

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3824

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for certain actions by State attorneys general.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 10, 2026

Mr. BOOKER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for certain actions by State attorneys general.

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 “State Authority to Pro-
5 tect Civil Rights”.

6 **SEC. 2. ACTIONS BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.**

7 (a) CONSPIRACY AGAINST RIGHTS.—Section 241 of
8 title 18, United States Code, is amended—

9 (1) by striking “If two or more persons con-
10 spire” and inserting the following:

1 “(a) PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES AND PENALTIES.—If
2 two or more persons conspire”; and

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

4 “(b) ACTIONS BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERALS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Attorney General of
6 a State has reasonable cause to believe that any per-
7 son or group of persons has suffered bodily injury,
8 serious bodily injury, or death resulting from con-
9 duct constituting a violation of this section, such At-
10 torney General may commence a civil action in the
11 name of such State, as *parens patriae* on behalf of
12 natural persons residing in such State, in any appro-
13 priate United States District Court.

14 “(2) RELIEF.—In any action under paragraph
15 (1), the court may award appropriate relief, includ-
16 ing temporary, preliminary, or permanent injunctive
17 relief, or compensatory or punitive damages if the
18 plaintiff shows that the conduct of the defendant
19 was malicious, oppressive, or in reckless disregard of
20 the plaintiff’s rights.”.

21 (b) DEPRIVATION OF RIGHTS UNDER COLOR OF
22 LAW.—Section 242 of title 18, United States Code, is
23 amended—

24 (1) by striking “Whoever” and inserting the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(a) PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES AND PENALTIES.—
2 Whoever”; and

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

4 “(b) ACTIONS BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Attorney General of
6 a State has reasonable cause to believe that any per-
7 son or group of persons is being, has been, or may
8 be injured by conduct constituting a violation of this
9 section, such Attorney General may commence a
10 civil action in the name of such State, as *parens*
11 *patriae* on behalf of natural persons residing in such
12 State, in any appropriate United States District
13 Court.

14 “(2) RELIEF.—In any action under paragraph
15 (1), the court may award appropriate relief, includ-
16 ing temporary, preliminary, or permanent injunctive
17 relief, or compensatory or punitive damages if the
18 plaintiff shows that the conduct of the defendant
19 was malicious, oppressive, or in reckless disregard of
20 the plaintiff’s rights.”.

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