

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to clarify Federal law with respect to reporting certain positive consumer credit information to consumer reporting agencies, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. JONES, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. KING, and Mr. TESTER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to clarify Federal law with respect to reporting certain positive consumer credit information to consumer reporting agencies, 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 “Credit Access and In-
5 clusion Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. POSITIVE CREDIT REPORTING PERMITTED.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 623 of the Fair Credit
3 Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681s–2) is amended by adding
4 at the end the following:

5 “(f) FULL-FILE CREDIT REPORTING.—

6 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

7 “(A) ENERGY UTILITY FIRM.—The term
8 ‘energy utility firm’ means an entity that pro-
9 vides gas or electric utility services to the pub-
10 lic.

11 “(B) UTILITY OR TELECOMMUNICATION
12 FIRM.—The term ‘utility or telecommunication
13 firm’ means an entity that provides utility serv-
14 ices to the public through pipe, wire, landline,
15 wireless, cable, or other connected facilities, or
16 radio, electronic, or similar transmission (in-
17 cluding the extension of such facilities).

18 “(2) INFORMATION RELATING TO LEASE
19 AGREEMENTS, UTILITIES, AND TELECOMMUNI-
20 CATIONS SERVICES.—Subject to the limitation in
21 paragraph (3) and notwithstanding any other provi-
22 sion of law, a person or the Secretary of Housing
23 and Urban Development may furnish to a consumer
24 reporting agency information relating to the per-
25 formance of a consumer in making payments—

1 “(A) under a lease agreement with respect
2 to a dwelling, including such a lease in which
3 the Department of Housing and Urban Devel-
4 opment provides subsidized payments for occu-
5 pancy in a dwelling; or

6 “(B) pursuant to a contract for a utility or
7 telecommunications service.

8 “(3) LIMITATION.—Information about the
9 usage by a consumer of any utility service provided
10 by a utility or telecommunication firm may be fur-
11 nished to a consumer reporting agency only to the
12 extent that the information relates to the payment
13 by the consumer for the service of the utility or tele-
14 communication service or other terms of the provi-
15 sion of the services to the consumer, including any
16 deposit, discount, or conditions for interruption or
17 termination of the service.

18 “(4) PAYMENT PLAN.—An energy utility firm
19 may not report payment information to a consumer
20 reporting agency with respect to an outstanding bal-
21 ance of a consumer as late if—

22 “(A) the energy utility firm and the con-
23 sumer have entered into a payment plan (in-
24 cluding a deferred payment agreement, an ar-
25 rearage management program, or a debt for-

1 givenness program) with respect to such out-
2 standing balance; and

3 “(B) the consumer is meeting the obliga-
4 tions of the payment plan, as determined by the
5 energy utility firm.”.

6 (b) LIMITATION ON LIABILITY.—Section 623(c) of
7 the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681s-2(c)) is
8 amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “or” at the
10 end;

11 (2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-
12 graph (4); and

13 (3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(3) subsection (f) of this section, including any
16 regulations issued thereunder; or”.

17 (c) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than 2
18 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
19 Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to
20 Congress a report on the impact of furnishing information
21 pursuant to subsection (f) of section 623 of the Fair Cred-
22 it Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681s-2), as added by sub-
23 section (a) of this Act, on consumers.