

# Calendar No. 301

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2992

To provide that certain discriminatory conduct by covered platforms shall be unlawful, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 18, 2021

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. DAINES) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

MARCH 2, 2022

Reported by Mr. DURBIN, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

---

## A BILL

To provide that certain discriminatory conduct by covered platforms shall be unlawful, 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 “American Innovation  
5 and Choice Online Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. UNLAWFUL CONDUCT.**

2 (a) VIOLATION.—It shall be unlawful for a person op-  
 3 erating a covered platform, in or affecting commerce, if  
 4 it is shown, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the  
 5 person has engaged in conduct that would—

6 (1) unfairly preference the covered platform op-  
 7 erator’s own products, services, or lines of business  
 8 over those of another business user on the covered  
 9 platform in a manner that would materially harm  
 10 competition on the covered platform;

11 (2) unfairly limit the ability of another business  
 12 user’s products, services, or lines of business to com-  
 13 pete on the covered platform relative to the covered  
 14 platform operator’s own products, services, or lines  
 15 of business in a manner that would materially harm  
 16 competition on the covered platform; or

17 (3) discriminate in the application or enforce-  
 18 ment of the covered platform’s terms of service  
 19 among similarly situated business users in a manner  
 20 that may materially harm competition on the cov-  
 21 ered platform.

22 (b) UNLAWFUL CONDUCT.—It shall be unlawful for  
 23 a person operating a covered platform, in or affecting com-  
 24 merce, if it is shown, by a preponderance of the evidence,  
 25 that the person has engaged in conduct that would—

1           (1) materially restrict or impede the capacity of  
2 a business user to access or interoperate with the  
3 same platform, operating system, hardware or soft-  
4 ware features that are available to the covered plat-  
5 form operator's own products, services, or lines of  
6 business that compete or would compete with prod-  
7 ucts or services offered by business users on the cov-  
8 ered platform;

9           (2) condition access to the covered platform or  
10 preferred status or placement on the covered plat-  
11 form on the purchase or use of other products or  
12 services offered by the covered platform operator  
13 that are not part of or intrinsic to the covered plat-  
14 form itself;

15           (3) use non-public data that are obtained from  
16 or generated on the covered platform by the activi-  
17 ties of a business user or by the interaction of a cov-  
18 ered platform user with the products or services of  
19 a business user to offer, or support the offering of,  
20 the covered platform operator's own products or  
21 services that compete or would compete with prod-  
22 ucts or services offered by business users on the cov-  
23 ered platform;

24           (4) materially restrict or impede a business user  
25 from accessing data generated on the covered plat-

1 form by the activities of the business user, or  
2 through an interaction of a covered platform user  
3 with the business user's products or services, such as  
4 by establishing contractual or technical restrictions  
5 that prevent the portability of the business user's  
6 data by the business user to other systems or appli-  
7 cations;

8 (5) unless necessary for the security or func-  
9 tioning of the covered platform, materially restrict or  
10 impede covered platform users from un-installing  
11 software applications that have been preinstalled on  
12 the covered platform or changing default settings  
13 that direct or steer covered platform users to prod-  
14 ucts or services offered by the covered platform op-  
15 erator;

16 (6) in connection with any covered platform  
17 user interface, including search or ranking  
18 functionality offered by the covered platform, treat  
19 the covered platform operator's own products, serv-  
20 ices, or lines of business more favorably relative to  
21 those of another business user than they would be  
22 treated under standards mandating the neutral, fair,  
23 and non-discriminatory treatment of all business  
24 users; or

1           (7) retaliate against any business user or cov-  
 2           ered platform user that raises concerns with any law  
 3           enforcement authority about actual or potential vio-  
 4           lations of State or Federal law.

5           (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Subsections (a) and  
 6 (b) shall not be construed to require a covered platform  
 7 operator to divulge, license, or otherwise grant the use of  
 8 the covered platform operator’s intellectual property, trade  
 9 or business secrets, or other confidential proprietary busi-  
 10 ness processes to a business user.

11          (d) AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES.—

12           (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) shall not  
 13           apply if the defendant establishes by a preponder-  
 14           ance of the evidence that the conduct described in  
 15           subsections (a) was narrowly tailored, was  
 16           nonpretextual, and was necessary to—

17                   (A) prevent a violation of, or comply with,  
 18                   Federal or State law;

19                   (B) protect safety, user privacy, the secu-  
 20                   rity of non-public data, or the security of the  
 21                   covered platform; or

22                   (C) maintain or enhance the core  
 23                   functionality of the covered platform.

24           (2) UNLAWFUL CONDUCT.—Subsection (b) shall  
 25           not apply if the defendant establishes by a prepon-

1 derance of the evidence that the conduct described  
2 in subsection (b)—

3 ~~(A)~~ has not resulted in and would not re-  
4 sult in material harm to the competitive process  
5 by restricting or impeding legitimate activity by  
6 business users; or

7 ~~(B)~~ was narrowly tailored, could not be  
8 achieved through less discriminatory means,  
9 was nonpretextual, and was necessary to—

10 (i) prevent a violation of, or comply  
11 with, Federal or State law;

12 (ii) protect safety, user privacy, the  
13 security of non-public data, or the security  
14 of the covered platform; or

15 (iii) maintain or enhance the core  
16 functionality of the covered platform.

17 ~~(e) COVERED PLATFORM DESIGNATION.~~—The Fed-  
18 eral Trade Commission and Department of Justice may  
19 jointly, with concurrence of the other, designate a covered  
20 platform for the purpose of implementing and enforcing  
21 this Act. Such designation shall—

22 ~~(1)~~ be based on a finding that the criteria set  
23 forth in clauses (i) through (iii) of subsection (h)~~(4)~~  
24 are met;

1           (2) be issued in writing and published in the  
2           Federal Register; and

3           (3) apply for 7 years from its issuance regard-  
4           less of whether there is a change in control or own-  
5           ership over the covered platform unless the Commis-  
6           sion or the Department of Justice removes the des-  
7           ignation under subsection (f).

8           (f) REMOVAL OF COVERED PLATFORM DESIGNA-  
9           TION.—The Commission or the Department of Justice  
10          shall—

11           (1) consider whether its designation of a cov-  
12           ered platform under subsection (e) should be re-  
13           moved prior to the expiration of the 7-year period if  
14           the covered platform operator files a request with  
15           the Commission or the Department of Justice, which  
16           shows that the online platform no longer meets the  
17           criteria set forth in clauses (i) through (iii) of sub-  
18           section (h)(4);

19           (2) determine whether to grant a request sub-  
20           mitted under paragraph 1 not later than 120 days  
21           after the date of the filing of such request; and

22           (3) obtain the concurrence of the Commission  
23           or the Department of Justice, as appropriate, before  
24           granting a request submitted under paragraph (1).

1       (g) REMEDIES.—The remedies provided in this sub-  
2 section are in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other  
3 remedy available under Federal or State law.

4           (1) CIVIL PENALTY.—Any person who is found  
5 to have violated subsections (a) or (b) shall be liable  
6 to the United States or the Commission for a civil  
7 penalty, which shall accrue to the United States  
8 Treasury, in an amount not more than 15 percent  
9 of the total United States revenue of the person for  
10 the period of time the violation occurred.

11           (2) INJUNCTIONS.—The Assistant Attorney  
12 General of the Antitrust Division, the Commission,  
13 or the attorney general of any State may seek, and  
14 the court may order, relief in equity as necessary to  
15 prevent, restrain, or prohibit violations of this Act.

16           (3) REPEAT OFFENDERS.—If the fact finder  
17 determines that a person has engaged in a pattern  
18 or practice of violating this Act, the court shall con-  
19 sider requiring, and may order, that the Chief Exec-  
20 utive Officer, and any other corporate officer as ap-  
21 propriate to deter violations of this Act, forfeit to  
22 the United States Treasury any compensation re-  
23 ceived by that person during the 12 months pre-  
24 ceeding or following the filing of a complaint for an  
25 alleged violation of this Act.

1 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) ANTITRUST LAWS.—The term “antitrust  
3 laws” has the meaning given the term in subsection  
4 (a) of section 1 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. 12).

5 (2) BUSINESS USER.—The term “Business  
6 User” means a person that utilizes or is likely to  
7 utilize the covered platform for the sale or provision  
8 of products or services, including such persons that  
9 are operating a covered platform or are controlled by  
10 a covered platform operator.

11 (3) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”  
12 means the Federal Trade Commission.

13 (4) COVERED PLATFORM.—The term “covered  
14 platform” means an online platform—

15 (A) that has been designated as a covered  
16 platform under section 2(e); or

17 (B) that—

18 (i) at any point during the 12 months  
19 preceding a designation under section 2(e)  
20 or at any point during the 12 months pre-  
21 ceeding the filing of a complaint for an al-  
22 leged violation of this Act—

23 (I) has at least 50,000,000  
24 United States-based monthly active  
25 users on the online platform; or

1                   (II) has at least 100,000 United  
2                   States-based monthly active business  
3                   users on the online platform;

4                   (ii) at any point during the 2 years  
5                   preceeding a designation under section 2(e)  
6                   or at any point during the 2 years pre-  
7                   ceeding the filing of a complaint for an al-  
8                   leged violation of this Act, is owned or con-  
9                   trolled by a person with United States net  
10                  annual sales or a market capitalization  
11                  greater than \$550,000,000,000, adjusted  
12                  for inflation on the basis of the Consumer  
13                  Price Index; and

14                  (iii) is a critical trading partner for  
15                  the sale or provision of any product or  
16                  service offered on or directly related to the  
17                  online platform.

18                  (5) ~~CRITICAL TRADING PARTNER.~~—The term  
19                  “critical trading partner” means a person that has  
20                  the ability to restrict or materially impede the access  
21                  of—

22                         (A) a business user to its users or cus-  
23                         tomers; or

1           ~~(B)~~ a business user to a tool or service  
 2           that it needs to effectively serve its users or  
 3           customers.

4           ~~(6)~~ PERSON.—The term “person” has the  
 5           meaning given the term in subsection (a) of section  
 6           1 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. 12).

7           ~~(7)~~ DATA.—

8           ~~(A)~~ IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6  
 9           months after the date of enactment of this Act,  
 10          the Commission shall adopt rules in accordance  
 11          with section 553 of title 5, United States Code,  
 12          to define the term “data” for the purpose of  
 13          implementing and enforcing this Act.

14          ~~(B)~~ DATA.—The term “data” shall include  
 15          information that is collected by or provided to  
 16          a covered platform or business user that is  
 17          linked, or reasonably linkable, to a specific—

18                  ~~(i)~~ user or customer of the covered  
 19                  platform; or

20                  ~~(ii)~~ user or customer of a business  
 21                  user.

22          ~~(8)~~ ONLINE PLATFORM.—The term “online  
 23          platform” means a website, online or mobile applica-  
 24          tion, operating system, digital assistant, or online  
 25          service that—

1           (A) enables a user to generate content that  
2           can be viewed by other users on the platform or  
3           to interact with other content on the platform;

4           (B) facilitates the offering, sale, purchase,  
5           payment, or shipping of products or services,  
6           including software applications, between and  
7           among consumers or businesses not controlled  
8           by the platform operator; or

9           (C) enables user searches or queries that  
10          access or display a large volume of information.

11          (9) CONTROL.—The term “control” with re-  
12          spect to a person means—

13           (A) holding 25 percent or more of the  
14           stock of the person;

15           (B) having the right to 25 percent or more  
16           of the profits of the person;

17           (C) having the right to 25 percent or more  
18           of the assets of the person, in the event of the  
19           person’s dissolution;

20           (D) if the person is a corporation, having  
21           the power to designate 25 percent or more of  
22           the directors of the person;

23           (E) if the person is a trust, having the  
24           power to designate 25 percent or more of the  
25           trustees; or

1           ~~(F)~~ otherwise exercises substantial control  
2 over the person.

3           ~~(10)~~ STATE.—The term “State” means a State,  
4 the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of  
5 Puerto Rico, and any other territory or possession of  
6 the United States.

7           ~~(i)~~ ENFORCEMENT.—

8           ~~(1)~~ IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise pro-  
9 vided in this Act—

10           ~~(A)~~ the Commission shall enforce this Act  
11 in the same manner, by the same means, and  
12 with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties  
13 as though all applicable terms of the Federal  
14 Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.)  
15 were incorporated into and made a part of this  
16 Act;

17           ~~(B)~~ the Attorney General shall enforce this  
18 Act in the same manner, by the same means,  
19 and with the same jurisdiction, powers and du-  
20 ties as though all applicable terms of the Sher-  
21 man Act (15 U.S.C. 1 et seq.), Clayton Act (15  
22 U.S.C. 12 et seq.), and Antitrust Civil Process  
23 Act (15 U.S.C. 1311 et seq.) were incorporated  
24 into and made a part of this Act; and

1           (C) any attorney general of a State shall  
2           enforce this Act in the same manner, by the  
3           same means, and with the same jurisdiction,  
4           powers and duties as though all applicable  
5           terms of the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. 1 et seq.)  
6           and the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. 12 et seq.)  
7           were incorporated into and made a part of this  
8           Act.

9           (2) UNFAIR METHODS OF COMPETITION.—A  
10          violation of this Act shall also constitute an unfair  
11          method of competition under section 5 of the Fed-  
12          eral Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45).

13          (3) COMMISSION INDEPENDENT LITIGATION AU-  
14          THORITY.—If the Commission has reason to believe  
15          that a person violated this Act, the Commission may  
16          commence a civil action, in its own name by any of  
17          its attorneys designated by it for such purpose, to  
18          recover a civil penalty and seek other appropriate re-  
19          lief in a district court of the United States.

20          (4) PARENS PATRIAE.—Any attorney general of  
21          a State may bring a civil action in the name of such  
22          State for a violation of this Act as parens patriae on  
23          behalf of natural persons residing in such State, in  
24          any district court of the United States having juris-

1       diction of the defendant, and may secure any form  
2       of relief provided for in this section.

3       ~~(j) EMERGENCY RELIEF.—~~

4             ~~(1) IN GENERAL.—~~The Commission, Assistant  
5       Attorney General of the Antitrust Division, or any  
6       attorney general of a State may seek a temporary  
7       injunction requiring the covered platform operator to  
8       take or stop taking any action for not more than  
9       120 days and the court may grant such relief if the  
10      Commission, the United States, or the attorney gen-  
11      eral of a State proves—

12             ~~(A)~~ there is a claim that a covered plat-  
13             form operator took an action that would violate  
14             this Act; and

15             ~~(B)~~ that action impairs the ability of busi-  
16             ness users to compete with the covered platform  
17             operator.

18       ~~(2) EMERGENCY RELIEF.—~~The emergency re-  
19       lief shall not last more than 120 days from the filing  
20       of the complaint.

21       ~~(3) TERMINATION.—~~The court shall terminate  
22       the emergency relief at any time that the covered  
23       platform operator proves that the Commission, the  
24       United States, or the attorney general of the State  
25       seeking relief under this section has not taken rea-

1       sonable steps to investigate whether a violation has  
2       occurred.

3           (4) OTHER EQUITABLE RELIEF.—Nothing in  
4       this subsection prevents or limits the Commission,  
5       the United States, or any attorney general of any  
6       State from seeking other equitable relief as provided  
7       in subsection (g) of this section.

8           (k) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—A proceeding for a  
9       violation of this section may be commenced not later than  
10      6 years after such violation occurs.

11      **SEC. 3. JUDICIAL REVIEW.**

12           (a) IN GENERAL.—Any party that is subject to a cov-  
13      ered platform designation under section 2(e) of this Act,  
14      a decision in response to a request to remove a covered  
15      platform designation under section 2(f) of this Act, a final  
16      order issued in any district court of the United States  
17      under this Act, or a final order of the Commission issued  
18      in an administrative adjudicative proceeding under this  
19      Act may within 30 days of the issuance of such designa-  
20      tion, decision, or order, petition for review of such designa-  
21      tion, decision, or order in the United States Court of Ap-  
22      peals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

23           (b) TREATMENT OF FINDINGS.—In a proceeding for  
24      judicial review of a covered platform designation under  
25      section 2(e) of this Act, a decision in response to a request

1 to remove a covered platform designation under section  
2 2(f) of this Act, or a final order of the Commission issued  
3 in an administrative adjudicative proceeding under this  
4 Act, the findings of the Commission or the Assistant At-  
5 torney General as to the facts, if supported by evidence,  
6 shall be conclusive.

7 **SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT GUIDELINES.**

8 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the  
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Commission and the  
10 Assistant Attorney General of the Antitrust Division shall  
11 jointly issue guidelines outlining policies and practices, re-  
12 lating to agency enforcement of this Act, including policies  
13 for determining the appropriate amount of a civil penalty  
14 to be sought under section 2(g)(1) of this Act, with the  
15 goal of promoting transparency, deterring violations, and  
16 imposing sanctions proportionate to the gravity of indi-  
17 vidual violations.

18 (b) **UPDATES.**—The Commission and the Assistant  
19 Attorney General of the Antitrust Division shall update  
20 the joint guidelines issued under subsection (a), as needed  
21 to reflect current agency policies and practices, but not  
22 less frequently than once every 4 years beginning on the  
23 date of enactment of this Act.

24 (c) **OPERATION.**—The Joint Guidelines issued under  
25 this section do not confer any rights upon any person;

1 State, or locality, nor shall they operate to bind the Com-  
2 mission, Department of Justice, or any person, State, or  
3 locality to the approach recommended in such Guidelines.

4 **SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

5 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law,  
6 whether user conduct would constitute a violation of sec-  
7 tion 1030 of title 18 of the United States Code is not dis-  
8 positive of whether the defendant has established an af-  
9 firmative defense under this Act.

10 (b) An action taken by a covered platform operator  
11 that is reasonably tailored to protect the rights of third  
12 parties under sections 106, 1101, 1201, or 1401 of title  
13 17 of the United States Code or rights actionable under  
14 sections 32 or 43 of the Lanham Act (15 U.S.C. 1114,  
15 1125), or corollary state law, shall not be considered un-  
16 lawful conduct under subsection 2(a) or (b) of this Act.

17 (c) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit  
18 any authority of the Attorney General or the Commission  
19 under the antitrust laws, the Federal Trade Commission  
20 Act (15 U.S.C. 45), or any other provision of law or to  
21 limit the application of any law.

22 **SEC. 6. SEVERABILITY.**

23 If any provision of this Act, an amendment made by  
24 this Act, or the application of such provision or amend-  
25 ment to any person or circumstance is held to be unconsti-

1 tutional; the remainder of this Act and of the amendments  
 2 made by this Act, and the application of the remaining  
 3 provisions of this Act and amendments to any person or  
 4 circumstance shall not be affected.

5 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

6 *This Act may be cited as the “American Innovation*  
 7 *and Choice Online Act”.*

8 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

9 (a) *IN GENERAL.—In this Act:*

10 (1) *ANTITRUST LAWS; PERSON.—The terms*  
 11 *“antitrust laws” and “person” have the meanings*  
 12 *given the terms in subsection (a) of the first section*  
 13 *of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. 12).*

14 (2) *BUSINESS USER.—The term “business*  
 15 *user”—*

16 (A) *means a person that uses or is likely to*  
 17 *use a covered platform for the advertising, sale,*  
 18 *or provision of products or services, including*  
 19 *such persons that are operating a covered plat-*  
 20 *form or are controlled by a covered platform op-*  
 21 *erator; and*

22 (B) *does not include a person that—*

23 (i) *is a clear national security risk; or*

1                   (ii) is controlled by the Government of  
2                   the People’s Republic of China or the gov-  
3                   ernment of another foreign adversary.

4                   (3) *COMMISSION.*—The term “Commission”  
5                   means the Federal Trade Commission.

6                   (4) *CONTROL.*—The term “control” means, with  
7                   respect to a person—

8                   (A) holding 25 percent or more of the stock  
9                   of the person;

10                  (B) having the right to 25 percent or more  
11                  of the profits of the person;

12                  (C) in the event of the dissolution of the  
13                  person, having the right to 25 percent or more  
14                  of the assets of the person;

15                  (D) if the person is a corporation, having  
16                  the power to designate 25 percent or more of the  
17                  directors of the person;

18                  (E) if the person is a trust, having the  
19                  power to designate 25 percent or more of the  
20                  trustees; or

21                  (F) otherwise exercising substantial control  
22                  over the person.

23                  (5) *COVERED PLATFORM.*—The term “covered  
24                  platform” means an online platform that—

1           (A) has been designated as a covered plat-  
2 form under section 3(d);

3           (B) is owned or controlled by a person  
4 that—

5                 (i) is a publicly traded company; and

6                 (ii)(I) at any point during the 12  
7 months preceding a designation under sec-  
8 tion 3(d) or the 12 months preceding the fil-  
9 ing of a complaint for an alleged violation  
10 of this Act has at least—

11                     (aa) 50,000,000 United States-  
12 based monthly active users on the on-  
13 line platform; or

14                     (bb) 100,000 United States-based  
15 monthly active business users on the  
16 online platform;

17                 (II) during—

18                     (aa) the 2 years preceding a des-  
19 ignation under section 3(d), or the 2  
20 years preceding the filing of a com-  
21 plaint for an alleged violation of this  
22 Act—

23                     (AA) at any point, is owned  
24 or controlled by a person with  
25 United States net annual sales of

1 greater than \$550,000,000,000,  
2 adjusted for inflation on the basis  
3 of the Consumer Price Index; or

4 (BB) during any 180-day  
5 period during the 2-year period,  
6 an average market capitalization  
7 greater than \$550,000,000,000,  
8 adjusted for inflation on the basis  
9 of the Consumer Price Index or

10 (bb) the 12 months preceding a  
11 designation under section 3(d), or at  
12 any point during the 12 months pre-  
13 ceding the filing of a complaint for an  
14 alleged violation of this Act, has at  
15 least 1,000,000,000 worldwide monthly  
16 active users on the online platform;  
17 and

18 (III) is a critical trading partner for  
19 the sale or provision of any product or serv-  
20 ice offered on or directly related to the on-  
21 line platform; or

22 (C) is owned or controlled by a person  
23 that—

24 (i) is not a publicly traded company;  
25 and

1           (ii)(I) at any point during the 12  
2 months preceding a designation under sec-  
3 tion 3(d), or the 12 months preceding the  
4 filing of a complaint for an alleged viola-  
5 tion of this Act has at least—

6           (aa) 50,000,000 United States-  
7 based monthly active users on the on-  
8 line platform; or

9           (bb) 100,000 United States-based  
10 monthly active business users on the  
11 online platform;

12       (II) at any point—

13           (aa) during the 2 years preceding  
14 a designation under section 3(d), or  
15 the 2 years preceding the filing of a  
16 complaint for an alleged violation of  
17 this Act, is owned or controlled by a  
18 person with earnings, before interest,  
19 taxes, depreciation, and amortization,  
20 in the previous fiscal year of greater  
21 than \$30,000,000,000, adjusted for in-  
22 flation on the basis of the Consumer  
23 Price Index; or

24           (bb) during the 12 months pre-  
25 ceding a designation under section

1                   3(d), or the 12 months preceding the  
 2                   filing of a complaint for an alleged  
 3                   violation of this Act, has at least  
 4                   1,000,000,000 worldwide monthly ac-  
 5                   tive users on the online platform; and  
 6                   (III) is a critical trading partner for  
 7                   the sale or provision of any product or serv-  
 8                   ice offered on or directly related to the on-  
 9                   line platform.

10                   (6) *CRITICAL TRADING PARTNER.*—The term  
 11                   “critical trading partner” means a person that has  
 12                   the ability to restrict or materially impede the access  
 13                   of—

14                   (A) a business user to the users or customers  
 15                   of the business user; or

16                   (B) a business user to a tool or service that  
 17                   the business user needs to effectively serve the  
 18                   users or customers of the business user.

19                   (7) *DATA.*—The term “data” includes informa-  
 20                   tion that is collected by or provided to a covered plat-  
 21                   form or business user that is linked, or reasonably  
 22                   linkable, to a specific—

23                   (A) user or customer of the covered plat-  
 24                   form; or

25                   (B) user or customer of a business user.

1           (8) *FOREIGN ADVERSARY.*—*The term “foreign*  
2 *adversary” has the meaning given the term in section*  
3 *8(c) of the Secure and Trusted Communications Net-*  
4 *works Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1607(c)).*

5           (9) *ONLINE PLATFORM.*—*The term “online plat-*  
6 *form” means a website, online or mobile application,*  
7 *operating system, digital assistant, or online service*  
8 *that—*

9                   (A) *enables a user to generate content that*  
10 *can be viewed by other users on the platform or*  
11 *to interact with other content on the platform;*

12                   (B) *facilitates the offering, advertising, sale,*  
13 *purchase, payment, or shipping of products or*  
14 *services, including software applications, between*  
15 *and among consumers or businesses not con-*  
16 *trolled by the platform operator; or*

17                   (C) *enables user searches or queries that ac-*  
18 *cess or display a large volume of information.*

19           (10) *PUBLICLY TRADED COMPANY.*—*The term*  
20 *“publicly traded company”—*

21                   (A) *means any company whose principal*  
22 *class of shares—*

23                           (i) *is listed on a stock exchange; and*

24                           (ii) *can be readily purchased or sold*  
25 *by the public; and*

1                   (B) includes all subsidiaries of a company  
2                   described in subparagraph (A).

3                   (11) STATE.—The term “State” means a State,  
4                   the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puer-  
5                   to Rico, and any other territory or possession of the  
6                   United States.

7                   (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the  
8                   date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall promul-  
9                   gate regulations in accordance with section 553 of title 5,  
10                  United States Code, to define the term data for the purpose  
11                  of implementing and enforcing this Act.

12                  **SEC. 3. UNLAWFUL CONDUCT.**

13                  (a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for a person  
14                  operating a covered platform in or affecting commerce to  
15                  engage in conduct, as demonstrated by a preponderance of  
16                  the evidence, that would—

17                         (1) preference the products, services, or lines of  
18                         business of the covered platform operator over those of  
19                         another business user on the covered platform in a  
20                         manner that would materially harm competition;

21                         (2) limit the ability of the products, services, or  
22                         lines of business of another business user to compete  
23                         on the covered platform relative to the products, serv-  
24                         ices, or lines of business of the covered platform oper-

1        *ator in a manner that would materially harm com-*  
2        *petition;*

3            (3) *discriminate in the application or enforce-*  
4        *ment of the terms of service of the covered platform*  
5        *among similarly situated business users in a manner*  
6        *that would materially harm competition;*

7            (4) *materially restrict, impede, or unreasonably*  
8        *delay the capacity of a business user to access or*  
9        *interoperate with the same platform, operating sys-*  
10       *tem, or hardware or software features that are avail-*  
11       *able to the products, services, or lines of business of*  
12       *the covered platform operator that compete or would*  
13       *compete with products or services offered by business*  
14       *users on the covered platform;*

15           (5) *condition access to the covered platform or*  
16        *preferred status or placement on the covered platform*  
17        *on the purchase or use of other products or services*  
18        *offered by the covered platform operator that are not*  
19        *part of or intrinsic to the covered platform;*

20           (6) *use nonpublic data that are obtained from or*  
21        *generated on the covered platform by the activities of*  
22        *a business user or by the interaction of a covered*  
23        *platform user with the products or services of a busi-*  
24        *ness user to offer, or support the offering of, the prod-*  
25        *ucts or services of the covered platform operator that*

1 *compete or would compete with products or services*  
2 *offered by business users on the covered platform;*

3 *(7) materially restrict or impede a business user*  
4 *from accessing data generated on the covered platform*  
5 *by the activities of the business user, or through an*  
6 *interaction of a covered platform user with the prod-*  
7 *ucts or services of the business user, such as by estab-*  
8 *lishing contractual or technical restrictions that pre-*  
9 *vent the portability by the business user to other sys-*  
10 *tems or applications of the data of the business user;*

11 *(8) materially restrict or impede covered plat-*  
12 *form users from uninstalling software applications*  
13 *that have been preinstalled on the covered platform or*  
14 *changing default settings that direct or steer covered*  
15 *platform users to products or services offered by the*  
16 *covered platform operator, unless necessary—*

17 *(A) for the security or functioning of the*  
18 *covered platform; or*

19 *(B) to prevent data from the covered plat-*  
20 *form operator or another business user from*  
21 *being transferred to the Government of the Peo-*  
22 *ple's Republic of China or the government of an-*  
23 *other foreign adversary;*

24 *(9) in connection with any covered platform user*  
25 *interface, including search or ranking functionality*

1       offered by the covered platform, treat the products,  
 2       services, or lines of business of the covered platform  
 3       operator more favorably relative to those of another  
 4       business user than under standards mandating the  
 5       neutral, fair, and nondiscriminatory treatment of all  
 6       business users; or

7               (10) retaliate against any business user or cov-  
 8       ered platform user that raises concerns with any law  
 9       enforcement authority about actual or potential viola-  
 10      tions of State or Federal law.

11      (b) *AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES.*—

12              (1) *IN GENERAL.*—It shall be an affirmative de-  
 13      fense to an action under paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of  
 14      subsection (a) if the defendant establishes by a pre-  
 15      ponderance of the evidence that the conduct was nar-  
 16      rowly tailored, nonpretextual, and reasonably nec-  
 17      essary to—

18                      (A) prevent a violation of, or comply with,  
 19                      Federal or State law;

20                      (B) protect safety, user privacy, the security  
 21                      of nonpublic data, or the security of the covered  
 22                      platform; or

23                      (C) maintain or substantially enhance the  
 24                      core functionality of the covered platform.

1           (2) *OTHER UNLAWFUL CONDUCT.*—*It shall be an*  
2 *affirmative defense to an action under paragraph (4),*  
3 *(5), (6), (7), (8), (9), or (10) of subsection (a) if the*  
4 *defendant establishes by a preponderance of the evi-*  
5 *dence that the conduct—*

6                   (A) *has not resulted in and would not result*  
7 *in material harm to competition; or*

8                   (B) *was narrowly tailored, could not be*  
9 *achieved through less discriminatory means, was*  
10 *nonpretextual, and was reasonably necessary*  
11 *to—*

12                           (i) *prevent a violation of, or comply*  
13 *with, Federal or State law;*

14                           (ii) *protect safety, user privacy, the se-*  
15 *curity of non-public data, or the security of*  
16 *the covered platform; or*

17                           (iii) *maintain or substantially enhance*  
18 *the core functionality of the covered plat-*  
19 *form.*

20           (3) *EFFECT OF OTHER LAWS.*—*Notwithstanding*  
21 *any other provision of law, whether user conduct*  
22 *would constitute a violation of section 1030 of title*  
23 *18, United States Code, shall have no effect on wheth-*  
24 *er the defendant has established an affirmative defense*  
25 *under this Act.*

1       (c) *ENFORCEMENT.*—

2           (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Except as otherwise provided*  
3 *in this Act*—

4           (A) *the Commission shall enforce this Act in*  
5 *the same manner, by the same means, and with*  
6 *the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as*  
7 *though all applicable terms of the Federal Trade*  
8 *Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were in-*  
9 *corporated into and made a part of this Act;*

10          (B) *the Attorney General shall enforce this*  
11 *Act in the same manner, by the same means,*  
12 *and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and du-*  
13 *ties as though all applicable terms of the Sher-*  
14 *man Act (15 U.S.C. 1 et seq.), Clayton Act (15*  
15 *U.S.C. 12 et seq.), and Antitrust Civil Process*  
16 *Act (15 U.S.C. 1311 et seq.) were incorporated*  
17 *into and made a part of this Act; and*

18          (C) *any attorney general of a State shall*  
19 *enforce this Act in the same manner, by the same*  
20 *means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers,*  
21 *and duties as though all applicable terms of the*  
22 *Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. 1 et seq.) and the Clay-*  
23 *ton Act (15 U.S.C. 12 et seq.) were incorporated*  
24 *into and made a part of this Act.*

1           (2) *COMMISSION INDEPENDENT LITIGATION AU-*  
2           *THORITY.*—*If the Commission has reason to believe*  
3           *that a person violated this Act, the Commission may*  
4           *commence a civil action, in its own name by any of*  
5           *its attorneys designated by it for such purpose, to re-*  
6           *cover a civil penalty and seek other appropriate relief*  
7           *in a district court of the United States.*

8           (3) *PARENS PATRIAE.*—*Any attorney general of*  
9           *a State may bring a civil action in the name of such*  
10          *State for a violation of this Act as parens patriae on*  
11          *behalf of natural persons residing in such State, in*  
12          *any district court of the United States having juris-*  
13          *isdiction of the defendant for any form of relief pro-*  
14          *vided for in this section.*

15          (4) *ENFORCEMENT IN FEDERAL DISTRICT*  
16          *COURT.*—*The Commission, Attorney General, or any*  
17          *attorney general of a State shall only be able to en-*  
18          *force this Act through a civil action brought before a*  
19          *district court of the United States.*

20          (5) *REMEDIES.*—

21                (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The remedies provided*  
22                *in this paragraph are in addition to, and not in*  
23                *lieu of, any other remedy available under Fed-*  
24                *eral or State law.*

1           (B) *CIVIL PENALTY.*—Any person who vio-  
2           lates this Act shall be liable to the United States  
3           or the Commission for a civil penalty, which  
4           shall accrue to the United States Treasury, in an  
5           amount not greater than 15 percent of the total  
6           United States revenue of the person for the pe-  
7           riod of time the violation occurred.

8           (C) *INJUNCTIONS.*—

9           (i) *IN GENERAL.*—The Assistant Attor-  
10          ney General in charge of the Antitrust Divi-  
11          sion, the Commission, or the attorney gen-  
12          eral of any State may seek, and the court  
13          may order, relief in equity as necessary to  
14          prevent, restrain, or prohibit violations of  
15          this Act.

16          (ii) *TEMPORARY INJUNCTIONS.*—

17          (I) *IN GENERAL.*—The Commis-  
18          sion, Assistant Attorney General in  
19          charge of the Antitrust Division, or  
20          any attorney general of a State may  
21          seek a temporary injunction requiring  
22          the covered platform operator to take  
23          or stop taking any action for not more  
24          than 120 days.

1           (II) *GRANT.*—*The court may*  
2 *grant a temporary injunction under*  
3 *this clause if the Commission, the*  
4 *United States, or the attorney general*  
5 *of a State, as applicable, proves—*

6                   (aa) *there is a plausible*  
7 *claim, supported by evidence, that*  
8 *a covered platform operator took*  
9 *an action that would violate this*  
10 *Act;*

11                   (bb) *that action materially*  
12 *impairs the ability of business*  
13 *users to compete with the covered*  
14 *platform operator; and*

15                   (cc) *a temporary injunction*  
16 *would be in the public interest.*

17           (III) *DURATION.*—*A temporary*  
18 *injunction under this clause shall ex-*  
19 *pire not later than the date that is 120*  
20 *days after the date on which a com-*  
21 *plaint under this subsection is filed.*

22           (IV) *TERMINATION.*—*The court*  
23 *shall terminate a temporary injunction*  
24 *under this clause if the covered plat-*  
25 *form operator proves that—*

1           (aa) the Commission, the  
2           United States, or the attorney  
3           general of the State seeking relief  
4           under this subsection has not  
5           taken reasonable steps to inves-  
6           tigate whether a violation has oc-  
7           curred; or

8           (bb) allowing the temporary  
9           injunction to continue would  
10          harm the public interest.

11          (V) *OTHER EQUITABLE RELIEF.*—

12          *Nothing in this clause shall prevent or*  
13          *limit the Commission, the United*  
14          *States, or any attorney general of any*  
15          *State from seeking other equitable re-*  
16          *lief, including the relief provided in*  
17          *this paragraph.*

18          (D) *FORFEITURE FOR REPEAT OFFEND-*  
19          *ERS.*—*If a person has engaged in a pattern or*  
20          *practice of violating this Act, the court shall con-*  
21          *sider requiring, and may order, that the chief ex-*  
22          *ecutive officer, and any other corporate officer as*  
23          *appropriate to deter violations of this Act, forfeit*  
24          *to the United States Treasury any compensation*  
25          *received by that person during the 12 months*

1           *preceding or following the filing of a complaint*  
2           *for an alleged violation of this Act.*

3           (6) *STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.*—*A proceeding for*  
4           *a violation of this section may be commenced not*  
5           *later than 6 years after such violation occurs.*

6           (7) *RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.*—

7           (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*Nothing in subsection*  
8           (i) *may be construed—*

9                   (i) *to require a covered platform oper-*  
10                   *ator to divulge or license any intellectual*  
11                   *property, including any trade secrets, busi-*  
12                   *ness secrets, or other confidential propri-*  
13                   *etary business processes, owned by or li-*  
14                   *censed to the covered platform operator;*

15                   (ii) *to prevent a covered platform oper-*  
16                   *ator from asserting its preexisting rights*  
17                   *under intellectual property law to prevent*  
18                   *the unauthorized use of any intellectual*  
19                   *property owned by or duly licensed to the*  
20                   *covered platform operator;*

21                   (iii) *to require a covered platform op-*  
22                   *erator to interoperate or share data with*  
23                   *persons or business users that are on any*  
24                   *list maintained by the Federal Government*  
25                   *by which entities—*

1           (I) are identified as limited or  
2           prohibited from engaging in economic  
3           transactions as part of United States  
4           sanctions or export-control regimes; or

5           (II) have been identified as na-  
6           tional security, intelligence, or law en-  
7           forcement risks;

8           (iv) to prohibit a covered platform op-  
9           erator from promptly requesting and ob-  
10          taining the consent of a covered platform  
11          user prior to providing access to the non-  
12          public, personally identifiable information  
13          of the user to a covered platform user under  
14          that subsection;

15          (v) in a manner that would likely re-  
16          sult in data on the covered platform or data  
17          from another business user being transferred  
18          to the Government of the People's Republic  
19          of China or the government of another for-  
20          eign adversary; or

21          (vi) to impose liability on a covered  
22          platform operator solely for offering—

23               (I) full end-to-end encrypted mes-  
24               saging or communication products or

1                    *services that allow communication be-*  
 2                    *tween covered platform users; or*

3                    *(II) a fee-for-service subscription*  
 4                    *that provides benefits to covered plat-*  
 5                    *form users on the covered platform.*

6                    *(B) COPYRIGHT AND TRADEMARK VIOLA-*  
 7                    *TIONS.—An action taken by a covered platform*  
 8                    *operator that is reasonably tailored to protect the*  
 9                    *rights of third parties under section 106, 1101,*  
 10                    *1201, or 1401 of title 17, United States Code, or*  
 11                    *rights actionable under section 32 or 43 of the*  
 12                    *Act entitled “An Act to provide for the registra-*  
 13                    *tion and protection of trademarks used in com-*  
 14                    *merce, to carry out the provisions of certain*  
 15                    *international conventions, and for other pur-*  
 16                    *poses”, approved July 5, 1946 (commonly known*  
 17                    *as the “Lanham Act” or the “Trademark Act of*  
 18                    *1946”) (15 U.S.C. 1114, 1125), or corollary*  
 19                    *State law, shall not be considered unlawful con-*  
 20                    *duct under subsection (a).*

21                    *(d) COVERED PLATFORM DESIGNATION.—*

22                    *(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission and Depart-*  
 23                    *ment of Justice may jointly, with concurrence of the*  
 24                    *other, designate an online platform as a covered plat-*

1       *form for the purpose of implementing and enforcing*  
2       *this Act, which shall—*

3               *(A) be based on a finding that the criteria*  
4               *set forth in subparagraph (B) or (C) of section*  
5               *2(a)(5) are met;*

6               *(B) be issued in writing and published in*  
7               *the Federal Register; and*

8               *(C) except as provided in paragraph (2),*  
9               *apply for a 7-year period beginning on the date*  
10              *on which the designation is issued, regardless of*  
11              *whether there is a change in control or owner-*  
12              *ship over the covered platform.*

13              *(2) REMOVAL OF COVERED PLATFORM DESIGNA-*  
14              *TION.—The Commission or the Department of Justice*  
15              *shall—*

16              *(A) consider whether a designation of a cov-*  
17              *ered platform under paragraph (1) should be re-*  
18              *moved prior to the expiration of the 7-year pe-*  
19              *riod if the covered platform operator files a re-*  
20              *quest with the Commission or the Department of*  
21              *Justice that shows that the online platform no*  
22              *longer meets the criteria set forth in subpara-*  
23              *graphs (B) and (C);*

24              *(B) determine whether to grant a request*  
25              *submitted under subparagraph (A) not later*

1           *than 120 days after the date on which the re-*  
2           *quest is filed; and*

3           *(C) obtain the concurrence of the Commis-*  
4           *sion or the Department of Justice, as appro-*  
5           *priate, before granting a request submitted under*  
6           *subparagraph (A).*

7           (3) *JUDICIAL REVIEW.*—

8           *(A) IN GENERAL.*—*Any person aggrieved by*  
9           *a designation under paragraph (1), a decision in*  
10          *response to a request under paragraph (2), or a*  
11          *final order issued in any district court of the*  
12          *United States under this Act may, within 30*  
13          *days of the issuance of such designation, deci-*  
14          *sion, or order, petition for review of such des-*  
15          *ignation, decision, or order in the United States*  
16          *Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia*  
17          *Circuit.*

18          *(B) TREATMENT OF FINDINGS.*—*In a pro-*  
19          *ceeding for judicial review of a designation*  
20          *under paragraph (1) or a decision in response to*  
21          *a request under paragraph (2), the findings of*  
22          *fact by the Commission or the Department of*  
23          *Justice, if supported by evidence, shall be conclu-*  
24          *sive.*

1 **SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT GUIDELINES.**

2       (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 270 days after the  
3 date of enactment of this Act, the Commission and the As-  
4 sistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Divi-  
5 sion, in consultation with other relevant Federal agencies  
6 and State attorneys general, shall jointly issue agency en-  
7 forcement guidelines outlining policies and practices relat-  
8 ing to conduct that may materially harm competition  
9 under section 3(a), agency interpretations of the affirmative  
10 defenses under section 3(b), and policies for determining the  
11 appropriate amount of a civil penalty to be sought under  
12 section 3(c), with the goal of promoting transparency, deter-  
13 ring violations, fostering innovation and procompetitive  
14 conduct, and imposing sanctions proportionate to the grav-  
15 ity of individual violations.

16       (b) *UPDATES.*—The Commission and the Assistant At-  
17 torney General in charge of the Antitrust Division shall up-  
18 date the joint guidelines issued under subsection (a) as  
19 needed to reflect current agency policies and practices, but  
20 not less frequently than once every 4 years beginning on  
21 the date of enactment of this Act.

22       (c) *PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.*—Before issuing  
23 guidelines, or updates to those guidelines, under this section,  
24 the Commission and the Assistant Attorney General in  
25 charge of the Antitrust Division shall—

1           (1) *publish proposed guidelines in draft form;*  
2           *and*

3           (2) *provide public notice and opportunity for*  
4           *comment for not less than 60 days after the date on*  
5           *which the draft guidelines are published.*

6           (d) *OPERATION.—The joint guidelines issued under*  
7           *this section do not—*

8           (1) *confer any rights upon any person, State, or*  
9           *locality; and*

10          (2) *operate to bind the Commission, Department*  
11          *of Justice, or any person, State, or locality to the ap-*  
12          *proach recommended in the guidelines.*

13       **SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

14       *Nothing in this Act may be construed to limit—*

15           (1) *any authority of the Attorney General or the*  
16           *Commission under the antitrust laws, section 5 of the*  
17           *Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45), or*  
18           *any other provision of law; or*

19           (2) *the application of any law.*

20       **SEC. 6. SEVERABILITY.**

21       *If any provision of this Act, or the application of such*  
22       *provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be un-*  
23       *constitutional, the remainder of this Act, and the applica-*  
24       *tion of the remaining provisions of this Act, to any person*  
25       *or circumstance, shall not be affected.*

1 **SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2       (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Except as provided in subsection*  
3 *(b), this Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of*  
4 *this Act.*

5       (b) *EXCEPTION.*—*Section 3(a) shall take effect on the*  
6 *date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.*

7       (c) *AUTHORITY.*—*The exception in subsection (b) shall*  
8 *not limit the authority of the Commission or Department*  
9 *of Justice to implement other sections of this Act.*

**Calendar No. 301**

117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**S. 2992**

---

---

**A BILL**

To provide that certain discriminatory conduct by covered platforms shall be unlawful, and for other purposes.

---

---

MARCH 2, 2022

Reported with an amendment