or fraudulent misrepresentation by a
8 recipient of financial assistance from the Ad-
9 ministrators—

10 “(i) determine, in coordination with
11 the Inspector General, whether such infor-
12 mation is original information; and

13 “(ii) for all such information that is
14 original information—

15 “(I) collect and transmit to the
16 Inspector General such original infor-
17 mation; and

18 “(II) track the use of such origi-
19 nal information in obtaining final con-
20 victions and settlement and plea
21 agreements; and

22 “(B) pay an award in an amount as de-
23 scribed in paragraph (2) to a whistleblower for
24 information described in subparagraph (A) that
25 is original information submitted to head of the

1 Office of Whistleblower Awards by such whistle-
2 blower if a person is finally convicted pursuant
3 to, or enters into a settlement or plea agree-
4 ment with respect to, a COVID loan action that
5 is based, in whole or in part, on such original
6 information, as determined by the Inspector
7 General.

8 “(2) AMOUNTS.—Any amount payable under
9 this section shall be paid from the amounts depos-
10 ited in the Whistleblower Award Fund established
11 under subsection (f) based on a person finally con-
12 victed pursuant to, or a settlement or plea agree-
13 ment with respect to, a COVID loan action that is
14 based, in whole or in part, on original information
15 provided to the head of the Office of Whistleblower
16 Awards by the whistleblower as follows:

17 “(A) 10 percent of the amounts so depos-
18 ited if the person so convicted or who entered
19 into such settlement or plea agreement, as ap-
20 plicable, is a national of the United States or
21 an entity located in the United States.

22 “(B) 15 percent of the amounts so depos-
23 ited if the person so convicted or who entered
24 into such settlement or plea agreement, as ap-
25 plicable, is a foreign national or an entity lo-

1 cated in a country other than the United
2 States.

3 “(3) MULTIPLE WHISTLEBLOWERS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If a person is finally
5 convicted pursuant to, or enters into a settle-
6 ment or plea agreement with respect to, a
7 COVID loan action that is based, in whole or
8 in part, on information described in paragraph
9 (1)(A) that is original information from mul-
10 tiple whistleblowers, only the whistleblower who
11 made the most substantial contribution with re-
12 spect to such COVID loan action (including
13 such conviction, settlement agreement, or plea
14 agreement), as determined by the head of the
15 Office of Whistleblower Awards, may receive an
16 award under this section with respect to a con-
17 viction pursuant to, or a settlement or plea
18 agreement with respect to, such COVID loan
19 action.

20 “(B) SUBSTANTIALITY DETERMINATION.—

21 For the purposes of determining which whistle-
22 blower made the most substantial contribution
23 with respect to a COVID loan action under sub-
24 paragraph (A), the head of the Office of Whis-
25 tleblower Awards shall consider—

1 “(i) the significance of the original in-
2 formation of the whistleblower with respect
3 to such COVID loan action;

4 “(ii) the role of the whistleblower and
5 any legal representative of the whistle-
6 blower in contributing to such COVID loan
7 action; and

8 “(iii) such other criteria as the head
9 of the Office of Whistleblower Awards de-
10 termines appropriate.

11 “(d) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

12 “(1) REDUCTION IN AWARD.—The head of the
13 Office of Whistleblower Awards may reduce to an
14 amount greater than or equal to zero an award to
15 a whistleblower under this section for original infor-
16 mation relating to financial misconduct or fraudu-
17 lent misrepresentation by a recipient of financial as-
18 sistance from the Administrator if the head of the
19 Office of Whistleblower Awards determines that such
20 whistleblower planned or initiated the actions that
21 led to such financial misconduct or fraudulent mis-
22 representation.

23 “(2) CRIMINAL CONVICTION.—

24 “(A) DENIAL.—A whistleblower who is fi-
25 nally convicted of an offense arising out of

1 planning or initiating the actions that led to the
2 financial misconduct or fraudulent misrepresen-
3 tation by a recipient of financial assistance
4 from the Administrator is ineligible for any
5 award under this section with respect any con-
6 viction, settlement agreement, or plea agree-
7 ment related to such financial misconduct or
8 fraudulent misrepresentation.

9 “(B) REPAYMENT.—As a condition of re-
10 ceiving an award under this section, the whistle-
11 blower shall agree to repay the full amount of
12 the award if the whistleblower is finally con-
13 victed of an offense relating to the original in-
14 formation that was the basis for receipt of such
15 award.

16 “(3) NO CONTRACT NECESSARY.—A whistle-
17 blower shall not be required to be a party to a con-
18 tract with the Administrator to be eligible to receive
19 an award under this section.

20 “(4) TIMING.—The head of the Office of Whis-
21 tleblower Awards shall disburse payments to a whis-
22 tleblower under this section not later than one year
23 after the date on which amounts have been deposited
24 into the Whistleblower Award Fund based on a con-
25 viction pursuant to, or a settlement or plea

1 agreement entered into with respect to, a COVID
2 loan action based, in whole or in part, on informa-
3 tion described in subsection (c)(1)(A) that is original
4 information provided by such whistleblower.

5 “(5) STATUS UPDATES.—The head of the Of-
6 fice of Whistleblower Awards shall—

7 “(A) provide confirmation of the receipt of
8 information described in subsection (c)(1)(A) to
9 the whistleblower that submitted such informa-
10 tion;

11 “(B) provide to such whistleblower—

12 “(i) a notice of the determination
13 whether such information is original infor-
14 mation; and

15 “(ii) for such information that is
16 original information, a notice of each de-
17 termination by the Inspector General pur-
18 suant to a final conviction or settlement or
19 plea agreement with respect to a COVID
20 loan action whether such information was
21 the basis, in whole or in part, of such
22 COVID loan action; and

23 “(C) ensure that procedures consistent
24 with section 1213 of title 5, United States
25 Code, for findings on the disclosure and for the

1 whistleblower to comment on any preliminary
2 determinations.

3 “(6) ANTI-RETALIATION.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—No person may be dis-
5 criminated against and no other prejudicial ac-
6 tion may be taken against a person because
7 such person has made, is perceived as about to
8 make, or assisted or associated with a person
9 who made or is about to make a disclosure
10 under this section.

11 “(B) RELIEF.—Any person who alleges to
12 discrimination or other prejudicial action in vio-
13 lation of subparagraph (A) may seek relief for
14 a violation of such subparagraph pursuant to
15 the rights, procedures, burdens of proof and
16 remedies in paragraphs (2) through (5) of sec-
17 tion 5323(g) of title 31, United States Code.

18 “(e) APPEALS.—A determination made under this
19 section by the head of the Office of Whistleblower Awards,
20 except the determination of the amount of an award if
21 the award was made in accordance with the requirements
22 of subsection (c)(2), may be appealed by the whistleblower
23 subject to such determination to the appropriate court of
24 appeals of the United States not more than 30 days after
25 the determination is issued by the head of the Office of

1 Whistleblower Awards. The court shall review the deter-
2 mination in accordance with section 706 of title 5, United
3 States Code.

4 “(f) WHISTLEBLOWER AWARD FUND.—

5 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in
6 the Department of the Treasury a revolving fund to
7 be known as the ‘Whistleblower Award Fund’.

8 “(2) USE OF FUND.—Amounts in the Whistle-
9 blower Award Fund shall be available to head of the
10 Office of Whistleblower Awards, without further ap-
11 propriation or fiscal year limitation, for—

12 “(A) payment of awards made under this
13 section; and

14 “(B) the necessary expenses for the oper-
15 ation of the Office of Whistleblower Awards.

16 “(3) DEPOSITS.—Notwithstanding any other
17 provision of law, if a person is finally convicted pur-
18 suant to, or enters into a settlement or plea agree-
19 ment with respect to, a COVID loan action based,
20 in whole or in part, on original information de-
21 scribed in subsection (c)(1) that is provided to the
22 head of the Office of Whistleblower Awards by a
23 whistleblower, there shall be deposited into the
24 Whistleblower Award Fund all amounts collected
25 from such person by the Federal Government, in-

1 including amounts collected as a result of a civil mone-
2 tary penalty under subsection (g)—

3 “(A) for or pursuant to such conviction; or

4 “(B) under or pursuant to such settlement
5 or plea agreement.

6 “(4) REMAINING AMOUNTS.—The Adminis-
7 trator shall deposit into the general fund of the
8 Treasury any amounts in the Whistleblower Award
9 Fund not used to pay whistleblowers under sub-
10 section (c) or the necessary expenses for the oper-
11 ation of the Office of Whistleblower Awards.

12 “(g) CIVIL MONETARY PENALTY.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any person who is finally
14 convicted pursuant to a COVID loan action or who
15 enters into a settlement or plea agreement with re-
16 spect to a COVID loan action shall, in addition to
17 any other penalties that may be prescribed by law,
18 be subject to a civil monetary penalty, assessed by
19 the Administrator, in an amount equal to 30 percent
20 of the aggregate of the principal amounts of the
21 loans with respect to which such person was so fi-
22 nally convicted or entered into such a settlement or
23 plea agreement.

24 “(2) COLLECTION.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Civil money penalties
2 and assessments imposed under this subsection
3 may be compromised by the Administrator and
4 may be recovered in a civil action in the name
5 of the United States brought in United States
6 district court for the district where the conduct
7 serving as the basis for the relevant COVID
8 loan action occurred or in United States district
9 court for the district in which the person
10 against whom the penalty or assessment has
11 been assessed resides, as determined by the Ad-
12 ministrator.

13 “(B) WITHHOLDINGS.—

14 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The amount of a
15 civil money penalty and assessment im-
16 posed under this subsection, when finally
17 determined, or the amount agreed upon in
18 compromise, may be deducted from any
19 sum then or later owing by the United
20 States to the person against whom the
21 penalty or assessment has been assessed.

22 “(ii) TREATMENT.—For the purposes
23 of awards under this section, amounts de-
24 ducted under clause (i) shall be deposited
25 into the Whistleblower Award Fund.

1 “(h) REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after the
2 date of the enactment of this section, and annually there-
3 after, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report
4 on—

5 “(1) the number of times whistleblowers sub-
6 mitted to the head of the Office of Whistleblower
7 Awards original information relating to financial
8 misconduct or fraudulent misrepresentation by a re-
9 cipient of financial assistance from the Adminis-
10 trator;

11 “(2) the amount of awards disbursed under this
12 section; and

13 “(3) any legislative or administrative rec-
14 ommendations regarding the duties of the Office of
15 Whistleblower Awards.

16 “(i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
17 tion shall be construed to modify or interfere with any in-
18 vestigations carried out by the Inspector General or an-
19 other Federal agency.

20 “(j) SUNSET.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by
22 paragraph (2), the authority under this section shall
23 terminate on the date that the last COVID loan ac-
24 tion that was timely filed and either—

1 “(A) has not been appealed and is no
2 longer appealable because the time for taking
3 an appeal has expired; or

4 “(B) has been appealed and the appeals
5 process for such conviction is completed.

6 “(2) APPEALS.—Notwithstanding paragraph
7 (1), the authority under this section shall continue
8 with respect to a claim for an award under this sec-
9 tion for which a determination is being appealed or
10 is appealable under subsection (e) as of the date de-
11 scribed in such paragraph until a determination for
12 such award is no longer being appealed or appeal-
13 able under subsection (e).

14 “(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 “(1) COVID LOAN ACTION.—The term ‘COVID
16 loan action’ means a criminal charge or civil enforce-
17 ment action described in—

18 “(A) section 7(a)(36)(W);

19 “(B) section 7(a)(37)(P);

20 “(C) section 7(b)(17);

21 “(D) section 1110(e)(9) of the CARES Act
22 (15 U.S.C. 9009(e)(9)); or

23 “(E) section 331(i) of the Economic Aid to
24 Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and
25 Venues Act (15 U.S.C. 9009b(i)).

1 “(2) FINAL CONVICTION; FINALLY CON-
2 VICTED.—The terms ‘final conviction’ and ‘finally
3 convicted’ mean, with respect to a person, that such
4 person has been convicted of an offense and such
5 conviction—

6 “(A) has not been appealed and is no
7 longer appealable because the time for taking
8 an appeal has expired; or

9 “(B) has been appealed and the appeals
10 process for such conviction is completed.

11 “(3) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The term ‘Inspec-
12 tor General’ means the Inspector General of the Ad-
13 ministration.

14 “(4) ORIGINAL INFORMATION.—The term
15 ‘original information’ means information that—

16 “(A) is derived from the independent
17 knowledge or analysis of a whistleblower;

18 “(B) is not known to the Administrator or
19 Inspector General from any source other than
20 the whistleblower, unless the whistleblower is
21 the original source of the information;

22 “(C) is not exclusively derived from an al-
23 legation made in a judicial or administrative ac-
24 tion, in a governmental report, hearing, audit,
25 or investigation, or from the news media, unless

1 the whistleblower is a source of the information;
2 and

3 “(D) was provided to the Inspector Gen-
4 eral—

5 “(i) after the date of the enactment of
6 this Act; or

7 “(ii) by a means other than a hotline
8 for reporting fraud, waste, and abuse that
9 is maintained by the Inspector General.

10 “(5) WHISTLEBLOWER.—The term ‘whistle-
11 blower’ means an individual who submits informa-
12 tion to the Office of Whistleblower Awards that such
13 individual reasonably believes relates to financial
14 misconduct or fraudulent misrepresentation by a re-
15 cipient of financial assistance from the Adminis-
16 trator.”.

17 **SEC. 3. RULEMAKING.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than six months after
19 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator
20 of the Small Business Administration shall issue rules nec-
21 essary to carry out the requirements of section 49 of the
22 Small Business Act, as added by this Act.

23 (b) CONTRIBUTION DETERMINATION.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than three months
25 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ad-

1 administrator of the Small Business Administration
2 shall issue rules providing that—

3 (A) after the head of the Office of Whistle-
4 blower Awards transmits original information to
5 the Inspector General of the Small Business
6 Administration under subsection (c)(1)(A)(ii)(I)
7 of section 49 of the Small Business Act, as
8 added by section 2, and tracks such information
9 through a final conviction or settlement or plea
10 agreement with respect to a COVID loan ac-
11 tion, the head of the Office of Whistleblower
12 Awards shall request that the Inspector General
13 indicate, for each piece of such original infor-
14 mation, that—

15 (i) such original information was the
16 basis, in whole or in part, of such COVID
17 loan action;

18 (ii) such original information was not
19 the basis, in whole or in part, of such
20 COVID loan action; or

21 (iii) whether such original information
22 was the basis, in whole or in part, of such
23 COVID loan action may not be disclosed;
24 and

1 (B) if the Inspector General indicates that
2 whether a piece of original information was the
3 basis, in whole or in part, of a COVID loan ac-
4 tion may not be disclosed, such original infor-
5 mation shall be deemed to have not been the
6 basis, in whole or in part, of such COVID loan
7 action.

8 (2) COVID LOAN ACTION; FINAL CONVICTION;
9 ORIGINAL INFORMATION DEFINED.—In this sub-
10 section, the terms “COVID loan action”, “final con-
11 viction”, and “original information” have the mean-
12 ings given such terms in subsection (k) of section 49
13 of the Small Business Act, as added by section 2.

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