

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A
SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 975**

**(As agreed to by the Committee on the Judiciary on 12 March
2003)**

Replace all after the enacting clause with the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES; TABLE OF CON-
2 TENTS.**

3 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
**4 “Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection
5 Act of 2003”.**

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; references; table of contents.

TITLE I—NEEDS-BASED BANKRUPTCY

- Sec. 101. Conversion.
- Sec. 102. Dismissal or conversion.
- Sec. 103. Sense of Congress and study.
- Sec. 104. Notice of alternatives.
- Sec. 105. Debtor financial management training test program.
- Sec. 106. Credit counseling.
- Sec. 107. Schedules of reasonable and necessary expenses.

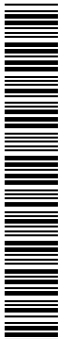
TITLE II—ENHANCED CONSUMER PROTECTION

Subtitle A—Penalties for Abusive Creditor Practices

- Sec. 201. Promotion of alternative dispute resolution.
- Sec. 202. Effect of discharge.
- Sec. 203. Discouraging abuse of reaffirmation agreement practices.
- Sec. 204. Preservation of claims and defenses upon sale of predatory loans.
- Sec. 205. GAO study and report on reaffirmation agreement process.

Subtitle B—Priority Child Support

- Sec. 211. Definition of domestic support obligation.
- Sec. 212. Priorities for claims for domestic support obligations.



- Sec. 213. Requirements to obtain confirmation and discharge in cases involving domestic support obligations.
- Sec. 214. Exceptions to automatic stay in domestic support obligation proceedings.
- Sec. 215. Nondischargeability of certain debts for alimony, maintenance, and support.
- Sec. 216. Continued liability of property.
- Sec. 217. Protection of domestic support claims against preferential transfer motions.
- Sec. 218. Disposable income defined.
- Sec. 219. Collection of child support.
- Sec. 220. Nondischargeability of certain educational benefits and loans.

Subtitle C—Other Consumer Protections

- Sec. 221. Amendments to discourage abusive bankruptcy filings.
- Sec. 222. Sense of Congress.
- Sec. 223. Additional amendments to title 11, United States Code.
- Sec. 224. Protection of retirement savings in bankruptcy.
- Sec. 225. Protection of education savings in bankruptcy.
- Sec. 226. Definitions.
- Sec. 227. Restrictions on debt relief agencies.
- Sec. 228. Disclosures.
- Sec. 229. Requirements for debt relief agencies.
- Sec. 230. GAO study.
- Sec. 231. Protection of personally identifiable information.
- Sec. 232. Consumer privacy ombudsman.
- Sec. 233. Prohibition on disclosure of name of minor children.

TITLE III—DISCOURAGING BANKRUPTCY ABUSE

- Sec. 301. Reinforcement of the fresh start.
- Sec. 302. Discouraging bad faith repeat filings.
- Sec. 303. Curbing abusive filings.
- Sec. 304. Debtor retention of personal property security.
- Sec. 305. Relief from the automatic stay when the debtor does not complete intended surrender of consumer debt collateral.
- Sec. 306. Giving secured creditors fair treatment in chapter 13.
- Sec. 307. Domiciliary requirements for exemptions.
- Sec. 308. Reduction of homestead exemption for fraud.
- Sec. 309. Protecting secured creditors in chapter 13 cases.
- Sec. 310. Limitation on luxury goods.
- Sec. 311. Automatic stay.
- Sec. 312. Extension of period between bankruptcy discharges.
- Sec. 313. Definition of household goods and antiques.
- Sec. 314. Debt incurred to pay nondischargeable debts.
- Sec. 315. Giving creditors fair notice in chapters 7 and 13 cases.
- Sec. 316. Dismissal for failure to timely file schedules or provide required information.
- Sec. 317. Adequate time to prepare for hearing on confirmation of the plan.
- Sec. 318. Chapter 13 plans to have a 5-year duration in certain cases.
- Sec. 319. Sense of Congress regarding expansion of rule 9011 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure.
- Sec. 320. Prompt relief from stay in individual cases.
- Sec. 321. Chapter 11 cases filed by individuals.
- Sec. 322. Limitations on homestead exemption.



- Sec. 323. Excluding employee benefit plan participant contributions and other property from the estate.
- Sec. 324. Exclusive jurisdiction in matters involving bankruptcy professionals.
- Sec. 325. United States trustee program filing fee increase.
- Sec. 326. Sharing of compensation.
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- Sec. 329. Clarification of postpetition wages and benefits.
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TITLE IV—GENERAL AND SMALL BUSINESS BANKRUPTCY PROVISIONS

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- Sec. 401. Adequate protection for investors.
- Sec. 402. Meetings of creditors and equity security holders.
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- Sec. 413. Creditor representation at first meeting of creditors.
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- Sec. 432. Definitions.
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- Sec. 438. Plan confirmation deadline.
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Sec. 903. Amendments relating to transfers of qualified financial contracts.

Sec. 904. Amendments relating to disaffirmance or repudiation of qualified financial contracts.

Sec. 905. Clarifying amendment relating to master agreements.

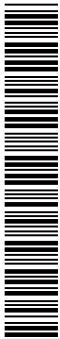
Sec. 906. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991.

Sec. 907. Bankruptcy law amendments.

Sec. 908. Recordkeeping requirements.

Sec. 909. Exemptions from contemporaneous execution requirement.

Sec. 910. Damage measure.



Sec. 911. SIPC stay.

TITLE X—PROTECTION OF FAMILY FARMERS AND FAMILY FISHERMEN

Sec. 1001. Permanent reenactment of chapter 12.

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Sec. 1006. Prohibition of retroactive assessment of disposable income.

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TITLE XI—HEALTH CARE AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

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Sec. 1212. Property of the estate.

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Sec. 1224. Compensating trustees.

Sec. 1225. Amendment to section 362 of title 11, United States Code.

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Sec. 1228. Providing requested tax documents to the court.



- Sec. 1229. Encouraging creditworthiness.
- Sec. 1230. Property no longer subject to redemption.
- Sec. 1231. Trustees.
- Sec. 1232. Bankruptcy forms.
- Sec. 1233. Direct appeals of bankruptcy matters to courts of appeals.
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- Sec. 1235. Federal election law fines and penalties as nondischargeable debt.

TITLE XIII—CONSUMER CREDIT DISCLOSURE

- Sec. 1301. Enhanced disclosures under an open end credit plan.
- Sec. 1302. Enhanced disclosure for credit extensions secured by a dwelling.
- Sec. 1303. Disclosures related to “introductory rates”.
- Sec. 1304. Internet-based credit card solicitations.
- Sec. 1305. Disclosures related to late payment deadlines and penalties.
- Sec. 1306. Prohibition on certain actions for failure to incur finance charges.
- Sec. 1307. Dual use debit card.
- Sec. 1308. Study of bankruptcy impact of credit extended to dependent students.
- Sec. 1309. Clarification of clear and conspicuous.

TITLE XIV—GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS

- Sec. 1401. Effective date; application of amendments.

1 **TITLE I—NEEDS-BASED**
 2 **BANKRUPTCY**

3 **SEC. 101. CONVERSION.**

4 Section 706(e) of title 11, United States Code, is
 5 amended by inserting “or consents to” after “requests”.

6 **SEC. 102. DISMISSAL OR CONVERSION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 707 of title 11, United
 8 States Code, is amended—

9 (1) by striking the section heading and insert-
 10 ing the following:

11 **“§ 707. Dismissal of a case or conversion to a case**
 12 **under chapter 11 or 13”;**

13 and

14 (2) in subsection (b)—



1 (A) by inserting “(1)” after “(b)”;

2 (B) in paragraph (1), as so redesignated
3 by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph—

4 (i) in the first sentence—

5 (I) by striking “but not at the re-
6 quest or suggestion of” and inserting
7 “trustee (or bankruptcy adminis-
8 trator, if any), or”;

9 (II) by inserting “, or, with the
10 debtor’s consent, convert such a case
11 to a case under chapter 11 or 13 of
12 this title,” after “consumer debts”;
13 and

14 (III) by striking “a substantial
15 abuse” and inserting “an abuse”; and

16 (ii) by striking the next to last sen-
17 tence; and

18 (C) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(2)(A)(i) In considering under paragraph (1) wheth-
20 er the granting of relief would be an abuse of the provi-
21 sions of this chapter, the court shall presume abuse exists
22 if the debtor’s current monthly income reduced by the
23 amounts determined under clauses (ii), (iii), and (iv), and
24 multiplied by 60 is not less than the lesser of—



1 “(I) 25 percent of the debtor’s nonpriority un-
2 secured claims in the case, or \$6,000, whichever is
3 greater; or

4 “(II) \$10,000.

5 “(ii)(I) The debtor’s monthly expenses shall be the
6 debtor’s applicable monthly expense amounts specified
7 under the National Standards and Local Standards, and
8 the debtor’s actual monthly expenses for the categories
9 specified as Other Necessary Expenses issued by the In-
10 ternal Revenue Service for the area in which the debtor
11 resides, as in effect on the date of the order for relief,
12 for the debtor, the dependents of the debtor, and the
13 spouse of the debtor in a joint case, if the spouse is not
14 otherwise a dependent. Notwithstanding any other provi-
15 sion of this clause, the monthly expenses of the debtor
16 shall not include any payments for debts. In addition, the
17 debtor’s monthly expenses shall include the debtor’s rea-
18 sonably necessary expenses incurred to maintain the safe-
19 ty of the debtor and the family of the debtor from family
20 violence as identified under section 309 of the Family Vio-
21 lence Prevention and Services Act, or other applicable
22 Federal law. The expenses included in the debtor’s month-
23 ly expenses described in the preceding sentence shall be
24 kept confidential by the court. In addition, if it is dem-
25 onstrated that it is reasonable and necessary, the debtor’s



1 monthly expenses may also include an additional allowance
2 for food and clothing of up to 5 percent of the food and
3 clothing categories as specified by the National Standards
4 issued by the Internal Revenue Service.

5 “(II) In addition, the debtor’s monthly expenses may
6 include, if applicable, the continuation of actual expenses
7 paid by the debtor that are reasonable and necessary for
8 care and support of an elderly, chronically ill, or disabled
9 household member or member of the debtor’s immediate
10 family (including parents, grandparents, siblings, children,
11 and grandchildren of the debtor, the dependents of the
12 debtor, and the spouse of the debtor in a joint case who
13 is not a dependent) and who is unable to pay for such
14 reasonable and necessary expenses.

15 “(III) In addition, for a debtor eligible for chapter
16 13, the debtor’s monthly expenses may include the actual
17 administrative expenses of administering a chapter 13
18 plan for the district in which the debtor resides, up to an
19 amount of 10 percent of the projected plan payments, as
20 determined under schedules issued by the Executive Office
21 for United States Trustees.

22 “(IV) In addition, the debtor’s monthly expenses may
23 include the actual expenses for each dependent child less
24 than 18 years of age, not to exceed \$1,500 per year per
25 child, to attend a private or public elementary or sec-



1 onday school if the debtor provides documentation of such
2 expenses and a detailed explanation of why such expenses
3 are reasonable and necessary, and why such expenses are
4 not already accounted for in the National Standards,
5 Local Standards, or Other Necessary Expenses referred
6 to in subclause (I)

7 “(V) In addition, the debtor’s monthly expenses may
8 include an allowance for housing and utilities, in excess
9 of the allowance specified by the Local Standards for
10 housing and utilities issued by the Internal Revenue Serv-
11 ice, based on the actual expenses for home energy costs
12 if the debtor provides documentation of such actual ex-
13 penses and demonstrates that such actual expenses are
14 reasonable and necessary.

15 “(iii) The debtor’s average monthly payments on ac-
16 count of secured debts shall be calculated as the sum of—

17 “(I) the total of all amounts scheduled as con-
18 tractually due to secured creditors in each month of
19 the 60 months following the date of the petition; and

20 “(II) any additional payments to secured credi-
21 tors necessary for the debtor, in filing a plan under
22 chapter 13 of this title, to maintain possession of the
23 debtor’s primary residence, motor vehicle, or other
24 property necessary for the support of the debtor and



1 the debtor's dependents, that serves as collateral for
2 secured debts;
3 divided by 60.

4 “(iv) The debtor's expenses for payment of all pri-
5 ority claims (including priority child support and alimony
6 claims) shall be calculated as the total amount of debts
7 entitled to priority, divided by 60.

8 “(B)(i) In any proceeding brought under this sub-
9 section, the presumption of abuse may only be rebutted
10 by demonstrating special circumstances that justify addi-
11 tional expenses or adjustments of current monthly income
12 for which there is no reasonable alternative.

13 “(ii) In order to establish special circumstances, the
14 debtor shall be required to itemize each additional expense
15 or adjustment of income and to provide—

16 “(I) documentation for such expense or adjust-
17 ment to income; and

18 “(II) a detailed explanation of the special cir-
19 cumstances that make such expenses or adjustment
20 to income necessary and reasonable.

21 “(iii) The debtor shall attest under oath to the accu-
22 racy of any information provided to demonstrate that ad-
23 ditional expenses or adjustments to income are required.

24 “(iv) The presumption of abuse may only be rebutted
25 if the additional expenses or adjustments to income re-



1 ferred to in clause (i) cause the product of the debtor's
2 current monthly income reduced by the amounts deter-
3 mined under clauses (ii), (iii), and (iv) of subparagraph
4 (A) when multiplied by 60 to be less than the lesser of—

5 “(I) 25 percent of the debtor's nonpriority un-
6 secured claims, or \$6,000, whichever is greater; or

7 “(II) \$10,000.

8 “(C) As part of the schedule of current income and
9 expenditures required under section 521, the debtor shall
10 include a statement of the debtor's current monthly in-
11 come, and the calculations that determine whether a pre-
12 sumption arises under subparagraph (A)(i), that show how
13 each such amount is calculated.

14 “(3) In considering under paragraph (1) whether the
15 granting of relief would be an abuse of the provisions of
16 this chapter in a case in which the presumption in sub-
17 paragraph (A)(i) of such paragraph does not arise or is
18 rebutted, the court shall consider—

19 “(A) whether the debtor filed the petition in
20 bad faith; or

21 “(B) the totality of the circumstances (includ-
22 ing whether the debtor seeks to reject a personal
23 services contract and the financial need for such re-
24 jection as sought by the debtor) of the debtor's fi-
25 nancial situation demonstrates abuse.



1 “(4)(A) The court, on its own initiative or on the mo-
2 tion of a party in interest, in accordance with the proce-
3 dures described in rule 9011 of the Federal Rules of
4 Bankruptcy Procedure, may order the attorney for the
5 debtor to reimburse the trustee for all reasonable costs
6 in prosecuting a motion filed under section 707(b), includ-
7 ing reasonable attorneys’ fees, if—

8 “(i) a trustee files a motion for dismissal or
9 conversion under this subsection; and

10 “(ii) the court—

11 “(I) grants such motion; and

12 “(II) finds that the action of the attorney
13 for the debtor in filing under this chapter vio-
14 lated rule 9011 of the Federal Rules of Bank-
15 ruptcy Procedure.

16 “(B) If the court finds that the attorney for the debt-
17 or violated rule 9011 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy
18 Procedure, the court, on its own initiative or on the motion
19 of a party in interest, in accordance with such procedures,
20 may order—

21 “(i) the assessment of an appropriate civil pen-
22 alty against the attorney for the debtor; and

23 “(ii) the payment of such civil penalty to the
24 trustee, the United States trustee (or the bank-
25 ruptcy administrator, if any).



1 “(C) The signature of an attorney on a petition,
2 pleading, or written motion shall constitute a certification
3 that the attorney has—

4 “(i) performed a reasonable investigation into
5 the circumstances that gave rise to the petition,
6 pleading, or written motion; and

7 “(ii) determined that the petition, pleading, or
8 written motion—

9 “(I) is well grounded in fact; and

10 “(II) is warranted by existing law or a
11 good faith argument for the extension, modi-
12 fication, or reversal of existing law and does not
13 constitute an abuse under paragraph (1).

14 “(D) The signature of an attorney on the petition
15 shall constitute a certification that the attorney has no
16 knowledge after an inquiry that the information in the
17 schedules filed with such petition is incorrect.

18 “(5)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) and
19 subject to paragraph (6), the court, on its own initiative
20 or on the motion of a party in interest, in accordance with
21 the procedures described in rule 9011 of the Federal Rules
22 of Bankruptcy Procedure, may award a debtor all reason-
23 able costs (including reasonable attorneys’ fees) in con-
24 testing a motion filed by a party in interest (other than



1 a trustee or United States trustee (or bankruptcy adminis-
2 trator, if any)) under this subsection if—

3 “(i) the court does not grant the motion; and

4 “(ii) the court finds that—

5 “(I) the position of the party that filed the
6 motion violated rule 9011 of the Federal Rules
7 of Bankruptcy Procedure; or

8 “(II) the attorney (if any) who filed the
9 motion did not comply with the requirements of
10 clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (4)(C), and the
11 motion was made solely for the purpose of co-
12 ercing a debtor into waiving a right guaranteed
13 to the debtor under this title.

14 “(B) A small business that has a claim of an aggre-
15 gate amount less than \$1,000 shall not be subject to sub-
16 paragraph (A)(ii)(I).

17 “(C) For purposes of this paragraph—

18 “(i) the term ‘small business’ means an unin-
19 corporated business, partnership, corporation, asso-
20 ciation, or organization that—

21 “(I) has fewer than 25 full-time employees
22 as determined on the date on which the motion
23 is filed; and

24 “(II) is engaged in commercial or business
25 activity; and



1 “(ii) the number of employees of a wholly
2 owned subsidiary of a corporation includes the em-
3 ployees of—

4 “(I) a parent corporation; and

5 “(II) any other subsidiary corporation of
6 the parent corporation.

7 “(6) Only the judge or United States trustee (or
8 bankruptcy administrator, if any) may file a motion under
9 section 707(b), if the current monthly income of the debt-
10 or, or in a joint case, the debtor and the debtor’s spouse,
11 as of the date of the order for relief, when multiplied by
12 12, is equal to or less than—

13 “(A) in the case of a debtor in a household of
14 1 person, the median family income of the applicable
15 State for 1 earner;

16 “(B) in the case of a debtor in a household of
17 2, 3, or 4 individuals, the highest median family in-
18 come of the applicable State for a family of the same
19 number or fewer individuals; or

20 “(C) in the case of a debtor in a household ex-
21 ceeding 4 individuals, the highest median family in-
22 come of the applicable State for a family of 4 or
23 fewer individuals, plus \$525 per month for each in-
24 dividual in excess of 4.



1 “(7)(A) No judge, United States trustee (or bank-
2 ruptcy administrator, if any), trustee, or other party in
3 interest may file a motion under paragraph (2) if the cur-
4 rent monthly income of the debtor and the debtor’s spouse
5 combined, as of the date of the order for relief when multi-
6 plied by 12, is equal to or less than—

7 “(i) in the case of a debtor in a household of
8 1 person, the median family income of the applicable
9 State for 1 earner;

10 “(ii) in the case of a debtor in a household of
11 2, 3, or 4 individuals, the highest median family in-
12 come of the applicable State for a family of the same
13 number or fewer individuals; or

14 “(iii) in the case of a debtor in a household ex-
15 ceeding 4 individuals, the highest median family in-
16 come of the applicable State for a family of 4 or
17 fewer individuals, plus \$525 per month for each in-
18 dividual in excess of 4.

19 “(B) In a case that is not a joint case, current month-
20 ly income of the debtor’s spouse shall not be considered
21 for purposes of subparagraph (A) if—

22 “(i)(I) the debtor and the debtor’s spouse are
23 separated under applicable nonbankruptcy law; or



1 “(II) the debtor and the debtor’s spouse are liv-
2 ing separate and apart, other than for the purpose
3 of evading subparagraph (A); and

4 “(ii) the debtor files a statement under penalty
5 of perjury—

6 “(I) specifying that the debtor meets the
7 requirement of subclause (I) or (II) of clause
8 (i); and

9 “(II) disclosing the aggregate, or best esti-
10 mate of the aggregate, amount of any cash or
11 money payments received from the debtor’s
12 spouse attributed to the debtor’s current
13 monthly income.”.

14 (b) DEFINITION.—Section 101 of title 11, United
15 States Code, is amended by inserting after paragraph (10)
16 the following:

17 “(10A) ‘current monthly income’—

18 “(A) means the average monthly income
19 from all sources that the debtor receives (or in
20 a joint case the debtor and the debtor’s spouse
21 receive) without regard to whether such income
22 is taxable income, derived during the 6-month
23 period ending on—

24 “(i) the last day of the calendar
25 month immediately preceding the date of



1 the commencement of the case if the debt-
2 or files the schedule of current income re-
3 quired by section 521(a)(1)(B)(ii); or

4 “(ii) the date on which current income
5 is determined by the court for purposes of
6 this title if the debtor does not file the
7 schedule of current income required by sec-
8 tion 521(a)(1)(B)(ii); and

9 “(B) includes any amount paid by any en-
10 tity other than the debtor (or in a joint case the
11 debtor and the debtor’s spouse), on a regular
12 basis for the household expenses of the debtor
13 or the debtor’s dependents (and in a joint case
14 the debtor’s spouse if not otherwise a depend-
15 ent), but excludes benefits received under the
16 Social Security Act, payments to victims of war
17 crimes or crimes against humanity on account
18 of their status as victims of such crimes, and
19 payments to victims of international terrorism
20 (as defined in section 2331 of title 18) or do-
21 mestic terrorism (as defined in section 2331 of
22 title 18) on account of their status as victims
23 of such terrorism;”.



1 (c) UNITED STATES TRUSTEE AND BANKRUPTCY
2 ADMINISTRATOR DUTIES.—Section 704 of title 11, United
3 States Code, is amended—

4 (1) by inserting “(a)” before “The trustee
5 shall—”; and

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

7 “(b)(1) With respect to a debtor who is an individual
8 in a case under this chapter—

9 “(A) the United States trustee (or the bank-
10 ruptcy administrator, if any) shall review all mate-
11 rials filed by the debtor and, not later than 10 days
12 after the date of the first meeting of creditors, file
13 with the court a statement as to whether the debt-
14 or’s case would be presumed to be an abuse under
15 section 707(b); and

16 “(B) not later than 5 days after receiving a
17 statement under subparagraph (A), the court shall
18 provide a copy of the statement to all creditors.

19 “(2) The United States trustee (or bankruptcy ad-
20 ministrator, if any) shall, not later than 30 days after the
21 date of filing a statement under paragraph (1), either file
22 a motion to dismiss or convert under section 707(b) or
23 file a statement setting forth the reasons the United
24 States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any)
25 does not consider such a motion to be appropriate, if the



1 United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator,
2 if any) determines that the debtor's case should be pre-
3 sumed to be an abuse under section 707(b) and the prod-
4 uct of the debtor's current monthly income, multiplied by
5 12 is not less than—

6 “(A) in the case of a debtor in a household of
7 1 person, the median family income of the applicable
8 State for 1 earner; or

9 “(B) in the case of a debtor in a household of
10 2 or more individuals, the highest median family in-
11 come of the applicable State for a family of the same
12 number or fewer individuals.”.

13 (d) NOTICE.—Section 342 of title 11, United States
14 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

15 “(d) In a case under chapter 7 of this title in which
16 the debtor is an individual and in which the presumption
17 of abuse arises under section 707(b), the clerk shall give
18 written notice to all creditors not later than 10 days after
19 the date of the filing of the petition that the presumption
20 of abuse has arisen.”.

21 (e) NONLIMITATION OF INFORMATION.—Nothing in
22 this title shall limit the ability of a creditor to provide in-
23 formation to a judge (except for information commu-
24 nicated ex parte, unless otherwise permitted by applicable



1 law), United States trustee (or bankruptcy administrator,
2 if any), or trustee.

3 (f) DISMISSAL FOR CERTAIN CRIMES.—Section 707
4 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at
5 the end the following:

6 “(c)(1) In this subsection—

7 “(A) the term ‘crime of violence’ has the mean-
8 ing given such term in section 16 of title 18; and

9 “(B) the term ‘drug trafficking crime’ has the
10 meaning given such term in section 924(c)(2) of title
11 18.

12 “(2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), after no-
13 tice and a hearing, the court, on a motion by the victim
14 of a crime of violence or a drug trafficking crime, may
15 when it is in the best interest of the victim dismiss a vol-
16 untary case filed under this chapter by a debtor who is
17 an individual if such individual was convicted of such
18 crime.

19 “(3) The court may not dismiss a case under para-
20 graph (2) if the debtor establishes by a preponderance of
21 the evidence that the filing of a case under this chapter
22 is necessary to satisfy a claim for a domestic support obli-
23 gation.”.

24 (g) CONFIRMATION OF PLAN.—Section 1325(a) of
25 title 11, United States Code, is amended—



1 (1) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the
2 end;

3 (2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and
4 inserting a semicolon; and

5 (3) by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(7) the action of the debtor in filing the peti-
8 tion was in good faith;”.

9 (h) APPLICABILITY OF MEANS TEST TO CHAPTER
10 13.—Section 1325(b) of title 11, United States Code, is
11 amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “to unse-
13 cured creditors” after “to make payments”; and

14 (2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the
15 following:

16 “(2) For purposes of this subsection, the term
17 ‘disposable income’ means current monthly income
18 received by the debtor (other than child support pay-
19 ments, foster care payments, or disability payments
20 for a dependent child made in accordance with appli-
21 cable nonbankruptcy law to the extent reasonably
22 necessary to be expended for such child) less
23 amounts reasonably necessary to be expended—

24 “(A)(i) for the maintenance or support of
25 the debtor or a dependent of the debtor, or for



1 a domestic support obligation, that first be-
2 comes payable after the date the petition is
3 filed; and

4 “(ii) for charitable contributions (that
5 meet the definition of ‘charitable contribution’
6 under section 548(d)(3) to a qualified religious
7 or charitable entity or organization (as defined
8 in section 548(d)(4)) in an amount not to ex-
9 ceed 15 percent of gross income of the debtor
10 for the year in which the contributions are
11 made; and

12 “(B) if the debtor is engaged in business,
13 for the payment of expenditures necessary for
14 the continuation, preservation, and operation of
15 such business.

16 “(3) Amounts reasonably necessary to be ex-
17 pended under paragraph (2) shall be determined in
18 accordance with subparagraphs (A) and (B) of sec-
19 tion 707(b)(2), if the debtor has current monthly in-
20 come, when multiplied by 12, greater than—

21 “(A) in the case of a debtor in a household
22 of 1 person, the median family income of the
23 applicable State for 1 earner;

24 “(B) in the case of a debtor in a household
25 of 2, 3, or 4 individuals, the highest median



1 family income of the applicable State for a fam-
2 ily of the same number or fewer individuals; or
3 “(C) in the case of a debtor in a household
4 exceeding 4 individuals, the highest median
5 family income of the applicable State for a fam-
6 ily of 4 or fewer individuals, plus \$525 per
7 month for each individual in excess of 4.”.

8 (i) SPECIAL ALLOWANCE FOR HEALTH INSUR-
9 ANCE.—Section 1329(a) of title 11, United States Code,
10 is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (2) by striking “or” at the
12 end;

13 (2) in paragraph (3) by striking the period at
14 the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

16 “(4) reduce amounts to be paid under the plan
17 by the actual amount expended by the debtor to pur-
18 chase health insurance for the debtor (and for any
19 dependent of the debtor if such dependent does not
20 otherwise have health insurance coverage) if the
21 debtor documents the cost of such insurance and
22 demonstrates that—

23 “(A) such expenses are reasonable and
24 necessary;



1 “(B)(i) if the debtor previously paid for
2 health insurance, the amount is not materially
3 larger than the cost the debtor previously paid
4 or the cost necessary to maintain the lapsed
5 policy; or

6 “(ii) if the debtor did not have health in-
7 surance, the amount is not materially larger
8 than the reasonable cost that would be incurred
9 by a debtor who purchases health insurance,
10 who has similar income, expenses, age, and
11 health status, and who lives in the same geo-
12 graphical location with the same number of de-
13 pendents who do not otherwise have health in-
14 surance coverage; and

15 “(C) the amount is not otherwise allowed
16 for purposes of determining disposable income
17 under section 1325(b) of this title;

18 and upon request of any party in interest, files proof
19 that a health insurance policy was purchased.”.

20 (j) ADJUSTMENT OF DOLLAR AMOUNTS.—Section
21 104(b) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by
22 striking “and 523(a)(2)(C)” each place it appears and in-
23 serting “523(a)(2)(C), 707(b), and 1325(b)(3)”.



1 (k) DEFINITION OF ‘MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME’.—
2 Section 101 of title 11, United States Code, is amended
3 by inserting after paragraph (39) the following:

4 “(39A) ‘median family income’ means for any
5 year—

6 “(A) the median family income both cal-
7 culated and reported by the Bureau of the Cen-
8 sus in the then most recent year; and

9 “(B) if not so calculated and reported in
10 the then current year, adjusted annually after
11 such most recent year until the next year in
12 which median family income is both calculated
13 and reported by the Bureau of the Census, to
14 reflect the percentage change in the Consumer
15 Price Index for All Urban Consumers during
16 the period of years occurring after such most
17 recent year and before such current year;”.

18 (k) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
19 for chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code, is amended
20 by striking the item relating to section 707 and inserting
21 the following:

“707. Dismissal of a case or conversion to a case under chapter 11 or 13.”.

22 **SEC. 103. SENSE OF CONGRESS AND STUDY.**

23 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
24 gress that the Secretary of the Treasury has the authority
25 to alter the Internal Revenue Service standards estab-



1 lished to set guidelines for repayment plans as needed to
2 accommodate their use under section 707(b) of title 11,
3 United States Code.

4 (b) STUDY.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
6 the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of
7 the Executive Office for United States Trustees shall
8 submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary
9 of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary
10 of the House of Representatives containing the find-
11 ings of the Director regarding the utilization of In-
12 ternal Revenue Service standards for determining—

13 (A) the current monthly expenses of a
14 debtor under section 707(b) of title 11, United
15 States Code; and

16 (B) the impact that the application of such
17 standards has had on debtors and on the bank-
18 ruptey courts.

19 (2) RECOMMENDATION.—The report under
20 paragraph (1) may include recommendations for
21 amendments to title 11, United States Code, that
22 are consistent with the findings of the Director
23 under paragraph (1).



1 **SEC. 104. NOTICE OF ALTERNATIVES.**

2 Section 342(b) of title 11, United States Code, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 “(b) Before the commencement of a case under this
5 title by an individual whose debts are primarily consumer
6 debts, the clerk shall give to such individual written notice
7 containing—

8 “(1) a brief description of—

9 “(A) chapters 7, 11, 12, and 13 and the
10 general purpose, benefits, and costs of pro-
11 ceeding under each of those chapters; and

12 “(B) the types of services available from
13 credit counseling agencies; and

14 “(2) statements specifying that—

15 “(A) a person who knowingly and fraudu-
16 lently conceals assets or makes a false oath or
17 statement under penalty of perjury in connec-
18 tion with a case under this title shall be subject
19 to fine, imprisonment, or both; and

20 “(B) all information supplied by a debtor
21 in connection with a case under this title is sub-
22 ject to examination by the Attorney General.”.

23 **SEC. 105. DEBTOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT TRAINING**
24 **TEST PROGRAM.**

25 (a) DEVELOPMENT OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
26 AND TRAINING CURRICULUM AND MATERIALS.—The Di-



1 rector of the Executive Office for United States Trustees
2 (in this section referred to as the “Director”) shall consult
3 with a wide range of individuals who are experts in the
4 field of debtor education, including trustees who serve in
5 cases under chapter 13 of title 11, United States Code,
6 and who operate financial management education pro-
7 grams for debtors, and shall develop a financial manage-
8 ment training curriculum and materials that can be used
9 to educate debtors who are individuals on how to better
10 manage their finances.

11 (b) TEST.—

12 (1) SELECTION OF DISTRICTS.—The Director
13 shall select 6 judicial districts of the United States
14 in which to test the effectiveness of the financial
15 management training curriculum and materials de-
16 veloped under subsection (a).

17 (2) USE.—For an 18-month period beginning
18 not later than 270 days after the date of the enact-
19 ment of this Act, such curriculum and materials
20 shall be, for the 6 judicial districts selected under
21 paragraph (1), used as the instructional course con-
22 cerning personal financial management for purposes
23 of section 111 of title 11, United States Code.

24 (c) EVALUATION.—



1 (1) IN GENERAL.—During the 18-month period
2 referred to in subsection (b), the Director shall
3 evaluate the effectiveness of—

4 (A) the financial management training cur-
5 riculum and materials developed under sub-
6 section (a); and

7 (B) a sample of existing consumer edu-
8 cation programs such as those described in the
9 Report of the National Bankruptcy Review
10 Commission (October 20, 1997) that are rep-
11 resentative of consumer education programs
12 carried out by the credit industry, by trustees
13 serving under chapter 13 of title 11, United
14 States Code, and by consumer counseling
15 groups.

16 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 3 months after
17 concluding such evaluation, the Director shall sub-
18 mit a report to the Speaker of the House of Rep-
19 resentatives and the President pro tempore of the
20 Senate, for referral to the appropriate committees of
21 the Congress, containing the findings of the Director
22 regarding the effectiveness of such curriculum, such
23 materials, and such programs and their costs.



1 **SEC. 106. CREDIT COUNSELING.**

2 (a) WHO MAY BE A DEBTOR.—Section 109 of title
3 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
4 the following:

5 “(h)(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), and not-
6 withstanding any other provision of this section, an indi-
7 vidual may not be a debtor under this title unless such
8 individual has, during the 180-day period preceding the
9 date of filing of the petition by such individual, received
10 from an approved nonprofit budget and credit counseling
11 agency described in section 111(a) an individual or group
12 briefing (including a briefing conducted by telephone or
13 on the Internet) that outlined the opportunities for avail-
14 able credit counseling and assisted such individual in per-
15 forming a related budget analysis.

16 “(2)(A) Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect
17 to a debtor who resides in a district for which the United
18 States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any)
19 determines that the approved nonprofit budget and credit
20 counseling agencies for such district are not reasonably
21 able to provide adequate services to the additional individ-
22 uals who would otherwise seek credit counseling from such
23 agencies by reason of the requirements of paragraph (1).

24 “(B) The United States trustee (or the bankruptcy
25 administrator, if any) who makes a determination de-
26 scribed in subparagraph (A) shall review such determina-



1 tion not later than 1 year after the date of such deter-
2 mination, and not less frequently than annually thereafter.
3 Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, a nonprofit
4 budget and credit counseling agency may be disapproved
5 by the United States trustee (or the bankruptcy adminis-
6 trator, if any) at any time.

7 “(3)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the require-
8 ments of paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to
9 a debtor who submits to the court a certification that—

10 “(i) describes exigent circumstances that merit
11 a waiver of the requirements of paragraph (1);

12 “(ii) states that the debtor requested credit
13 counseling services from an approved nonprofit
14 budget and credit counseling agency, but was unable
15 to obtain the services referred to in paragraph (1)
16 during the 5-day period beginning on the date on
17 which the debtor made that request; and

18 “(iii) is satisfactory to the court.

19 “(B) With respect to a debtor, an exemption under
20 subparagraph (A) shall cease to apply to that debtor on
21 the date on which the debtor meets the requirements of
22 paragraph (1), but in no case may the exemption apply
23 to that debtor after the date that is 30 days after the debt-
24 or files a petition, except that the court, for cause, may
25 order an additional 15 days.”.



1 (b) CHAPTER 7 DISCHARGE.—Section 727(a) of title
2 11, United States Code, is amended—

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

5 (2) in paragraph (10), by striking the period
6 and inserting “; or”; and

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

8 “(11) after filing the petition, the debtor failed
9 to complete an instructional course concerning per-
10 sonal financial management described in section
11 111, except that this paragraph shall not apply with
12 respect to a debtor who resides in a district for
13 which the United States trustee (or the bankruptcy
14 administrator, if any) determines that the approved
15 instructional courses are not adequate to service the
16 additional individuals who would otherwise be re-
17 quired to complete such instructional courses under
18 this section (The United States trustee (or the bank-
19 ruptcy administrator, if any) who makes a deter-
20 mination described in this paragraph shall review
21 such determination not later than 1 year after the
22 date of such determination, and not less frequently
23 than annually thereafter.).”



1 (c) CHAPTER 13 DISCHARGE.—Section 1328 of title
2 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
3 the following:

4 “(g)(1) The court shall not grant a discharge under
5 this section to a debtor unless after filing a petition the
6 debtor has completed an instructional course concerning
7 personal financial management described in section 111.

8 “(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to
9 a debtor who resides in a district for which the United
10 States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any)
11 determines that the approved instructional courses are not
12 adequate to service the additional individuals who would
13 otherwise be required to complete such instructional
14 course by reason of the requirements of paragraph (1).

15 “(3) The United States trustee (or the bankruptcy
16 administrator, if any) who makes a determination de-
17 scribed in paragraph (2) shall review such determination
18 not later than 1 year after the date of such determination,
19 and not less frequently than annually thereafter.”.

20 (d) DEBTOR’S DUTIES.—Section 521 of title 11,
21 United States Code, is amended—

22 (1) by inserting “(a)” before “The debtor
23 shall—”; and

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



1 “(b) In addition to the requirements under subsection
2 (a), a debtor who is an individual shall file with the
3 court—

4 “(1) a certificate from the approved nonprofit
5 budget and credit counseling agency that provided
6 the debtor services under section 109(h) describing
7 the services provided to the debtor; and

8 “(2) a copy of the debt repayment plan, if any,
9 developed under section 109(h) through the ap-
10 proved nonprofit budget and credit counseling agen-
11 cy referred to in paragraph (1).”.

12 (e) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 11, United
14 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
15 following:

16 **“§ 111. Nonprofit budget and credit counseling agen-**
17 **cies; financial management instructional**
18 **courses**

19 “(a) The clerk shall maintain a publicly available list
20 of—

21 “(1) nonprofit budget and credit counseling
22 agencies that provide 1 or more services described in
23 section 109(h) currently approved by the United
24 States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if
25 any); and



1 “(2) instructional courses concerning personal
2 financial management currently approved by the
3 United States trustee (or the bankruptcy adminis-
4 trator, if any), as applicable.

5 “(b) The United States trustee (or bankruptcy ad-
6 ministrators, if any) shall only approve a nonprofit budget
7 and credit counseling agency or an instructional course
8 concerning personal financial management as follows:

9 “(1) The United States trustee (or bankruptcy
10 administrator, if any) shall have thoroughly reviewed
11 the qualifications of the nonprofit budget and credit
12 counseling agency or of the provider of the instruc-
13 tional course under the standards set forth in this
14 section, and the services or instructional courses
15 that will be offered by such agency or such provider,
16 and may require such agency or such provider that
17 has sought approval to provide information with re-
18 spect to such review.

19 “(2) The United States trustee (or bankruptcy
20 administrator, if any) shall have determined that
21 such agency or such instructional course fully satis-
22 fies the applicable standards set forth in this section.

23 “(3) If a nonprofit budget and credit counseling
24 agency or instructional course did not appear on the
25 approved list for the district under subsection (a)



1 immediately before approval under this section, ap-
2 proval under this subsection of such agency or such
3 instructional course shall be for a probationary pe-
4 riod not to exceed 6 months.

5 “(4) At the conclusion of the applicable proba-
6 tionary period under paragraph (3), the United
7 States trustee (or bankruptcy administrator, if any)
8 may only approve for an additional 1-year period,
9 and for successive 1-year periods thereafter, an
10 agency or instructional course that has dem-
11 onstrated during the probationary or applicable sub-
12 sequent period of approval that such agency or in-
13 structional course—

14 “(A) has met the standards set forth under
15 this section during such period; and

16 “(B) can satisfy such standards in the fu-
17 ture.

18 “(5) Not later than 30 days after any final de-
19 cision under paragraph (4), an interested person
20 may seek judicial review of such decision in the ap-
21 propriate district court of the United States.

22 “(c)(1) The United States trustee (or the bankruptcy
23 administrator, if any) shall only approve a nonprofit budg-
24 et and credit counseling agency that demonstrates that it
25 will provide qualified counselors, maintain adequate provi-



1 sion for safekeeping and payment of client funds, provide
2 adequate counseling with respect to client credit problems,
3 and deal responsibly and effectively with other matters re-
4 lating to the quality, effectiveness, and financial security
5 of the services it provides.

6 “(2) To be approved by the United States trustee (or
7 the bankruptcy administrator, if any), a nonprofit budget
8 and credit counseling agency shall, at a minimum—

9 “(A) have a board of directors the majority of
10 which—

11 “(i) are not employed by such agency; and

12 “(ii) will not directly or indirectly benefit
13 financially from the outcome of the counseling
14 services provided by such agency;

15 “(B) if a fee is charged for counseling services,
16 charge a reasonable fee, and provide services without
17 regard to ability to pay the fee;

18 “(C) provide for safekeeping and payment of
19 client funds, including an annual audit of the trust
20 accounts and appropriate employee bonding;

21 “(D) provide full disclosures to a client, includ-
22 ing funding sources, counselor qualifications, pos-
23 sible impact on credit reports, and any costs of such
24 program that will be paid by such client and how
25 such costs will be paid;



1 “(E) provide adequate counseling with respect
2 to a client’s credit problems that includes an anal-
3 ysis of such client’s current financial condition, fac-
4 tors that caused such financial condition, and how
5 such client can develop a plan to respond to the
6 problems without incurring negative amortization of
7 debt;

8 “(F) provide trained counselors who receive no
9 commissions or bonuses based on the outcome of the
10 counseling services provided by such agency, and
11 who have adequate experience, and have been ade-
12 quately trained to provide counseling services to in-
13 dividuals in financial difficulty, including the mat-
14 ters described in subparagraph (E);

15 “(G) demonstrate adequate experience and
16 background in providing credit counseling; and

17 “(H) have adequate financial resources to pro-
18 vide continuing support services for budgeting plans
19 over the life of any repayment plan.

20 “(d) The United States trustee (or the bankruptcy
21 administrator, if any) shall only approve an instructional
22 course concerning personal financial management—

23 “(1) for an initial probationary period under
24 subsection (b)(3) if the course will provide at a
25 minimum—



1 “(A) trained personnel with adequate expe-
2 rience and training in providing effective in-
3 struction and services;

4 “(B) learning materials and teaching
5 methodologies designed to assist debtors in un-
6 derstanding personal financial management and
7 that are consistent with stated objectives di-
8 rectly related to the goals of such instructional
9 course;

10 “(C) adequate facilities situated in reason-
11 ably convenient locations at which such instruc-
12 tional course is offered, except that such facili-
13 ties may include the provision of such instruc-
14 tional course by telephone or through the Inter-
15 net, if such instructional course is effective; and

16 “(D) the preparation and retention of rea-
17 sonable records (which shall include the debt-
18 or’s bankruptcy case number) to permit evalua-
19 tion of the effectiveness of such instructional
20 course, including any evaluation of satisfaction
21 of instructional course requirements for each
22 debtor attending such instructional course,
23 which shall be available for inspection and eval-
24 uation by the Executive Office for United
25 States Trustees, the United States trustee (or



1 the bankruptcy administrator, if any), or the
2 chief bankruptcy judge for the district in which
3 such instructional course is offered; and

4 “(2) for any 1-year period if the provider there-
5 of has demonstrated that the course meets the
6 standards of paragraph (1) and, in addition—

7 “(A) has been effective in assisting a sub-
8 stantial number of debtors to understand per-
9 sonal financial management; and

10 “(B) is otherwise likely to increase sub-
11 stantially the debtor’s understanding of per-
12 sonal financial management.

13 “(e) The district court may, at any time, investigate
14 the qualifications of a nonprofit budget and credit coun-
15 seling agency referred to in subsection (a), and request
16 production of documents to ensure the integrity and effec-
17 tiveness of such agency. The district court may, at any
18 time, remove from the approved list under subsection (a)
19 a nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency upon
20 finding such agency does not meet the qualifications of
21 subsection (b).

22 “(f) The United States trustee (or the bankruptcy ad-
23 ministrator, if any) shall notify the clerk that a nonprofit
24 budget and credit counseling agency or an instructional



1 course is no longer approved, in which case the clerk shall
2 remove it from the list maintained under subsection (a).

3 “(g)(1) No nonprofit budget and credit counseling
4 agency may provide to a credit reporting agency informa-
5 tion concerning whether a debtor has received or sought
6 instruction concerning personal financial management
7 from such agency.

8 “(2) A nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency
9 that willfully or negligently fails to comply with any re-
10 quirement under this title with respect to a debtor shall
11 be liable for damages in an amount equal to the sum of—

12 “(A) any actual damages sustained by the debt-
13 or as a result of the violation; and

14 “(B) any court costs or reasonable attorneys’
15 fees (as determined by the court) incurred in an ac-
16 tion to recover those damages.”.

17 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
18 tions for chapter 1 of title 11, United States Code,
19 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“111. Nonprofit budget and credit counseling agencies; financial management
instructional courses.”.

20 (f) LIMITATION.—Section 362 of title 11, United
21 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(i) If a case commenced under chapter 7, 11, or 13
24 is dismissed due to the creation of a debt repayment plan,



1 for purposes of subsection (c)(3), any subsequent case
2 commenced by the debtor under any such chapter shall
3 not be presumed to be filed not in good faith.

4 “(j) On request of a party in interest, the court shall
5 issue an order under subsection (c) confirming that the
6 automatic stay has been terminated.”.

7 **SEC. 107. SCHEDULES OF REASONABLE AND NECESSARY**
8 **EXPENSES.**

9 For purposes of section 707(b) of title 11, United
10 States Code, as amended by this Act, the Director of the
11 Executive Office for United States Trustees shall, not
12 later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this
13 Act, issue schedules of reasonable and necessary adminis-
14 trative expenses of administering a chapter 13 plan for
15 each judicial district of the United States.

16 **TITLE II—ENHANCED**
17 **CONSUMER PROTECTION**
18 **Subtitle A—Penalties for Abusive**
19 **Creditor Practices**

20 **SEC. 201. PROMOTION OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLU-**
21 **TION.**

22 (a) REDUCTION OF CLAIM.—Section 502 of title 11,
23 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
24 following:



1 “(k)(1) The court, on the motion of the debtor and
2 after a hearing, may reduce a claim filed under this sec-
3 tion based in whole on an unsecured consumer debt by
4 not more than 20 percent of the claim, if—

5 “(A) the claim was filed by a creditor who un-
6 reasonably refused to negotiate a reasonable alter-
7 native repayment schedule proposed on behalf of the
8 debtor by an approved nonprofit budget and credit
9 counseling agency described in section 111;

10 “(B) the offer of the debtor under subpara-
11 graph (A)—

12 “(i) was made at least 60 days before the
13 date of the filing of the petition; and

14 “(ii) provided for payment of at least 60
15 percent of the amount of the debt over a period
16 not to exceed the repayment period of the loan,
17 or a reasonable extension thereof; and

18 “(C) no part of the debt under the alternative
19 repayment schedule is nondischargeable.

20 “(2) The debtor shall have the burden of proving, by
21 clear and convincing evidence, that—

22 “(A) the creditor unreasonably refused to con-
23 sider the debtor’s proposal; and



1 “(B) the proposed alternative repayment sched-
2 ule was made prior to expiration of the 60-day pe-
3 riod specified in paragraph (1)(B)(i).”.

4 (b) **LIMITATION ON AVOIDABILITY.**—Section 547 of
5 title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
6 end the following:

7 “(h) The trustee may not avoid a transfer if such
8 transfer was made as a part of an alternative repayment
9 schedule between the debtor and any creditor of the debtor
10 created by an approved nonprofit budget and credit coun-
11 seling agency.”.

12 **SEC. 202. EFFECT OF DISCHARGE.**

13 Section 524 of title 11, United States Code, is
14 amended by adding at the end the following:

15 “(i) The willful failure of a creditor to credit pay-
16 ments received under a plan confirmed under this title,
17 unless the order confirming the plan is revoked, the plan
18 is in default, or the creditor has not received payments
19 required to be made under the plan in the manner re-
20 quired by the plan (including crediting the amounts re-
21 quired under the plan), shall constitute a violation of an
22 injunction under subsection (a)(2) if the act of the creditor
23 to collect and failure to credit payments in the manner
24 required by the plan caused material injury to the debtor.



1 “(j) Subsection (a)(2) does not operate as an injunc-
2 tion against an act by a creditor that is the holder of a
3 secured claim, if—

4 “(1) such creditor retains a security interest in
5 real property that is the principal residence of the
6 debtor;

7 “(2) such act is in the ordinary course of busi-
8 ness between the creditor and the debtor; and

9 “(3) such act is limited to seeking or obtaining
10 periodic payments associated with a valid security
11 interest in lieu of pursuit of in rem relief to enforce
12 the lien.”.

13 **SEC. 203. DISCOURAGING ABUSE OF REAFFIRMATION**
14 **AGREEMENT PRACTICES.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 524 of title 11, United
16 States Code, as amended section 202, is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (2)
18 and inserting the following:

19 “(2) the debtor received the disclosures de-
20 scribed in subsection (k) at or before the time at
21 which the debtor signed the agreement;” and

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

23 “(k)(1) The disclosures required under subsection
24 (c)(2) shall consist of the disclosure statement described
25 in paragraph (3), completed as required in that para-



1 graph, together with the agreement specified in subsection
2 (c), statement, declaration, motion and order described,
3 respectively, in paragraphs (4) through (8), and shall be
4 the only disclosures required in connection with entering
5 into such agreement.

6 “(2) Disclosures made under paragraph (1) shall be
7 made clearly and conspicuously and in writing. The terms
8 ‘Amount Reaffirmed’ and ‘Annual Percentage Rate’ shall
9 be disclosed more conspicuously than other terms, data or
10 information provided in connection with this disclosure,
11 except that the phrases ‘Before agreeing to reaffirm a
12 debt, review these important disclosures’ and ‘Summary
13 of Reaffirmation Agreement’ may be equally conspicuous.
14 Disclosures may be made in a different order and may
15 use terminology different from that set forth in para-
16 graphs (2) through (8), except that the terms ‘Amount
17 Reaffirmed’ and ‘Annual Percentage Rate’ must be used
18 where indicated.

19 “(3) The disclosure statement required under this
20 paragraph shall consist of the following:

21 “(A) The statement: ‘Part A: Before agreeing
22 to reaffirm a debt, review these important disclo-
23 sures.’;

24 “(B) Under the heading ‘Summary of Reaffir-
25 mation Agreement’, the statement: ‘This Summary



1 is made pursuant to the requirements of the Bank-
2 ruptcy Code’;

3 “(C) The ‘Amount Reaffirmed’, using that
4 term, which shall be—

5 “(i) the total amount of debt that the debt-
6 or agrees to reaffirm by entering into an agree-
7 ment of the kind specified in subsection (c), and

8 “(ii) the total of any fees and costs ac-
9 crued as of the date of the disclosure statement,
10 related to such total amount.

11 “(D) In conjunction with the disclosure of the
12 ‘Amount Reaffirmed’, the statements—

13 “(i) ‘The amount of debt you have agreed
14 to reaffirm’; and

15 “(ii) ‘Your credit agreement may obligate
16 you to pay additional amounts which may come
17 due after the date of this disclosure. Consult
18 your credit agreement.’.

19 “(E) The ‘Annual Percentage Rate’, using that
20 term, which shall be disclosed as—

21 “(i) if, at the time the petition is filed, the
22 debt is an extension of credit under an open
23 end credit plan, as the terms ‘credit’ and ‘open
24 end credit plan’ are defined in section 103 of
25 the Truth in Lending Act, then—



1 “(I) the annual percentage rate deter-
2 mined under paragraphs (5) and (6) of
3 section 127(b) of the Truth in Lending
4 Act, as applicable, as disclosed to the debt-
5 or in the most recent periodic statement
6 prior to entering into an agreement of the
7 kind specified in subsection (c) or, if no
8 such periodic statement has been given to
9 the debtor during the prior 6 months, the
10 annual percentage rate as it would have
11 been so disclosed at the time the disclosure
12 statement is given to the debtor, or to the
13 extent this annual percentage rate is not
14 readily available or not applicable, then

15 “(II) the simple interest rate applica-
16 ble to the amount reaffirmed as of the date
17 the disclosure statement is given to the
18 debtor, or if different simple interest rates
19 apply to different balances, the simple in-
20 terest rate applicable to each such balance,
21 identifying the amount of each such bal-
22 ance included in the amount reaffirmed, or

23 “(III) if the entity making the disclo-
24 sure elects, to disclose the annual percent-



1 age rate under subclause (I) and the sim-
2 ple interest rate under subclause (II);

3 “(ii) if, at the time the petition is filed, the
4 debt is an extension of credit other than under
5 an open end credit plan, as the terms ‘credit’
6 and ‘open end credit plan’ are defined in section
7 103 of the Truth in Lending Act, then—

8 “(I) the annual percentage rate under
9 section 128(a)(4) of the Truth in Lending
10 Act, as disclosed to the debtor in the most
11 recent disclosure statement given to the
12 debtor prior to the entering into an agree-
13 ment of the kind specified in subsection (c)
14 with respect to the debt, or, if no such dis-
15 closure statement was given to the debtor,
16 the annual percentage rate as it would
17 have been so disclosed at the time the dis-
18 closure statement is given to the debtor, or
19 to the extent this annual percentage rate is
20 not readily available or not applicable, then

21 “(II) the simple interest rate applica-
22 ble to the amount reaffirmed as of the date
23 the disclosure statement is given to the
24 debtor, or if different simple interest rates
25 apply to different balances, the simple in-



1 terest rate applicable to each such balance,
2 identifying the amount of such balance in-
3 cluded in the amount reaffirmed, or

4 “(III) if the entity making the disclo-
5 sure elects, to disclose the annual percent-
6 age rate under (I) and the simple interest
7 rate under (II).

8 “(F) If the underlying debt transaction was dis-
9 closed as a variable rate transaction on the most re-
10 cent disclosure given under the Truth in Lending
11 Act, by stating ‘The interest rate on your loan may
12 be a variable interest rate which changes from time
13 to time, so that the annual percentage rate disclosed
14 here may be higher or lower.’.

15 “(G) If the debt is secured by a security inter-
16 est which has not been waived in whole or in part
17 or determined to be void by a final order of the
18 court at the time of the disclosure, by disclosing that
19 a security interest or lien in goods or property is as-
20 serted over some or all of the debts the debtor is re-
21 affirming and listing the items and their original
22 purchase price that are subject to the asserted secu-
23 rity interest, or if not a purchase-money security in-
24 terest then listing by items or types and the original
25 amount of the loan.



1 “(H) At the election of the creditor, a state-
2 ment of the repayment schedule using 1 or a com-
3 bination of the following—

4 “(i) by making the statement: ‘Your first
5 payment in the amount of \$_____ is due on
6 _____ but the future payment amount may be
7 different. Consult your reaffirmation agreement
8 or credit agreement, as applicable.’, and stating
9 the amount of the first payment and the due
10 date of that payment in the places provided;

11 “(ii) by making the statement: ‘Your pay-
12 ment schedule will be:’, and describing the re-
13 payment schedule with the number, amount,
14 and due dates or period of payments scheduled
15 to repay the debts reaffirmed to the extent then
16 known by the disclosing party; or

17 “(iii) by describing the debtor’s repayment
18 obligations with reasonable specificity to the ex-
19 tent then known by the disclosing party.

20 “(I) The following statement: ‘Note: When this
21 disclosure refers to what a creditor “may” do, it
22 does not use the word “may” to give the creditor
23 specific permission. The word “may” is used to tell
24 you what might occur if the law permits the creditor
25 to take the action. If you have questions about your



1 reaffirming a debt or what the law requires, consult
2 with the attorney who helped you negotiate this
3 agreement reaffirming a debt. If you don't have an
4 attorney helping you, the judge will explain the ef-
5 fect of your reaffirming a debt when the hearing on
6 the reaffirmation agreement is held.'.

7 “(J)(i) The following additional statements:

8 “‘Reaffirming a debt is a serious financial decision.
9 The law requires you to take certain steps to make sure
10 the decision is in your best interest. If these steps are not
11 completed, the reaffirmation agreement is not effective,
12 even though you have signed it.

13 “‘1. Read the disclosures in this Part A care-
14 fully. Consider the decision to reaffirm carefully.
15 Then, if you want to reaffirm, sign the reaffirmation
16 agreement in Part B (or you may use a separate
17 agreement you and your creditor agree on).

18 “‘2. Complete and sign Part D and be sure you
19 can afford to make the payments you are agreeing
20 to make and have received a copy of the disclosure
21 statement and a completed and signed reaffirmation
22 agreement.

23 “‘3. If you were represented by an attorney
24 during the negotiation of your reaffirmation agree-



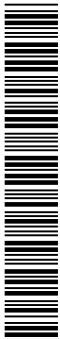
1 ment, the attorney must have signed the certification
2 in Part C.

3 “4. If you were not represented by an attorney
4 during the negotiation of your reaffirmation agree-
5 ment, you must have completed and signed Part E.

6 “5. The original of this disclosure must be
7 filed with the court by you or your creditor. If a sep-
8 arate reaffirmation agreement (other than the one in
9 Part B) has been signed, it must be attached.

10 “6. If you were represented by an attorney
11 during the negotiation of your reaffirmation agree-
12 ment, your reaffirmation agreement becomes effec-
13 tive upon filing with the court unless the reaffirma-
14 tion is presumed to be an undue hardship as ex-
15 plained in Part D.

16 “7. If you were not represented by an attorney
17 during the negotiation of your reaffirmation agree-
18 ment, it will not be effective unless the court ap-
19 proves it. The court will notify you of the hearing on
20 your reaffirmation agreement. You must attend this
21 hearing in bankruptcy court where the judge will re-
22 view your reaffirmation agreement. The bankruptcy
23 court must approve your reaffirmation agreement as
24 consistent with your best interests, except that no
25 court approval is required if your reaffirmation



1 agreement is for a consumer debt secured by a mort-
2 gage, deed of trust, security deed, or other lien on
3 your real property, like your home.

4 “Your right to rescind (cancel) your reaffirmation
5 agreement. You may rescind (cancel) your reaffirmation
6 agreement at any time before the bankruptcy court enters
7 a discharge order, or before the expiration of the 60-day
8 period that begins on the date your reaffirmation agree-
9 ment is filed with the court, whichever occurs later. To
10 rescind (cancel) your reaffirmation agreement, you must
11 notify the creditor that your reaffirmation agreement is
12 rescinded (or canceled).

13 “What are your obligations if you reaffirm the debt?
14 A reaffirmed debt remains your personal legal obligation.
15 It is not discharged in your bankruptcy case. That means
16 that if you default on your reaffirmed debt after your
17 bankruptcy case is over, your creditor may be able to take
18 your property or your wages. Otherwise, your obligations
19 will be determined by the reaffirmation agreement which
20 may have changed the terms of the original agreement.
21 For example, if you are reaffirming an open end credit
22 agreement, the creditor may be permitted by that agree-
23 ment or applicable law to change the terms of that agree-
24 ment in the future under certain conditions.



1 “‘Are you required to enter into a reaffirmation
2 agreement by any law? No, you are not required to reaffirm
3 a debt by any law. Only agree to reaffirm a debt if
4 it is in your best interest. Be sure you can afford the payments
5 you agree to make.

6 “‘What if your creditor has a security interest or
7 lien? Your bankruptcy discharge does not eliminate any
8 lien on your property. A “lien” is often referred to as a
9 security interest, deed of trust, mortgage or security deed.
10 Even if you do not reaffirm and your personal liability
11 on the debt is discharged, because of the lien your creditor
12 may still have the right to take the security property if
13 you do not pay the debt or default on it. If the lien is
14 on an item of personal property that is exempt under your
15 State’s law or that the trustee has abandoned, you may
16 be able to redeem the item rather than reaffirm the debt.
17 To redeem, you make a single payment to the creditor
18 equal to the current value of the security property, as
19 agreed by the parties or determined by the court.’.

20 “(ii) In the case of a reaffirmation under subsection
21 (m)(2), numbered paragraph 6 in the disclosures required by clause
22 (i) of this subparagraph shall read as follows:
23

24 “‘6. If you were represented by an attorney
25 during the negotiation of your reaffirmation agree-



1 sequences of this agreement and any default under this
2 agreement.

3 “‘Signature of Debtor’s Attorney: Date:’.

4 “(B) If a presumption of undue hardship has
5 been established with respect to such agreement,
6 such certification shall state that in the opinion of
7 the attorney, the debtor is able to make the pay-
8 ment.

9 “(C) In the case of a reaffirmation agreement under
10 subsection (m)(2), subparagraph (B) is not applicable.

11 “(6)(A) The statement in support of such agreement,
12 which the debtor shall sign and date prior to filing with
13 the court, shall consist of the following:

14 “‘Part D: Debtor’s Statement in Support of Reaffir-
15 mation Agreement.

16 “‘1. I believe this reaffirmation agreement will not
17 impose an undue hardship on my dependents or me. I can
18 afford to make the payments on the reaffirmed debt be-
19 cause my monthly income (take home pay plus any other
20 income received) is \$_____, and my actual current
21 monthly expenses including monthly payments on post-
22 bankruptcy debt and other reaffirmation agreements total
23 \$_____, leaving \$_____ to make the required payments
24 on this reaffirmed debt. I understand that if my income
25 less my monthly expenses does not leave enough to make



1 the payments, this reaffirmation agreement is presumed
2 to be an undue hardship on me and must be reviewed by
3 the court. However, this presumption may be overcome if
4 I explain to the satisfaction of the court how I can afford
5 to make the payments here: _____.

6 “‘2. I received a copy of the Reaffirmation Disclosure
7 Statement in Part A and a completed and signed reaffir-
8 mation agreement.’.

9 “‘(B) Where the debtor is represented by an attorney
10 and is reaffirming a debt owed to a creditor defined in
11 section 19(b)(1)(A)(iv) of the Federal Reserve Act, the
12 statement of support of the reaffirmation agreement,
13 which the debtor shall sign and date prior to filing with
14 the court, shall consist of the following:

15 “‘I believe this reaffirmation agreement is in my fi-
16 nancial interest. I can afford to make the payments on
17 the reaffirmed debt. I received a copy of the Reaffirmation
18 Disclosure Statement in Part A and a completed and
19 signed reaffirmation agreement.’.

20 “‘(7) The motion that may be used if approval of such
21 agreement by the court is required in order for it to be
22 effective, shall be signed and dated by the movant and
23 shall consist of the following:

24 “‘Part E: Motion for Court Approval (To be com-
25 pleted only if the debtor is not represented by an attor-



1 ney.). I (we), the debtor(s), affirm the following to be true
2 and correct:

3 “I am not represented by an attorney in connection
4 with this reaffirmation agreement.

5 “I believe this reaffirmation agreement is in my best
6 interest based on the income and expenses I have disclosed
7 in my Statement in Support of this reaffirmation agree-
8 ment, and because (provide any additional relevant rea-
9 sons the court should consider):

10 “Therefore, I ask the court for an order approving
11 this reaffirmation agreement.’.

12 “(8) The court order, which may be used to approve
13 such agreement, shall consist of the following:

14 “Court Order: The court grants the debtor’s motion
15 and approves the reaffirmation agreement described
16 above.’.

17 “(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title
18 the following shall apply:

19 “(1) A creditor may accept payments from a
20 debtor before and after the filing of an agreement of
21 the kind specified in subsection (c) with the court.

22 “(2) A creditor may accept payments from a
23 debtor under such agreement that the creditor be-
24 lieves in good faith to be effective.



1 “(3) The requirements of subsections (c)(2) and
2 (k) shall be satisfied if disclosures required under
3 those subsections are given in good faith.

4 “(m)(1) Until 60 days after an agreement of the kind
5 specified in subsection (c) is filed with the court (or such
6 additional period as the court, after notice and a hearing
7 and for cause, orders before the expiration of such period),
8 it shall be presumed that such agreement is an undue
9 hardship on the debtor if the debtor’s monthly income less
10 the debtor’s monthly expenses as shown on the debtor’s
11 completed and signed statement in support of such agree-
12 ment required under subsection (k)(6)(A) is less than the
13 scheduled payments on the reaffirmed debt. This pre-
14 sumption shall be reviewed by the court. The presumption
15 may be rebutted in writing by the debtor if the statement
16 includes an explanation that identifies additional sources
17 of funds to make the payments as agreed upon under the
18 terms of such agreement. If the presumption is not rebut-
19 ted to the satisfaction of the court, the court may dis-
20 approve such agreement. No agreement shall be dis-
21 approved without notice and a hearing to the debtor and
22 creditor, and such hearing shall be concluded before the
23 entry of the debtor’s discharge.



1 “(2) This subsection does not apply to reaffirmation
2 agreements where the creditor is a credit union, as defined
3 in section 19(b)(1)(A)(iv) of the Federal Reserve Act.”.

4 (b) LAW ENFORCEMENT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 9 of title 18, United
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
7 following:

8 **“§ 158. Designation of United States attorneys and**
9 **agents of the Federal Bureau of Inves-**
10 **tigation to address abusive reaffirma-**
11 **tions of debt and materially fraudulent**
12 **statements in bankruptcy schedules**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General of the
14 United States shall designate the individuals described in
15 subsection (b) to have primary responsibility in carrying
16 out enforcement activities in addressing violations of sec-
17 tion 152 or 157 relating to abusive reaffirmations of debt.
18 In addition to addressing the violations referred to in the
19 preceding sentence, the individuals described under sub-
20 section (b) shall address violations of section 152 or 157
21 relating to materially fraudulent statements in bankruptcy
22 schedules that are intentionally false or intentionally mis-
23 leading.



1 “(b) UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS AND AGENTS OF
2 THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.—The indi-
3 viduals referred to in subsection (a) are—

4 “(1) the United States attorney for each judi-
5 cial district of the United States; and

6 “(2) an agent of the Federal Bureau of Inves-
7 tigation for each field office of the Federal Bureau
8 of Investigation.

9 “(c) BANKRUPTCY INVESTIGATIONS.—Each United
10 States attorney designated under this section shall, in ad-
11 dition to any other responsibilities, have primary responsi-
12 bility for carrying out the duties of a United States attor-
13 ney under section 3057.

14 “(d) BANKRUPTCY PROCEDURES.—The bankruptcy
15 courts shall establish procedures for referring any case
16 that may contain a materially fraudulent statement in a
17 bankruptcy schedule to the individuals designated under
18 this section.”.

19 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
20 tions for chapter 9 of title 18, United States Code,
21 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“158. Designation of United States attorneys and agents of the Federal Bureau
of Investigation to address abusive reaffirmations of debt and
materially fraudulent statements in bankruptcy schedules.”.



1 **SEC. 204. PRESERVATION OF CLAIMS AND DEFENSES UPON**
2 **SALE OF PREDATORY LOANS.**

3 Section 363 of title 11, United States Code, is
4 amended—

5 (1) by redesignating subsection (o) as sub-
6 section (p), and

7 (2) by inserting after subsection (n) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(o) Notwithstanding subsection (f), if a person pur-
10 chases any interest in a consumer credit transaction that
11 is subject to the Truth in Lending Act or any interest in
12 a consumer credit contract (as defined in section 433.1
13 of title 16 of the Code of Federal Regulations (January
14 1, 2002), as amended from time to time), and if such in-
15 terest is purchased through a sale under this section, then
16 such person shall remain subject to all claims and defenses
17 that are related to such consumer credit transaction or
18 such consumer credit contract, to the same extent as such
19 person would be subject to such claims and defenses of
20 the consumer had such interest been purchased at a sale
21 not under this section.”.

22 **SEC. 205. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON REAFFIRMATION**
23 **AGREEMENT PROCESS.**

24 (a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United
25 States shall conduct a study of the reaffirmation agree-
26 ment process that occurs under title 11 of the United



1 States Code, to determine the overall treatment of con-
2 sumers within the context of such process, and shall in-
3 clude in such study consideration of—

4 (1) the policies and activities of creditors with
5 respect to reaffirmation agreements; and

6 (2) whether consumers are fully, fairly, and
7 consistently informed of their rights pursuant to
8 such title.

9 (b) REPORT TO THE CONGRESS.—Not later than 18
10 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
11 Comptroller General shall submit to the President pro
12 tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
13 Representatives a report on the results of the study con-
14 ducted under subsection (a), together with recommenda-
15 tions for legislation (if any) to address any abusive or co-
16 ercive tactics found in connection with the reaffirmation
17 agreement process that occurs under title 11 of the United
18 States Code.

19 **Subtitle B—Priority Child Support**

20 **SEC. 211. DEFINITION OF DOMESTIC SUPPORT OBLIGA-** 21 **TION.**

22 Section 101 of title 11, United States Code, is
23 amended—

24 (1) by striking paragraph (12A); and



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

3 “(14A) ‘domestic support obligation’ means a
4 debt that accrues before or after the date of the
5 order for relief in a case under this title, including
6 interest that accrues on that debt as provided under
7 applicable nonbankruptcy law notwithstanding any
8 other provision of this title, that is—

9 “(A) owed to or recoverable by—

10 “(i) a spouse, former spouse, or child
11 of the debtor or such child’s parent, legal
12 guardian, or responsible relative; or

13 “(ii) a governmental unit;

14 “(B) in the nature of alimony, mainte-
15 nance, or support (including assistance provided
16 by a governmental unit) of such spouse, former
17 spouse, or child of the debtor or such child’s
18 parent, without regard to whether such debt is
19 expressly so designated;

20 “(C) established or subject to establish-
21 ment before or after the date of the order for
22 relief in a case under this title, by reason of ap-
23 plicable provisions of—

24 “(i) a separation agreement, divorce
25 decree, or property settlement agreement;



1 “(ii) an order of a court of record; or

2 “(iii) a determination made in accord-
3 ance with applicable nonbankruptcy law by
4 a governmental unit; and

5 “(D) not assigned to a nongovernmental
6 entity, unless that obligation is assigned volun-
7 tarily by the spouse, former spouse, child of the
8 debtor, or such child’s parent, legal guardian,
9 or responsible relative for the purpose of col-
10 lecting the debt;”.

11 **SEC. 212. PRIORITIES FOR CLAIMS FOR DOMESTIC SUP-**
12 **PORT OBLIGATIONS.**

13 Section 507(a) of title 11, United States Code, is
14 amended—

15 (1) by striking paragraph (7);

16 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through
17 (6) as paragraphs (2) through (7), respectively;

18 (3) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated, by
19 striking “First” and inserting “Second”;

20 (4) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated, by
21 striking “Second” and inserting “Third”;

22 (5) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated—

23 (A) by striking “Third” and inserting
24 “Fourth”; and



1 (B) by striking the semicolon at the end
2 and inserting a period;

3 (6) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated, by
4 striking “Fourth” and inserting “Fifth”;

5 (7) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated, by
6 striking “Fifth” and inserting “Sixth”;

7 (8) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated, by
8 striking “Sixth” and inserting “Seventh”; and

9 (9) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so re-
10 designated, the following:

11 “(1) First:

12 “(A) Allowed unsecured claims for domes-
13 tic support obligations that, as of the date of
14 the filing of the petition in a case under this
15 title, are owed to or recoverable by a spouse,
16 former spouse, or child of the debtor, or such
17 child’s parent, legal guardian, or responsible
18 relative, without regard to whether the claim is
19 filed by such person or is filed by a govern-
20 mental unit on behalf of such person, on the
21 condition that funds received under this para-
22 graph by a governmental unit under this title
23 after the date of the filing of the petition shall
24 be applied and distributed in accordance with
25 applicable nonbankruptcy law.



1 “(B) Subject to claims under subpara-
2 graph (A), allowed unsecured claims for domes-
3 tic support obligations that, as of the date of
4 the filing of the petition, are assigned by a
5 spouse, former spouse, child of the debtor, or
6 such child’s parent, legal guardian, or respon-
7 sible relative to a governmental unit (unless
8 such obligation is assigned voluntarily by the
9 spouse, former spouse, child, parent, legal
10 guardian, or responsible relative of the child for
11 the purpose of collecting the debt) or are owed
12 directly to or recoverable by a governmental
13 unit under applicable nonbankruptcy law, on
14 the condition that funds received under this
15 paragraph by a governmental unit under this
16 title after the date of the filing of the petition
17 be applied and distributed in accordance with
18 applicable nonbankruptcy law.

19 “(C) If a trustee is appointed or elected
20 under section 701, 702, 703, 1104, 1202, or
21 1302, the administrative expenses of the trustee
22 allowed under paragraphs (1)(A), (2), and (6)
23 of section 503(b) shall be paid before payment
24 of claims under subparagraphs (A) and (B), to
25 the extent that the trustee administers assets



1 that are otherwise available for the payment of
2 such claims.”.

3 **SEC. 213. REQUIREMENTS TO OBTAIN CONFIRMATION AND**
4 **DISCHARGE IN CASES INVOLVING DOMESTIC**
5 **SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS.**

6 Title 11, United States Code, is amended—

7 (1) in section 1129(a), by adding at the end the
8 following:

9 “(14) If the debtor is required by a judicial or
10 administrative order, or by statute, to pay a domes-
11 tic support obligation, the debtor has paid all
12 amounts payable under such order or such statute
13 for such obligation that first become payable after
14 the date of the filing of the petition.”;

15 (2) in section 1208(c)—

16 (A) in paragraph (8), by striking “or” at
17 the end;

18 (B) in paragraph (9), by striking the pe-
19 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

20 (C) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(10) failure of the debtor to pay any domestic
22 support obligation that first becomes payable after
23 the date of the filing of the petition.”;

24 (3) in section 1222(a)—



1 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at
2 the end;

3 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-
4 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(4) notwithstanding any other provision of this
7 section, a plan may provide for less than full pay-
8 ment of all amounts owed for a claim entitled to pri-
9 ority under section 507(a)(1)(B) only if the plan
10 provides that all of the debtor’s projected disposable
11 income for a 5-year period beginning on the date
12 that the first payment is due under the plan will be
13 applied to make payments under the plan.”;

14 (4) in section 1222(b)—

15 (A) by redesignating paragraph (11) as
16 paragraph (12); and

17 (B) by inserting after paragraph (10) the
18 following:

19 “(11) provide for the payment of interest accru-
20 ing after the date of the filing of the petition on un-
21 secured claims that are nondischargeable under sec-
22 tion 1228(a), except that such interest may be paid
23 only to the extent that the debtor has disposable in-
24 come available to pay such interest after making
25 provision for full payment of all allowed claims;”;



1 (5) in section 1225(a)—

2 (A) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at
3 the end;

4 (B) in paragraph (6), by striking the pe-
5 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(7) the debtor has paid all amounts that are
8 required to be paid under a domestic support obliga-
9 tion and that first become payable after the date of
10 the filing of the petition if the debtor is required by
11 a judicial or administrative order, or by statute, to
12 pay such domestic support obligation.”;

13 (6) in section 1228(a), in the matter preceding
14 paragraph (1), by inserting “, and in the case of a
15 debtor who is required by a judicial or administra-
16 tive order, or by statute, to pay a domestic support
17 obligation, after such debtor certifies that all
18 amounts payable under such order or such statute
19 that are due on or before the date of the certifi-
20 cation (including amounts due before the petition
21 was filed, but only to the extent provided for by the
22 plan) have been paid” after “completion by the debt-
23 or of all payments under the plan”;

24 (7) in section 1307(c)—



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

3 (B) in paragraph (10), by striking the pe-
4 riod at the end and inserting “; or”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(11) failure of the debtor to pay any domestic
7 support obligation that first becomes payable after
8 the date of the filing of the petition.”;

9 (8) in section 1322(a)—

10 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at
11 the end;

12 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-
13 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

14 (C) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(4) notwithstanding any other provision of this
16 section, a plan may provide for less than full pay-
17 ment of all amounts owed for a claim entitled to pri-
18 ority under section 507(a)(1)(B) only if the plan
19 provides that all of the debtor’s projected disposable
20 income for a 5-year period beginning on the date
21 that the first payment is due under the plan will be
22 applied to make payments under the plan.”;

23 (9) in section 1322(b)—

24 (A) in paragraph (9), by striking “; and”
25 and inserting a semicolon;



1 (B) by redesignating paragraph (10) as
2 paragraph (11); and

3 (C) inserting after paragraph (9) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(10) provide for the payment of interest accru-
6 ing after the date of the filing of the petition on un-
7 secured claims that are nondischargeable under sec-
8 tion 1328(a), except that such interest may be paid
9 only to the extent that the debtor has disposable in-
10 come available to pay such interest after making
11 provision for full payment of all allowed claims;
12 and”;

13 (10) in section 1325(a), as amended by section
14 102, by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

15 “(8) the debtor has paid all amounts that are
16 required to be paid under a domestic support obliga-
17 tion and that first become payable after the date of
18 the filing of the petition if the debtor is required by
19 a judicial or administrative order, or by statute, to
20 pay such domestic support obligation; and”;

21 (11) in section 1328(a), in the matter preceding
22 paragraph (1), by inserting “, and in the case of a
23 debtor who is required by a judicial or administra-
24 tive order, or by statute, to pay a domestic support
25 obligation, after such debtor certifies that all



1 amounts payable under such order or such statute
2 that are due on or before the date of the certifi-
3 cation (including amounts due before the petition
4 was filed, but only to the extent provided for by the
5 plan) have been paid” after “completion by the debt-
6 or of all payments under the plan”.

7 **SEC. 214. EXCEPTIONS TO AUTOMATIC STAY IN DOMESTIC**
8 **SUPPORT OBLIGATION PROCEEDINGS.**

9 Section 362(b) of title 11, United States Code, is
10 amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(2) under subsection (a)—

13 “(A) of the commencement or continuation
14 of a civil action or proceeding—

15 “(i) for the establishment of paternity;

16 “(ii) for the establishment or modi-
17 fication of an order for domestic support
18 obligations;

19 “(iii) concerning child custody or visi-
20 tation;

21 “(iv) for the dissolution of a marriage,
22 except to the extent that such proceeding
23 seeks to determine the division of property
24 that is property of the estate; or

25 “(v) regarding domestic violence;



1 “(B) of the collection of a domestic sup-
2 port obligation from property that is not prop-
3 erty of the estate;

4 “(C) with respect to the withholding of in-
5 come that is property of the estate or property
6 of the debtor for payment of a domestic support
7 obligation under a judicial or administrative
8 order or a statute;

9 “(D) of the withholding, suspension, or re-
10 striction of a driver’s license, a professional or
11 occupational license, or a recreational license,
12 under State law, as specified in section
13 466(a)(16) of the Social Security Act;

14 “(E) of the reporting of overdue support
15 owed by a parent to any consumer reporting
16 agency as specified in section 466(a)(7) of the
17 Social Security Act;

18 “(F) of the interception of a tax refund, as
19 specified in sections 464 and 466(a)(3) of the
20 Social Security Act or under an analogous State
21 law; or

22 “(G) of the enforcement of a medical obli-
23 gation, as specified under title IV of the Social
24 Security Act;”.



1 **SEC. 215. NONDISCHARGEABILITY OF CERTAIN DEBTS FOR**
2 **ALIMONY, MAINTENANCE, AND SUPPORT.**

3 Section 523 of title 11, United States Code, is
4 amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)—

6 (A) by striking paragraph (5) and insert-
7 ing the following:

8 “(5) for a domestic support obligation;”; and

9 (B) by striking paragraph (18);

10 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “(6), or (15)”
11 each place it appears and inserting “or (6)”; and

12 (3) in paragraph (15), as added by Public Law
13 103–394 (108 Stat. 4133)—

14 (A) by inserting “to a spouse, former
15 spouse, or child of the debtor and” before “not
16 of the kind”;

17 (B) by inserting “or” after “court of
18 record,”; and

19 (C) by striking “unless—” and all that fol-
20 lows through the end of the paragraph and in-
21 serting a semicolon.

22 **SEC. 216. CONTINUED LIABILITY OF PROPERTY.**

23 Section 522 of title 11, United States Code, is
24 amended—

25 (1) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (1)
26 and inserting the following:



1 “(1) a debt of a kind specified in paragraph (1)
2 or (5) of section 523(a) (in which case, notwith-
3 standing any provision of applicable nonbankruptcy
4 law to the contrary, such property shall be liable for
5 a debt of a kind specified in section 523(a)(5));”;

6 (2) in subsection (f)(1)(A), by striking the dash
7 and all that follows through the end of the subpara-
8 graph and inserting “of a kind that is specified in
9 section 523(a)(5); or”; and

10 (3) in subsection (g)(2), by striking “subsection
11 (f)(2)” and inserting “subsection (f)(1)(B)”.

12 **SEC. 217. PROTECTION OF DOMESTIC SUPPORT CLAIMS**
13 **AGAINST PREFERENTIAL TRANSFER MO-**
14 **TIONS.**

15 Section 547(c)(7) of title 11, United States Code, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 “(7) to the extent such transfer was a bona fide
18 payment of a debt for a domestic support obliga-
19 tion;”.

20 **SEC. 218. DISPOSABLE INCOME DEFINED.**

21 Section 1225(b)(2)(A) of title 11, United States
22 Code, is amended by inserting “or for a domestic support
23 obligation that first becomes payable after the date of the
24 filing of the petition” after “dependent of the debtor”.



1 **SEC. 219. COLLECTION OF CHILD SUPPORT.**

2 (a) DUTIES OF TRUSTEE UNDER CHAPTER 7.—Sec-
3 tion 704 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by
4 section 102, is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)—

6 (A) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” at
7 the end;

8 (B) in paragraph (9), by striking the pe-
9 riod and inserting a semicolon; and

10 (C) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(10) if with respect to the debtor there is a
12 claim for a domestic support obligation, provide the
13 applicable notice specified in subsection (c); and”;
14 and

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

16 “(c)(1) In a case described in subsection (a)(10) to
17 which subsection (a)(10) applies, the trustee shall—

18 “(A)(i) provide written notice to the holder of
19 the claim described in subsection (a)(10) of such
20 claim and of the right of such holder to use the serv-
21 ices of the State child support enforcement agency
22 established under sections 464 and 466 of the Social
23 Security Act for the State in which such holder re-
24 sides, for assistance in collecting child support dur-
25 ing and after the case under this title;



1 “(ii) include in the notice provided under clause
2 (i) the address and telephone number of such State
3 child support enforcement agency; and

4 “(iii) include in the notice provided under
5 clause (i) an explanation of the rights of such holder
6 to payment of such claim under this chapter;

7 “(B)(i) provide written notice to such State
8 child support enforcement agency of such claim; and

9 “(ii) include in the notice provided under clause
10 (i) the name, address, and telephone number of such
11 holder; and

12 “(C) at such time as the debtor is granted a
13 discharge under section 727, provide written notice
14 to such holder and to such State child support en-
15 forcement agency of—

16 “(i) the granting of the discharge;

17 “(ii) the last recent known address of the
18 debtor;

19 “(iii) the last recent known name and ad-
20 dress of the debtor’s employer; and

21 “(iv) the name of each creditor that holds
22 a claim that—

23 “(I) is not discharged under para-
24 graph (2), (4), or (14A) of section 523(a);

25 or



1 “(II) was reaffirmed by the debtor
2 under section 524(c).

3 “(2)(A) The holder of a claim described in subsection
4 (a)(10) or the State child support enforcement agency of
5 the State in which such holder resides may request from
6 a creditor described in paragraph (1)(C)(iv) the last
7 known address of the debtor.

8 “(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a
9 creditor that makes a disclosure of a last known address
10 of a debtor in connection with a request made under sub-
11 paragraph (A) shall not be liable by reason of making such
12 disclosure.”.

13 (b) DUTIES OF TRUSTEE UNDER CHAPTER 11.—
14 Section 1106 of title 11, United States Code, is
15 amended—

16 (1) in subsection (a)—

17 (A) in paragraph (6), by striking “and” at
18 the end;

19 (B) in paragraph (7), by striking the pe-
20 riod and inserting “; and”; and

21 (C) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(8) if with respect to the debtor there is a
23 claim for a domestic support obligation, provide the
24 applicable notice specified in subsection (c).”; and

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



1 “(c)(1) In a case described in subsection (a)(8) to
2 which subsection (a)(8) applies, the trustee shall—

3 “(A)(i) provide written notice to the holder of
4 the claim described in subsection (a)(8) of such
5 claim and of the right of such holder to use the serv-
6 ices of the State child support enforcement agency
7 established under sections 464 and 466 of the Social
8 Security Act for the State in which such holder re-
9 sides, for assistance in collecting child support dur-
10 ing and after the case under this title; and

11 “(ii) include in the notice required by clause (i)
12 the address and telephone number of such State
13 child support enforcement agency;

14 “(B)(i) provide written notice to such State
15 child support enforcement agency of such claim; and

16 “(ii) include in the notice required by clause (i)
17 the name, address, and telephone number of such
18 holder; and

19 “(C) at such time as the debtor is granted a
20 discharge under section 1141, provide written notice
21 to such holder and to such State child support en-
22 forcement agency of—

23 “(i) the granting of the discharge;

24 “(ii) the last recent known address of the
25 debtor;



1 “(iii) the last recent known name and ad-
2 dress of the debtor’s employer; and

3 “(iv) the name of each creditor that holds
4 a claim that—

5 “(I) is not discharged under para-
6 graph (2), (4), or (14A) of section 523(a);

7 or

8 “(II) was reaffirmed by the debtor
9 under section 524(c).

10 “(2)(A) The holder of a claim described in subsection
11 (a)(8) or the State child enforcement support agency of
12 the State in which such holder resides may request from
13 a creditor described in paragraph (1)(C)(iv) the last
14 known address of the debtor.

15 “(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a
16 creditor that makes a disclosure of a last known address
17 of a debtor in connection with a request made under sub-
18 paragraph (A) shall not be liable by reason of making such
19 disclosure.”.

20 (c) DUTIES OF TRUSTEE UNDER CHAPTER 12.—
21 Section 1202 of title 11, United States Code, is
22 amended—

23 (1) in subsection (b)—

24 (A) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at
25 the end;



1 (B) in paragraph (5), by striking the pe-
2 riod and inserting “; and”; and

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

4 “(6) if with respect to the debtor there is a
5 claim for a domestic support obligation, provide the
6 applicable notice specified in subsection (c).”; and

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

8 “(c)(1) In a case described in subsection (b)(6) to
9 which subsection (b)(6) applies, the trustee shall—

10 “(A)(i) provide written notice to the holder of
11 the claim described in subsection (b)(6) of such
12 claim and of the right of such holder to use the serv-
13 ices of the State child support enforcement agency
14 established under sections 464 and 466 of the Social
15 Security Act for the State in which such holder re-
16 sides, for assistance in collecting child support dur-
17 ing and after the case under this title; and

18 “(ii) include in the notice provided under clause
19 (i) the address and telephone number of such State
20 child support enforcement agency;

21 “(B)(i) provide written notice to such State
22 child support enforcement agency of such claim; and

23 “(ii) include in the notice provided under clause
24 (i) the name, address, and telephone number of such
25 holder; and



1 “(C) at such time as the debtor is granted a
2 discharge under section 1228, provide written notice
3 to such holder and to such State child support en-
4 forcement agency of—

5 “(i) the granting of the discharge;

6 “(ii) the last recent known address of the
7 debtor;

8 “(iii) the last recent known name and ad-
9 dress of the debtor’s employer; and

10 “(iv) the name of each creditor that holds
11 a claim that—

12 “(I) is not discharged under para-
13 graph (2), (4), or (14A) of section 523(a);

14 or

15 “(II) was reaffirmed by the debtor
16 under section 524(c).

17 “(2)(A) The holder of a claim described in subsection
18 (b)(6) or the State child support enforcement agency of
19 the State in which such holder resides may request from
20 a creditor described in paragraph (1)(C)(iv) the last
21 known address of the debtor.

22 “(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a
23 creditor that makes a disclosure of a last known address
24 of a debtor in connection with a request made under sub-



1 paragraph (A) shall not be liable by reason of making that
2 disclosure.”.

3 (d) DUTIES OF TRUSTEE UNDER CHAPTER 13.—

4 Section 1302 of title 11, United States Code, is
5 amended—

6 (1) in subsection (b)—

7 (A) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at
8 the end;

9 (B) in paragraph (5), by striking the pe-
10 riod and inserting “; and”; and

11 (C) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(6) if with respect to the debtor there is a
13 claim for a domestic support obligation, provide the
14 applicable notice specified in subsection (d).”; and

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

16 “(d)(1) In a case described in subsection (b)(6) to
17 which subsection (b)(6) applies, the trustee shall—

18 “(A)(i) provide written notice to the holder of
19 the claim described in subsection (b)(6) of such
20 claim and of the right of such holder to use the serv-
21 ices of the State child support enforcement agency
22 established under sections 464 and 466 of the Social
23 Security Act for the State in which such holder re-
24 sides, for assistance in collecting child support dur-
25 ing and after the case under this title; and



1 “(ii) include in the notice provided under clause
2 (i) the address and telephone number of such State
3 child support enforcement agency;

4 “(B)(i) provide written notice to such State
5 child support enforcement agency of such claim; and

6 “(ii) include in the notice provided under clause
7 (i) the name, address, and telephone number of such
8 holder; and

9 “(C) at such time as the debtor is granted a
10 discharge under section 1328, provide written notice
11 to such holder and to such State child support en-
12 forcement agency of—

13 “(i) the granting of the discharge;

14 “(ii) the last recent known address of the
15 debtor;

16 “(iii) the last recent known name and ad-
17 dress of the debtor’s employer; and

18 “(iv) the name of each creditor that holds
19 a claim that—

20 “(I) is not discharged under para-
21 graph (2) or (4) of section 523(a); or

22 “(II) was reaffirmed by the debtor
23 under section 524(c).

24 “(2)(A) The holder of a claim described in subsection
25 (b)(6) or the State child support enforcement agency of



1 the State in which such holder resides may request from
2 a creditor described in paragraph (1)(C)(iv) the last
3 known address of the debtor.

4 “(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a
5 creditor that makes a disclosure of a last known address
6 of a debtor in connection with a request made under sub-
7 paragraph (A) shall not be liable by reason of making that
8 disclosure.”.

9 **SEC. 220. NONDISCHARGEABILITY OF CERTAIN EDU-**
10 **CATIONAL BENEFITS AND LOANS.**

11 Section 523(a) of title 11, United States Code, is
12 amended by striking paragraph (8) and inserting the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(8) unless excepting such debt from discharge
15 under this paragraph would impose an undue hard-
16 ship on the debtor and the debtor’s dependents,
17 for—

18 “(A)(i) an educational benefit overpayment
19 or loan made, insured, or guaranteed by a gov-
20 ernmental unit, or made under any program
21 funded in whole or in part by a governmental
22 unit or nonprofit institution; or

23 “(ii) an obligation to repay funds received
24 as an educational benefit, scholarship, or sti-
25 pend; or



1 “(B) any other educational loan that is a
2 qualified education loan, as defined in section
3 221(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of
4 1986, incurred by a debtor who is an indi-
5 vidual;”.

6 **Subtitle C—Other Consumer** 7 **Protections**

8 **SEC. 221. AMENDMENTS TO DISCOURAGE ABUSIVE BANK-** 9 **RUPTCY FILINGS.**

10 Section 110 of title 11, United States Code, is
11 amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “or an em-
13 ployee of an attorney” and inserting “for the debtor
14 or an employee of such attorney under the direct su-
15 pervision of such attorney”;

16 (2) in subsection (b)—

17 (A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end
18 the following: “If a bankruptcy petition pre-
19 parer is not an individual, then an officer, prin-
20 cipal, responsible person, or partner of the
21 bankruptcy petition preparer shall be required
22 to—

23 “(A) sign the document for filing; and



1 “(B) print on the document the name and ad-
2 dress of that officer, principal, responsible person, or
3 partner.”; and

4 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
5 ing the following:

6 “(2)(A) Before preparing any document for filing or
7 accepting any fees from a debtor, the bankruptcy petition
8 preparer shall provide to the debtor a written notice which
9 shall be on an official form prescribed by the Judicial Con-
10 ference of the United States in accordance with rule 9009
11 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure.

12 “(B) The notice under subparagraph (A)—

13 “(i) shall inform the debtor in simple language
14 that a bankruptcy petition preparer is not an attor-
15 ney and may not practice law or give legal advice;

16 “(ii) may contain a description of examples of
17 legal advice that a bankruptcy petition preparer is
18 not authorized to give, in addition to any advice that
19 the preparer may not give by reason of subsection
20 (e)(2); and

21 “(iii) shall—

22 “(I) be signed by the debtor and, under
23 penalty of perjury, by the bankruptcy petition
24 preparer; and



1 “(II) be filed with any document for fil-
2 ing.”;

3 (3) in subsection (c)—

4 (A) in paragraph (2)—

5 (i) by striking “(2) For purposes” and
6 inserting “(2)(A) Subject to subparagraph
7 (B), for purposes”; and

8 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(B) If a bankruptcy petition preparer is not an indi-
11 vidual, the identifying number of the bankruptcy petition
12 preparer shall be the Social Security account number of
13 the officer, principal, responsible person, or partner of the
14 bankruptcy petition preparer.”; and

15 (B) by striking paragraph (3);

16 (4) in subsection (d)—

17 (A) by striking “(d)(1)” and inserting
18 “(d)”; and

19 (B) by striking paragraph (2);

20 (5) in subsection (e)—

21 (A) by striking paragraph (2); and

22 (B) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(2)(A) A bankruptcy petition preparer may not offer
24 a potential bankruptcy debtor any legal advice, including
25 any legal advice described in subparagraph (B).



1 “(B) The legal advice referred to in subparagraph
2 (A) includes advising the debtor—

3 “(i) whether—

4 “(I) to file a petition under this title; or

5 “(II) commencing a case under chapter 7,
6 11, 12, or 13 is appropriate;

7 “(ii) whether the debtor’s debts will be dis-
8 charged in a case under this title;

9 “(iii) whether the debtor will be able to retain
10 the debtor’s home, car, or other property after com-
11 mencing a case under this title;

12 “(iv) concerning—

13 “(I) the tax consequences of a case
14 brought under this title; or

15 “(II) the dischargeability of tax claims;

16 “(v) whether the debtor may or should promise
17 to repay debts to a creditor or enter into a reaffir-
18 mation agreement with a creditor to reaffirm a debt;

19 “(vi) concerning how to characterize the nature
20 of the debtor’s interests in property or the debtor’s
21 debts; or

22 “(vii) concerning bankruptcy procedures and
23 rights.”;

24 (6) in subsection (f)—



1 (A) by striking “(f)(1)” and inserting
2 “(f)”; and

3 (B) by striking paragraph (2);
4 (7) in subsection (g)—

5 (A) by striking “(g)(1)” and inserting
6 “(g)”; and

7 (B) by striking paragraph (2);
8 (8) in subsection (h)—

9 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
10 through (4) as paragraphs (2) through (5), re-
11 spectively;

12 (B) by inserting before paragraph (2), as
13 so redesignated, the following:

14 “(1) The Supreme Court may promulgate rules under
15 section 2075 of title 28, or the Judicial Conference of the
16 United States may prescribe guidelines, for setting a max-
17 imum allowable fee chargeable by a bankruptcy petition
18 preparer. A bankruptcy petition preparer shall notify the
19 debtor of any such maximum amount before preparing any
20 document for filing for a debtor or accepting any fee from
21 the debtor.”;

22 (C) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—

23 (i) by striking “Within 10 days after
24 the date of filing a petition, a bankruptcy



1 petition preparer shall file a” and inserting
2 “A”;

3 (ii) by inserting “by the bankruptcy
4 petition preparer shall be filed together
5 with the petition,” after “perjury”; and

6 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing: “If rules or guidelines setting a
8 maximum fee for services have been pro-
9 mulgated or prescribed under paragraph
10 (1), the declaration under this paragraph
11 shall include a certification that the bank-
12 ruptcy petition preparer complied with the
13 notification requirement under paragraph
14 (1).”;

15 (D) by striking paragraph (3), as so redes-
16 igned, and inserting the following:

17 “(3)(A) The court shall disallow and order the imme-
18 diate turnover to the bankruptcy trustee any fee referred
19 to in paragraph (2) found to be in excess of the value
20 of any services—

21 “(i) rendered by the bankruptcy petition pre-
22 parer during the 12-month period immediately pre-
23 ceding the date of the filing of the petition; or



1 “(ii) found to be in violation of any rule or
2 guideline promulgated or prescribed under para-
3 graph (1).

4 “(B) All fees charged by a bankruptcy petition pre-
5 parer may be forfeited in any case in which the bankruptcy
6 petition preparer fails to comply with this subsection or
7 subsection (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), or (g).

8 “(C) An individual may exempt any funds recovered
9 under this paragraph under section 522(b).”; and

10 (E) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated,
11 by striking “or the United States trustee” and
12 inserting “the United States trustee (or the
13 bankruptcy administrator, if any) or the court,
14 on the initiative of the court,”;

15 (9) in subsection (i)(1), by striking the matter
16 preceding subparagraph (A) and inserting the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(i)(1) If a bankruptcy petition preparer violates this
19 section or commits any act that the court finds to be
20 fraudulent, unfair, or deceptive, on the motion of the debt-
21 or, trustee, United States trustee (or the bankruptcy ad-
22 ministrator, if any), and after notice and a hearing, the
23 court shall order the bankruptcy petition preparer to pay
24 to the debtor—”;

25 (10) in subsection (j)—



1 (A) in paragraph (2)—

2 (i) in subparagraph (A)(i)(I), by strik-
3 ing “a violation of which subjects a person
4 to criminal penalty”;

5 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

6 (I) by striking “or has not paid
7 a penalty” and inserting “has not
8 paid a penalty”; and

9 (II) by inserting “or failed to dis-
10 gorge all fees ordered by the court”
11 after “a penalty imposed under this
12 section,”;

13 (B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
14 paragraph (4); and

15 (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
16 following:

17 “(3) The court, as part of its contempt power, may
18 enjoin a bankruptcy petition preparer that has failed to
19 comply with a previous order issued under this section.
20 The injunction under this paragraph may be issued on the
21 motion of the court, the trustee, or the United States
22 trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any).”; and

23 (11) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(l)(1) A bankruptcy petition preparer who fails to
25 comply with any provision of subsection (b), (c), (d), (e),



1 (f), (g), or (h) may be fined not more than \$500 for each
2 such failure.

3 “(2) The court shall triple the amount of a fine as-
4 sessed under paragraph (1) in any case in which the court
5 finds that a bankruptcy petition preparer—

6 “(A) advised the debtor to exclude assets or in-
7 come that should have been included on applicable
8 schedules;

9 “(B) advised the debtor to use a false Social
10 Security account number;

11 “(C) failed to inform the debtor that the debtor
12 was filing for relief under this title; or

13 “(D) prepared a document for filing in a man-
14 ner that failed to disclose the identity of the bank-
15 ruptcy petition preparer.

16 “(3) A debtor, trustee, creditor, or United States
17 trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any) may file
18 a motion for an order imposing a fine on the bankruptcy
19 petition preparer for any violation of this section.

20 “(4)(A) Fines imposed under this subsection in judi-
21 cial districts served by United States trustees shall be paid
22 to the United States trustee, who shall deposit an amount
23 equal to such fines in a special account of the United
24 States Trustee System Fund referred to in section
25 586(e)(2) of title 28. Amounts deposited under this sub-



1 paragraph shall be available to fund the enforcement of
2 this section on a national basis.

3 “(B) Fines imposed under this subsection in judicial
4 districts served by bankruptcy administrators shall be de-
5 posited as offsetting receipts to the fund established under
6 section 1931 of title 28, and shall remain available until
7 expended to reimburse any appropriation for the amount
8 paid out of such appropriation for expenses of the oper-
9 ation and maintenance of the courts of the United
10 States.”.

11 **SEC. 222. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

12 It is the sense of Congress that States should develop
13 curricula relating to the subject of personal finance, de-
14 signed for use in elementary and secondary schools.

15 **SEC. 223. ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 11, UNITED**
16 **STATES CODE.**

17 Section 507(a) of title 11, United States Code, is
18 amended by inserting after paragraph (9) the following:

19 “(10) Tenth, allowed claims for death or per-
20 sonal injury resulting from the operation of a motor
21 vehicle or vessel if such operation was unlawful be-
22 cause the debtor was intoxicated from using alcohol,
23 a drug, or another substance.”.



1 **SEC. 224. PROTECTION OF RETIREMENT SAVINGS IN BANK-**
2 **RUPTCY.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 522 of title 11, United
4 States Code, is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b)—

6 (A) in paragraph (2)—

7 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
8 “and” at the end;

9 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
10 the period at the end and inserting “;
11 and”;

12 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(C) retirement funds to the extent that those
15 funds are in a fund or account that is exempt from
16 taxation under section 401, 403, 408, 408A, 414,
17 457, or 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of
18 1986.”; and

19 (iv) by striking “(2)(A) any property”
20 and inserting:

21 “(3) Property listed in this paragraph is—

22 “(A) any property”;

23 (B) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
24 ing:

25 “(2) Property listed in this paragraph is property
26 that is specified under subsection (d), unless the State law



1 that is applicable to the debtor under paragraph (3)(A)
2 specifically does not so authorize.”;

3 (C) by striking “(b) Notwithstanding” and
4 inserting “(b)(1) Notwithstanding”;

5 (D) by striking “paragraph (2)” each place
6 it appears and inserting “paragraph (3)”;

7 (E) by striking “paragraph (1)” each place
8 it appears and inserting “paragraph (2)”;

9 (F) by striking “Such property is—”; and

10 (G) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(4) For purposes of paragraph (3)(C) and sub-
12 section (d)(12), the following shall apply:

13 “(A) If the retirement funds are in a retirement
14 fund that has received a favorable determination
15 under section 7805 of the Internal Revenue Code of
16 1986, and that determination is in effect as of the
17 date of the filing of the petition in a case under this
18 title, those funds shall be presumed to be exempt
19 from the estate.

20 “(B) If the retirement funds are in a retirement
21 fund that has not received a favorable determination
22 under such section 7805, those funds are exempt
23 from the estate if the debtor demonstrates that—



1 “(i) no prior determination to the contrary
2 has been made by a court or the Internal Rev-
3 enue Service; and

4 “(ii)(I) the retirement fund is in substan-
5 tial compliance with the applicable requirements
6 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

7 “(II) the retirement fund fails to be in
8 substantial compliance with the applicable re-
9 quirements of the Internal Revenue Code of
10 1986 and the debtor is not materially respon-
11 sible for that failure.

12 “(C) A direct transfer of retirement funds from
13 1 fund or account that is exempt from taxation
14 under section 401, 403, 408, 408A, 414, 457, or
15 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, under
16 section 401(a)(31) of the Internal Revenue Code of
17 1986, or otherwise, shall not cease to qualify for ex-
18 emption under paragraph (3)(C) or subsection
19 (d)(12) by reason of such direct transfer.

20 “(D)(i) Any distribution that qualifies as an eli-
21 gible rollover distribution within the meaning of sec-
22 tion 402(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or
23 that is described in clause (ii) shall not cease to
24 qualify for exemption under paragraph (3)(C) or
25 subsection (d)(12) by reason of such distribution.



1 “(ii) A distribution described in this clause is
2 an amount that—

3 “(I) has been distributed from a fund or
4 account that is exempt from taxation under sec-
5 tion 401, 403, 408, 408A, 414, 457, or 501(a)
6 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

7 “(II) to the extent allowed by law, is de-
8 posited in such a fund or account not later than
9 60 days after the distribution of such amount.”;
10 and

11 (2) in subsection (d)—

12 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
13 by striking “subsection (b)(1)” and inserting
14 “subsection (b)(2)”; and

15 (B) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(12) Retirement funds to the extent that those
17 funds are in a fund or account that is exempt from
18 taxation under section 401, 403, 408, 408A, 414,
19 457, or 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of
20 1986.”.

21 (b) AUTOMATIC STAY.—Section 362(b) of title 11,
22 United States Code, is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (17), by striking “or” at the
24 end;



1 (2) in paragraph (18), by striking the period
2 and inserting a semicolon; and

3 (3) by inserting after paragraph (18) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(19) under subsection (a), of withholding of
6 income from a debtor’s wages and collection of
7 amounts withheld, under the debtor’s agreement au-
8 thorizing that withholding and collection for the ben-
9 efit of a pension, profit-sharing, stock bonus, or
10 other plan established under section 401, 403, 408,
11 408A, 414, 457, or 501(c) of the Internal Revenue
12 Code of 1986, that is sponsored by the employer of
13 the debtor, or an affiliate, successor, or predecessor
14 of such employer—

15 “(A) to the extent that the amounts with-
16 held and collected are used solely for payments
17 relating to a loan from a plan under section
18 408(b)(1) of the Employee Retirement Income
19 Security Act of 1974 or is subject to section
20 72(p) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

21 “(B) a loan from a thrift savings plan per-
22 mitted under subchapter III of chapter 84 of
23 title 5, that satisfies the requirements of section
24 8433(g) of such title;



1 but nothing in this paragraph may be construed to
2 provide that any loan made under a governmental
3 plan under section 414(d), or a contract or account
4 under section 403(b), of the Internal Revenue Code
5 of 1986 constitutes a claim or a debt under this
6 title;”.

7 (c) EXCEPTIONS TO DISCHARGE.—Section 523(a) of
8 title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 215,
9 is amended by inserting after paragraph (17) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(18) owed to a pension, profit-sharing, stock
12 bonus, or other plan established under section 401,
13 403, 408, 408A, 414, 457, or 501(c) of the Internal
14 Revenue Code of 1986, under—

15 “(A) a loan permitted under section
16 408(b)(1) of the Employee Retirement Income
17 Security Act of 1974, or subject to section
18 72(p) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

19 “(B) a loan from a thrift savings plan per-
20 mitted under subchapter III of chapter 84 of
21 title 5, that satisfies the requirements of section
22 8433(g) of such title;

23 but nothing in this paragraph may be construed to
24 provide that any loan made under a governmental
25 plan under section 414(d), or a contract or account



1 under section 403(b), of the Internal Revenue Code
2 of 1986 constitutes a claim or a debt under this
3 title; or”.

4 (d) PLAN CONTENTS.—Section 1322 of title 11,
5 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
6 following:

7 “(f) A plan may not materially alter the terms of a
8 loan described in section 362(b)(19) and any amounts re-
9 quired to repay such loan shall not constitute ‘disposable
10 income’ under section 1325.”.

11 (e) ASSET LIMITATION.—

12 (1) LIMITATION.—Section 522 of title 11,
13 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
14 end the following:

15 “(n) For assets in individual retirement accounts de-
16 scribed in section 408 or 408A of the Internal Revenue
17 Code of 1986, other than a simplified employee pension
18 under section 408(k) of such Code or a simple retirement
19 account under section 408(p) of such Code, the aggregate
20 value of such assets exempted under this section, without
21 regard to amounts attributable to rollover contributions
22 under section 402(c), 402(e)(6), 403(a)(4), 403(a)(5), and
23 403(b)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and
24 earnings thereon, shall not exceed \$1,000,000 in a case
25 filed by a debtor who is an individual, except that such



1 amount may be increased if the interests of justice so re-
2 quire.”.

3 (2) ADJUSTMENT OF DOLLAR AMOUNTS.—

4 Paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 104(b) of title 11,
5 United States Code, are amended by inserting
6 “522(n),” after “522(d),”.

7 **SEC. 225. PROTECTION OF EDUCATION SAVINGS IN BANK-**
8 **RUPTCY.**

9 (a) EXCLUSIONS.—Section 541 of title 11, United
10 States Code, is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (b)—

12 (A) in paragraph (4), by striking “or” at
13 the end;

14 (B) by redesignating paragraph (5) as
15 paragraph (9); and

16 (C) by inserting after paragraph (4) the
17 following:

18 “(5) funds placed in an education individual re-
19 tirement account (as defined in section 530(b)(1) of
20 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) not later than
21 365 days before the date of the filing of the petition
22 in a case under this title, but—

23 “(A) only if the designated beneficiary of
24 such account was a child, stepchild, grandchild,
25 or stepgrandchild of the debtor for the taxable



1 year for which funds were placed in such ac-
2 count;

3 “(B) only to the extent that such funds—

4 “(i) are not pledged or promised to
5 any entity in connection with any extension
6 of credit; and

7 “(ii) are not excess contributions (as
8 described in section 4973(e) of the Internal
9 Revenue Code of 1986); and

10 “(C) in the case of funds placed in all such
11 accounts having the same designated bene-
12 ficiary not earlier than 720 days nor later than
13 365 days before such date, only so much of
14 such funds as does not exceed \$5,000;

15 “(6) funds used to purchase a tuition credit or
16 certificate or contributed to an account in accord-
17 ance with section 529(b)(1)(A) of the Internal Rev-
18 enue Code of 1986 under a qualified State tuition
19 program (as defined in section 529(b)(1) of such
20 Code) not later than 365 days before the date of the
21 filing of the petition in a case under this title, but—

22 “(A) only if the designated beneficiary of
23 the amounts paid or contributed to such tuition
24 program was a child, stepchild, grandchild, or



1 stepgrandchild of the debtor for the taxable
2 year for which funds were paid or contributed;

3 “(B) with respect to the aggregate amount
4 paid or contributed to such program having the
5 same designated beneficiary, only so much of
6 such amount as does not exceed the total con-
7 tributions permitted under section 529(b)(7) of
8 such Code with respect to such beneficiary, as
9 adjusted beginning on the date of the filing of
10 the petition in a case under this title by the an-
11 nual increase or decrease (rounded to the near-
12 est tenth of 1 percent) in the education expend-
13 iture category of the Consumer Price Index pre-
14 pared by the Department of Labor; and

15 “(C) in the case of funds paid or contrib-
16 uted to such program having the same des-
17 igned beneficiary not earlier than 720 days
18 nor later than 365 days before such date, only
19 so much of such funds as does not exceed
20 \$5,000;” and

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

22 “(e) In determining whether any of the relationships
23 specified in paragraph (5)(A) or (6)(A) of subsection (b)
24 exists, a legally adopted child of an individual (and a child
25 who is a member of an individual’s household, if placed



1 with such individual by an authorized placement agency
2 for legal adoption by such individual), or a foster child
3 of an individual (if such child has as the child's principal
4 place of abode the home of the debtor and is a member
5 of the debtor's household) shall be treated as a child of
6 such individual by blood.”.

7 (b) DEBTOR'S DUTIES.—Section 521 of title 11,
8 United States Code, as amended by section 106, is amend-
9 ed by adding at the end the following:

10 “(c) In addition to meeting the requirements under
11 subsection (a), a debtor shall file with the court a record
12 of any interest that a debtor has in an education individual
13 retirement account (as defined in section 530(b)(1) of the
14 Internal Revenue Code of 1986) or under a qualified State
15 tuition program (as defined in section 529(b)(1) of such
16 Code).”.

17 **SEC. 226. DEFINITIONS.**

18 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 101 of title 11, United
19 States Code, is amended—

20 (1) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
21 lowing:

22 “(3) ‘assisted person’ means any person whose
23 debts consist primarily of consumer debts and the
24 value of whose nonexempt property is less than
25 \$150,000;”;



1 (2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(4A) ‘bankruptcy assistance’ means any goods
4 or services sold or otherwise provided to an assisted
5 person with the express or implied purpose of pro-
6 viding information, advice, counsel, document prepa-
7 ration, or filing, or attendance at a creditors’ meet-
8 ing or appearing in a proceeding on behalf of an-
9 other or providing legal representation with respect
10 to a case or proceeding under this title;” and

11 (3) by inserting after paragraph (12) the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(12A) ‘debt relief agency’ means any person
14 who provides any bankruptcy assistance to an as-
15 sisted person in return for the payment of money or
16 other valuable consideration, or who is a bankruptcy
17 petition preparer under section 110, but does not
18 include—

19 “(A) any person who is an officer, director,
20 employee, or agent of a person who provides
21 such assistance or of the bankruptcy petition
22 preparer;

23 “(B) a nonprofit organization that is ex-
24 empt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of
25 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;



1 “(C) a creditor of such assisted person, to
2 the extent that the creditor is assisting such as-
3 sisted person to restructure any debt owed by
4 such assisted person to the creditor;

5 “(D) a depository institution (as defined in
6 section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act)
7 or any Federal credit union or State credit
8 union (as those terms are defined in section
9 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act), or any
10 affiliate or subsidiary of such depository institu-
11 tion or credit union; or

12 “(E) an author, publisher, distributor, or
13 seller of works subject to copyright protection
14 under title 17, when acting in such capacity.”.

15 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 104(b) of
16 title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting
17 “101(3),” after “sections” each place it appears.

18 **SEC. 227. RESTRICTIONS ON DEBT RELIEF AGENCIES.**

19 (a) ENFORCEMENT.—Subchapter II of chapter 5 of
20 title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
21 end the following:

22 **“§ 526. Restrictions on debt relief agencies**

23 “(a) A debt relief agency shall not—

24 “(1) fail to perform any service that such agen-
25 cy informed an assisted person or prospective as-



1 sisted person it would provide in connection with a
2 case or proceeding under this title;

3 “(2) make any statement, or counsel or advise
4 any assisted person or prospective assisted person to
5 make a statement in a document filed in a case or
6 proceeding under this title, that is untrue and mis-
7 leading, or that upon the exercise of reasonable care,
8 should have been known by such agency to be untrue
9 or misleading;

10 “(3) misrepresent to any assisted person or pro-
11 spective assisted person, directly or indirectly, af-
12 firmatively or by material omission, with respect
13 to—

14 “(i) the services that such agency will pro-
15 vide to such person; or

16 “(ii) the benefits and risks that may result
17 if such person becomes a debtor in a case under
18 this title; or

19 “(4) advise an assisted person or prospective
20 assisted person to incur more debt in contemplation
21 of such person filing a case under this title or to pay
22 an attorney or bankruptcy petition preparer fee or
23 charge for services performed as part of preparing
24 for or representing a debtor in a case under this
25 title.



1 “(b) Any waiver by any assisted person of any protec-
2 tion or right provided under this section shall not be en-
3 forceable against the debtor by any Federal or State court
4 or any other person, but may be enforced against a debt
5 relief agency.

6 “(c)(1) Any contract for bankruptcy assistance be-
7 tween a debt relief agency and an assisted person that
8 does not comply with the material requirements of this
9 section, section 527, or section 528 shall be void and may
10 not be enforced by any Federal or State court or by any
11 other person, other than such assisted person.

12 “(2) Any debt relief agency shall be liable to an as-
13 sisted person in the amount of any fees or charges in con-
14 nection with providing bankruptcy assistance to such per-
15 son that such debt relief agency has received, for actual
16 damages, and for reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs if
17 such agency is found, after notice and a hearing, to have—

18 “(A) intentionally or negligently failed to com-
19 ply with any provision of this section, section 527,
20 or section 528 with respect to a case or proceeding
21 under this title for such assisted person;

22 “(B) provided bankruptcy assistance to an as-
23 sisted person in a case or proceeding under this title
24 that is dismissed or converted to a case under an-
25 other chapter of this title because of such agency’s



1 intentional or negligent failure to file any required
2 document including those specified in section 521; or

3 “(C) intentionally or negligently disregarded the
4 material requirements of this title or the Federal
5 Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure applicable to such
6 agency.

7 “(3) In addition to such other remedies as are pro-
8 vided under State law, whenever the chief law enforcement
9 officer of a State, or an official or agency designated by
10 a State, has reason to believe that any person has violated
11 or is violating this section, the State—

12 “(A) may bring an action to enjoin such viola-
13 tion;

14 “(B) may bring an action on behalf of its resi-
15 dents to recover the actual damages of assisted per-
16 sons arising from such violation, including any liabil-
17 ity under paragraph (2); and

18 “(C) in the case of any successful action under
19 subparagraph (A) or (B), shall be awarded the costs
20 of the action and reasonable attorneys’ fees as deter-
21 mined by the court.

22 “(4) The district courts of the United States for dis-
23 tricts located in the State shall have concurrent jurisdic-
24 tion of any action under subparagraph (A) or (B) of para-
25 graph (3).



1 “(5) Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal
2 law and in addition to any other remedy provided under
3 Federal or State law, if the court, on its own motion or
4 on the motion of the United States trustee or the debtor,
5 finds that a person intentionally violated this section, or
6 engaged in a clear and consistent pattern or practice of
7 violating this section, the court may—

8 “(A) enjoin the violation of such section; or

9 “(B) impose an appropriate civil penalty
10 against such person.

11 “(d) No provision of this section, section 527, or sec-
12 tion 528 shall—

13 “(1) annul, alter, affect, or exempt any person
14 subject to such sections from complying with any
15 law of any State except to the extent that such law
16 is inconsistent with those sections, and then only to
17 the extent of the inconsistency; or

18 “(2) be deemed to limit or curtail the authority
19 or ability—

20 “(A) of a State or subdivision or instru-
21 mentality thereof, to determine and enforce
22 qualifications for the practice of law under the
23 laws of that State; or



1 “(B) of a Federal court to determine and
2 enforce the qualifications for the practice of law
3 before that court.”.

4 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
5 tions for chapter 5 of title 11, United States Code, is
6 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
7 525, the following:

 “526. Restrictions on debt relief agencies.”.

8 **SEC. 228. DISCLOSURES.**

9 (a) DISCLOSURES.—Subchapter II of chapter 5 of
10 title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 227,
11 is amended by adding at the end the following:

12 **“§ 527. Disclosures**

13 “(a) A debt relief agency providing bankruptcy assist-
14 ance to an assisted person shall provide—

15 “(1) the written notice required under section
16 342(b)(1); and

17 “(2) to the extent not covered in the written no-
18 tice described in paragraph (1), and not later than
19 3 business days after the first date on which a debt
20 relief agency first offers to provide any bankruptcy
21 assistance services to an assisted person, a clear and
22 conspicuous written notice advising assisted persons
23 that—

24 “(A) all information that the assisted per-
25 son is required to provide with a petition and



1 thereafter during a case under this title is re-
2 quired to be complete, accurate, and truthful;

3 “(B) all assets and all liabilities are re-
4 quired to be completely and accurately disclosed
5 in the documents filed to commence the case,
6 and the replacement value of each asset as de-
7 fined in section 506 must be stated in those
8 documents where requested after reasonable in-
9 quiry to establish such value;

10 “(C) current monthly income, the amounts
11 specified in section 707(b)(2), and, in a case
12 under chapter 13 of this title, disposable income
13 (determined in accordance with section
14 707(b)(2)), are required to be stated after rea-
15 sonable inquiry; and

16 “(D) information that an assisted person
17 provides during their case may be audited pur-
18 suant to this title, and that failure to provide
19 such information may result in dismissal of the
20 case under this title or other sanction, including
21 a criminal sanction.

22 “(b) A debt relief agency providing bankruptcy assist-
23 ance to an assisted person shall provide each assisted per-
24 son at the same time as the notices required under sub-
25 section (a)(1) the following statement, to the extent appli-



1 cable, or one substantially similar. The statement shall be
2 clear and conspicuous and shall be in a single document
3 separate from other documents or notices provided to the
4 assisted person:

5 “‘IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BANK-
6 RUPTCY ASSISTANCE SERVICES FROM AN AT-
7 TORNEY OR BANKRUPTCY PETITION PRE-
8 PARER.

9 “‘If you decide to seek bankruptcy relief, you can
10 represent yourself, you can hire an attorney to represent
11 you, or you can get help in some localities from a bank-
12 ruptcy petition preparer who is not an attorney. THE
13 LAW REQUIRES AN ATTORNEY OR BANKRUPTCY
14 PETITION PREPARER TO GIVE YOU A WRITTEN
15 CONTRACT SPECIFYING WHAT THE ATTORNEY
16 OR BANKRUPTCY PETITION PREPARER WILL DO
17 FOR YOU AND HOW MUCH IT WILL COST. Ask to
18 see the contract before you hire anyone.

19 “‘The following information helps you understand
20 what must be done in a routine bankruptcy case to help
21 you evaluate how much service you need. Although bank-
22 ruptcy can be complex, many cases are routine.

23 “‘Before filing a bankruptcy case, either you or your
24 attorney should analyze your eligibility for different forms
25 of debt relief available under the Bankruptcy Code and



1 which form of relief is most likely to be beneficial for you.
2 Be sure you understand the relief you can obtain and its
3 limitations. To file a bankruptcy case, documents called
4 a Petition, Schedules and Statement of Financial Affairs,
5 as well as in some cases a Statement of Intention need
6 to be prepared correctly and filed with the bankruptcy
7 court. You will have to pay a filing fee to the bankruptcy
8 court. Once your case starts, you will have to attend the
9 required first meeting of creditors where you may be ques-
10 tioned by a court official called a ‘trustee’ and by credi-
11 tors.

12 “‘If you choose to file a chapter 7 case, you may
13 be asked by a creditor to reaffirm a debt. You may want
14 help deciding whether to do so. A creditor is not permitted
15 to coerce you into reaffirming your debts.

16 “‘If you choose to file a chapter 13 case in which
17 you repay your creditors what you can afford over 3 to
18 5 years, you may also want help with preparing your chap-
19 ter 13 plan and with the confirmation hearing on your
20 plan which will be before a bankruptcy judge.

21 “‘If you select another type of relief under the Bank-
22 ruptcy Code other than chapter 7 or chapter 13, you will
23 want to find out what should be done from someone famil-
24 iar with that type of relief.



1 “Your bankruptcy case may also involve litigation.
2 You are generally permitted to represent yourself in litiga-
3 tion in bankruptcy court, but only attorneys, not bank-
4 ruptcy petition preparers, can give you legal advice.’.

5 “(c) Except to the extent the debt relief agency pro-
6 vides the required information itself after reasonably dili-
7 gent inquiry of the assisted person or others so as to ob-
8 tain such information reasonably accurately for inclusion
9 on the petition, schedules or statement of financial affairs,
10 a debt relief agency providing bankruptcy assistance to an
11 assisted person, to the extent permitted by nonbankruptcy
12 law, shall provide each assisted person at the time re-
13 quired for the notice required under subsection (a)(1) rea-
14 sonably sufficient information (which shall be provided in
15 a clear and conspicuous writing) to the assisted person
16 on how to provide all the information the assisted person
17 is required to provide under this title pursuant to section
18 521, including—

19 “(1) how to value assets at replacement value,
20 determine current monthly income, the amounts
21 specified in section 707(b)(2) and, in a chapter 13
22 case, how to determine disposable income in accord-
23 ance with section 707(b)(2) and related calculations;



1 “(2) how to complete the list of creditors, in-
2 cluding how to determine what amount is owed and
3 what address for the creditor should be shown; and

4 “(3) how to determine what property is exempt
5 and how to value exempt property at replacement
6 value as defined in section 506.

7 “(d) A debt relief agency shall maintain a copy of
8 the notices required under subsection (a) of this section
9 for 2 years after the date on which the notice is given
10 the assisted person.”.

11 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
12 tions for chapter 5 of title 11, United States Code, as
13 amended by section 227, is amended by inserting after the
14 item relating to section 526 the following:

 “527. Disclosures.”.

15 **SEC. 229. REQUIREMENTS FOR DEBT RELIEF AGENCIES.**

16 (a) ENFORCEMENT.—Subchapter II of chapter 5 of
17 title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 227
18 and 228, is amended by adding at the end the following:

19 **“§ 528. Requirements for debt relief agencies**

20 “(a) A debt relief agency shall—

21 “(1) not later than 5 business days after the
22 first date on which such agency provides any bank-
23 ruptcy assistance services to an assisted person, but
24 prior to such assisted person’s petition under this
25 title being filed, execute a written contract with such



1 assisted person that explains clearly and
2 conspicuously—

3 “(A) the services such agency will provide
4 to such assisted person; and

5 “(B) the fees or charges for such services,
6 and the terms of payment;

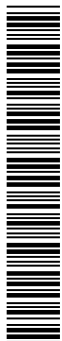
7 “(2) provide the assisted person with a copy of
8 the fully executed and completed contract;

9 “(3) clearly and conspicuously disclose in any
10 advertisement of bankruptcy assistance services or of
11 the benefits of bankruptcy directed to the general
12 public (whether in general media, seminars or spe-
13 cific mailings, telephonic or electronic messages, or
14 otherwise) that the services or benefits are with re-
15 spect to bankruptcy relief under this title; and

16 “(4) clearly and conspicuously use the following
17 statement in such advertisement: ‘We are a debt re-
18 lief agency. We help people file for bankruptcy relief
19 under the Bankruptcy Code.’ or a substantially simi-
20 lar statement.

21 “(b)(1) An advertisement of bankruptcy assistance
22 services or of the benefits of bankruptcy directed to the
23 general public includes—

24 “(A) descriptions of bankruptcy assistance in
25 connection with a chapter 13 plan whether or not



1 chapter 13 is specifically mentioned in such adver-
2 tisement; and

3 “(B) statements such as ‘federally supervised
4 repayment plan’ or ‘Federal debt restructuring help’
5 or other similar statements that could lead a reason-
6 able consumer to believe that debt counseling was
7 being offered when in fact the services were directed
8 to providing bankruptcy assistance with a chapter
9 13 plan or other form of bankruptcy relief under
10 this title.

11 “(2) An advertisement, directed to the general public,
12 indicating that the debt relief agency provides assistance
13 with respect to credit defaults, mortgage foreclosures, evic-
14 tion proceedings, excessive debt, debt collection pressure,
15 or inability to pay any consumer debt shall—

16 “(A) disclose clearly and conspicuously in such
17 advertisement that the assistance may involve bank-
18 ruptcy relief under this title; and

19 “(B) include the following statement: ‘We are a
20 debt relief agency. We help people file for bank-
21 ruptcy relief under the Bankruptcy Code.’ or a sub-
22 stantially similar statement.”.

23 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
24 tions for chapter 5 of title 11, United States Code, as



1 amended by section 227 and 228, is amended by inserting
2 after the item relating to section 527, the following:

“528. Requirements for debt relief agencies.”.

3 **SEC. 230. GAO STUDY.**

4 (a) **STUDY.**—Not later than 270 days after the date
5 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the
6 United States shall conduct a study of the feasibility, ef-
7 fectiveness, and cost of requiring trustees appointed under
8 title 11, United States Code, or the bankruptcy courts,
9 to provide to the Office of Child Support Enforcement
10 promptly after the commencement of cases by debtors who
11 are individuals under such title, the names and social secu-
12 rity account numbers of such debtors for the purposes of
13 allowing such Office to determine whether such debtors
14 have outstanding obligations for child support (as deter-
15 mined on the basis of information in the Federal Case
16 Registry or other national database).

17 (b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 300 days after the date
18 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall
19 submit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and
20 the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report con-
21 taining the results of the study required by subsection (a).



1 **SEC. 231. PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE IN-**
2 **FORMATION.**

3 (a) **LIMITATION.**—Section 363(b)(1) of title 11,
4 United States Code, is amended by striking the period at
5 the end and inserting the following:

6 “, except that if the debtor in connection with offering
7 a product or a service discloses to an individual a policy
8 prohibiting the transfer of personally identifiable informa-
9 tion about individuals to persons that are not affiliated
10 with the debtor and if such policy is in effect on the date
11 of the commencement of the case, then the trustee may
12 not sell or lease personally identifiable information to any
13 person unless—

14 “(A) such sale or such lease is consistent with
15 such policy; or

16 “(B) after appointment of a consumer privacy
17 ombudsman in accordance with section 332, and
18 after notice and a hearing, the court approves such
19 sale or such lease—

20 “(i) giving due consideration to the facts,
21 circumstances, and conditions of such sale or
22 such lease; and

23 “(ii) finding that no showing was made
24 that such sale or such lease would violate appli-
25 cable nonbankruptcy law.”.



1 (b) DEFINITION.—Section 101 of title 11, United
2 States Code, is amended by inserting after paragraph (41)
3 the following:

4 “(41A) ‘personally identifiable information’
5 means—

6 “(A) if provided by an individual to the
7 debtor in connection with obtaining a product
8 or a service from the debtor primarily for per-
9 sonal, family, or household purposes—

10 “(i) the first name (or initial) and last
11 name of such individual, whether given at
12 birth or time of adoption, or resulting from
13 a lawful change of name;

14 “(ii) the geographical address of a
15 physical place of residence of such indi-
16 vidual;

17 “(iii) an electronic address (including
18 an e-mail address) of such individual;

19 “(iv) a telephone number dedicated to
20 contacting such individual at such physical
21 place of residence;

22 “(v) a social security account number
23 issued to such individual; or

24 “(vi) the account number of a credit
25 card issued to such individual; or



1 “(B) if identified in connection with 1 or
2 more of the items of information specified in
3 subparagraph (A)—

4 “(i) a birth date, the number of a cer-
5 tificate of birth or adoption, or a place of
6 birth; or

7 “(ii) any other information concerning
8 an identified individual that, if disclosed,
9 will result in contacting or identifying such
10 individual physically or electronically;”.

11 **SEC. 232. CONSUMER PRIVACY OMBUDSMAN.**

12 (a) CONSUMER PRIVACY OMBUDSMAN.—Title 11 of
13 the United States Code is amended by inserting after sec-
14 tion 331 the following:

15 **“§ 332. Consumer privacy ombudsman**

16 “(a) If a hearing is required under section
17 363(b)(1)(B), the court shall order the United States
18 trustee to appoint, not later than 5 days before the com-
19 mencement of the hearing, 1 disinterested person (other
20 than the United States trustee) to serve as the consumer
21 privacy ombudsman in the case and shall require that no-
22 tice of such hearing be timely given to such ombudsman.

23 “(b) The consumer privacy ombudsman may appear
24 and be heard at such hearing and shall provide to the
25 court information to assist the court in its consideration



1 of the facts, circumstances, and conditions of the proposed
2 sale or lease of personally identifiable information under
3 section 363(b)(1)(B). Such information may include pres-
4 entation of—

5 “(1) the debtor’s privacy policy;

6 “(2) the potential losses or gains of privacy to
7 consumers if such sale or such lease is approved by
8 the court;

9 “(3) the potential costs or benefits to con-
10 sumers if such sale or such lease is approved by the
11 court; and

12 “(4) the potential alternatives that would miti-
13 gate potential privacy losses or potential costs to
14 consumers.

15 “(c) A consumer privacy ombudsman shall not dis-
16 close any personally identifiable information obtained by
17 the ombudsman under this title.”.

18 (b) COMPENSATION OF CONSUMER PRIVACY OM-
19 BUDSMAN.—Section 330(a)(1) of title 11, United States
20 Code, is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph
21 (A), by inserting “a consumer privacy ombudsman ap-
22 pointed under section 332,” before “an examiner”.

23 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
24 tions for subchapter II of chapter 3 of title 11, United



1 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

“332. Consumer privacy ombudsman.”.

3 **SEC. 233. PROHIBITION ON DISCLOSURE OF NAME OF**
4 **MINOR CHILDREN.**

5 (a) PROHIBITION.—Title 11 of the United States
6 Code, as amended by section 106, is amended by inserting
7 after section 111 the following:

8 **“§ 112. Prohibition on disclosure of name of minor**
9 **children**

10 “The debtor may be required to provide information
11 regarding a minor child involved in matters under this title
12 but may not be required to disclose in the public records
13 in the case the name of such minor child. The debtor may
14 be required to disclose the name of such minor child in
15 a nonpublic record that is maintained by the court and
16 made available by the court for examination by the United
17 States trustee, the trustee, and the auditor (if any) serving
18 under section 586(f) of title 28, in the case. The court,
19 the United States trustee, the trustee, and such auditor
20 shall not disclose the name of such minor child maintained
21 in such nonpublic record.”.

22 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
23 for chapter 1 of title 11, United States Code, as amended



1 by section 106, is amended by inserting after the item re-
2 lating to section 111 the following:

“112. Prohibition on disclosure of name of minor children.”.

3 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 107(a) of
4 title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting “and
5 subject to section 112” after “section”.

6 **TITLE III —DISCOURAGING**
7 **BANKRUPTCY ABUSE**

8 **SEC. 301. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

9 Section 523(a)(17) of title 11, United States Code,
10 is amended—

11 (1) by striking “by a court” and inserting “on
12 a prisoner by any court”;

13 (2) by striking “section 1915(b) or (f)” and in-
14 serting “subsection (b) or (f)(2) of section 1915”;
15 and

16 (3) by inserting “(or a similar non-Federal
17 law)” after “title 28” each place it appears.

18 **SEC. 302. DISCOURAGING BAD FAITH REPEAT FILINGS.**

19 Section 362(c) of title 11, United States Code, is
20 amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the
22 end;

23 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at
24 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

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



1 “(3) if a single or joint case is filed by or
2 against debtor who is an individual in a case under
3 chapter 7, 11, or 13, and if a single or joint case
4 of the debtor was pending within the preceding 1-
5 year period but was dismissed, other than a case
6 refiled under a chapter other than chapter 7 after
7 dismissal under section 707(b)—

8 “(A) the stay under subsection (a) with re-
9 spect to any action taken with respect to a debt
10 or property securing such debt or with respect
11 to any lease shall terminate with respect to the
12 debtor on the 30th day after the filing of the
13 later case;

14 “(B) on the motion of a party in interest
15 for continuation of the automatic stay and upon
16 notice and a hearing, the court may extend the
17 stay in particular cases as to any or all credi-
18 tors (subject to such conditions or limitations
19 as the court may then impose) after notice and
20 a hearing completed before the expiration of the
21 30-day period only if the party in interest dem-
22 onstrates that the filing of the later case is in
23 good faith as to the creditors to be stayed; and

24 “(C) for purposes of subparagraph (B), a
25 case is presumptively filed not in good faith



1 (but such presumption may be rebutted by clear
2 and convincing evidence to the contrary)—

3 “(i) as to all creditors, if—

4 “(I) more than 1 previous case
5 under any of chapters 7, 11, and 13
6 in which the individual was a debtor
7 was pending within the preceding 1-
8 year period;

9 “(II) a previous case under any
10 of chapters 7, 11, and 13 in which the
11 individual was a debtor was dismissed
12 within such 1-year period, after the
13 debtor failed to—

14 “(aa) file or amend the peti-
15 tion or other documents as re-
16 quired by this title or the court
17 without substantial excuse (but
18 mere inadvertence or negligence
19 shall not be a substantial excuse
20 unless the dismissal was caused
21 by the negligence of the debtor’s
22 attorney);

23 “(bb) provide adequate pro-
24 tection as ordered by the court;
25 or



1 “(cc) perform the terms of a
2 plan confirmed by the court; or

3 “(III) there has not been a sub-
4 stantial change in the financial or per-
5 sonal affairs of the debtor since the
6 dismissal of the next most previous
7 case under chapter 7, 11, or 13 or
8 any other reason to conclude that the
9 later case will be concluded—

10 “(aa) if a case under chap-
11 ter 7, with a discharge; or

12 “(bb) if a case under chap-
13 ter 11 or 13, with a confirmed
14 plan that will be fully performed;
15 and

16 “(ii) as to any creditor that com-
17 menced an action under subsection (d) in
18 a previous case in which the individual was
19 a debtor if, as of the date of dismissal of
20 such case, that action was still pending or
21 had been resolved by terminating, condi-
22 tioning, or limiting the stay as to actions
23 of such creditor; and

24 “(4)(A)(i) if a single or joint case is filed by or
25 against a debtor who is an individual under this



1 title, and if 2 or more single or joint cases of the
2 debtor were pending within the previous year but
3 were dismissed, other than a case refiled under sec-
4 tion 707(b), the stay under subsection (a) shall not
5 go into effect upon the filing of the later case; and

6 “(ii) on request of a party in interest, the court
7 shall promptly enter an order confirming that no
8 stay is in effect;

9 “(B) if, within 30 days after the filing of the
10 later case, a party in interest requests the court may
11 order the stay to take effect in the case as to any
12 or all creditors (subject to such conditions or limita-
13 tions as the court may impose), after notice and a
14 hearing, only if the party in interest demonstrates
15 that the filing of the later case is in good faith as
16 to the creditors to be stayed;

17 “(C) a stay imposed under subparagraph (B)
18 shall be effective on the date of the entry of the
19 order allowing the stay to go into effect; and

20 “(D) for purposes of subparagraph (B), a case
21 is presumptively filed not in good faith (but such
22 presumption may be rebutted by clear and con-
23 vincing evidence to the contrary)—

24 “(i) as to all creditors if—



1 “(I) 2 or more previous cases under
2 this title in which the individual was a
3 debtor were pending within the 1-year pe-
4 riod;

5 “(II) a previous case under this title
6 in which the individual was a debtor was
7 dismissed within the time period stated in
8 this paragraph after the debtor failed to
9 file or amend the petition or other docu-
10 ments as required by this title or the court
11 without substantial excuse (but mere inad-
12 vertence or negligence shall not be sub-
13 stantial excuse unless the dismissal was
14 caused by the negligence of the debtor’s at-
15 torney), failed to provide adequate protec-
16 tion as ordered by the court, or failed to
17 perform the terms of a plan confirmed by
18 the court; or

19 “(III) there has not been a substan-
20 tial change in the financial or personal af-
21 fairs of the debtor since the dismissal of
22 the next most previous case under this
23 title, or any other reason to conclude that
24 the later case will not be concluded, if a
25 case under chapter 7, with a discharge,



1 and if a case under chapter 11 or 13, with
2 a confirmed plan that will be fully per-
3 formed; or

4 “(ii) as to any creditor that commenced an
5 action under subsection (d) in a previous case
6 in which the individual was a debtor if, as of
7 the date of dismissal of such case, such action
8 was still pending or had been resolved by termi-
9 nating, conditioning, or limiting the stay as to
10 such action of such creditor.”.

11 **SEC. 303. CURBING ABUSIVE FILINGS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 362(d) of title 11, United
13 States Code, is amended—

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

16 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at
17 the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

19 “(4) with respect to a stay of an act against
20 real property under subsection (a), by a creditor
21 whose claim is secured by an interest in such real
22 property, if the court finds that the filing of the pe-
23 tition was part of a scheme to delay, hinder, and de-
24 fraud creditors that involved either—



1 “(A) transfer of all or part ownership of,
2 or other interest in, such real property without
3 the consent of the secured creditor or court ap-
4 proval; or

5 “(B) multiple bankruptcy filings affecting
6 such real property.

7 If recorded in compliance with applicable State laws gov-
8 erning notices of interests or liens in real property, an
9 order entered under paragraph (4) shall be binding in any
10 other case under this title purporting to affect such real
11 property filed not later than 2 years after the date of the
12 entry of such order by the court, except that a debtor in
13 a subsequent case under this title may move for relief from
14 such order based upon changed circumstances or for good
15 cause shown, after notice and a hearing. Any Federal,
16 State, or local governmental unit that accepts notices of
17 interests or liens in real property shall accept any certified
18 copy of an order described in this subsection for indexing
19 and recording.”.

20 (b) AUTOMATIC STAY.—Section 362(b) of title 11,
21 United States Code, as amended by section 224, is amend-
22 ed by inserting after paragraph (19), the following:

23 “(20) under subsection (a), of any act to en-
24 force any lien against or security interest in real
25 property following entry of the order under sub-



1 section (d)(4) as to such real property in any prior
2 case under this title, for a period of 2 years after
3 the date of the entry of such an order, except that
4 the debtor, in a subsequent case under this title,
5 may move for relief from such order based upon
6 changed circumstances or for other good cause
7 shown, after notice and a hearing;

8 “(21) under subsection (a), of any act to en-
9 force any lien against or security interest in real
10 property—

11 “(A) if the debtor is ineligible under sec-
12 tion 109(g) to be a debtor in a case under this
13 title; or

14 “(B) if the case under this title was filed
15 in violation of a bankruptcy court order in a
16 prior case under this title prohibiting the debtor
17 from being a debtor in another case under this
18 title;”.

19 **SEC. 304. DEBTOR RETENTION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY**
20 **SECURITY.**

21 Title 11, United States Code, is amended—

22 (1) in section 521(a), as so designated by sec-
23 tion 106—

24 (A) in paragraph (4), by striking “, and”
25 at the end and inserting a semicolon;



1 (B) in paragraph (5), by striking the pe-
2 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

4 “(6) in a case under chapter 7 of this title in
5 which the debtor is an individual, not retain posses-
6 sion of personal property as to which a creditor has
7 an allowed claim for the purchase price secured in
8 whole or in part by an interest in such personal
9 property unless the debtor, not later than 45 days
10 after the first meeting of creditors under section
11 341(a), either—

12 “(A) enters into an agreement with the
13 creditor pursuant to section 524(c) with respect
14 to the claim secured by such property; or

15 “(B) redeems such property from the secu-
16 rity interest pursuant to section 722.

17 If the debtor fails to so act within the 45-day period re-
18 ferred to in paragraph (6), the stay under section 362(a)
19 is terminated with respect to the personal property of the
20 estate or of the debtor which is affected, such property
21 shall no longer be property of the estate, and the creditor
22 may take whatever action as to such property as is per-
23 mitted by applicable nonbankruptcy law, unless the court
24 determines on the motion of the trustee filed before the
25 expiration of such 45-day period, and after notice and a



1 hearing, that such property is of consequential value or
2 benefit to the estate, orders appropriate adequate protec-
3 tion of the creditor’s interest, and orders the debtor to
4 deliver any collateral in the debtor’s possession to the
5 trustee.”; and

6 (2) in section 722, by inserting “in full at the
7 time of redemption” before the period at the end.

8 **SEC. 305. RELIEF FROM THE AUTOMATIC STAY WHEN THE**
9 **DEBTOR DOES NOT COMPLETE INTENDED**
10 **SURRENDER OF CONSUMER DEBT COLLAT-**
11 **ERAL.**

12 Title 11, United States Code, is amended—

13 (1) in section 362, as amended by section
14 106—

15 (A) in subsection (e), by striking “(e), and
16 (f)” and inserting “(e), (f), and (h)”;

17 (B) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
18 section (k) and transferring such subsection so
19 as to insert it after subsection (j) as added by
20 section 106; and

21 (C) by inserting after subsection (g) the
22 following:

23 “(h)(1) In a case in which the debtor is an individual,
24 the stay provided by subsection (a) is terminated with re-
25 spect to personal property of the estate or of the debtor



1 securing in whole or in part a claim, or subject to an unex-
2 pired lease, and such personal property shall no longer be
3 property of the estate if the debtor fails within the applica-
4 ble time set by section 521(a)(2)—

5 “(A) to file timely any statement of intention
6 required under section 521(a)(2) with respect to
7 such personal property or to indicate in such state-
8 ment that the debtor will either surrender such per-
9 sonal property or retain it and, if retaining such per-
10 sonal property, either redeem such personal property
11 pursuant to section 722, enter into an agreement of
12 the kind specified in section 524(c) applicable to the
13 debt secured by such personal property, or assume
14 such unexpired lease pursuant to section 365(p) if
15 the trustee does not do so, as applicable; and

16 “(B) to take timely the action specified in such
17 statement, as it may be amended before expiration
18 of the period for taking action, unless such state-
19 ment specifies the debtor’s intention to reaffirm such
20 debt on the original contract terms and the creditor
21 refuses to agree to the reaffirmation on such terms.

22 “(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply if the court deter-
23 mines, on the motion of the trustee filed before the expira-
24 tion of the applicable time set by section 521(a)(2), after
25 notice and a hearing, that such personal property is of



1 consequential value or benefit to the estate, and orders
2 appropriate adequate protection of the creditor's interest,
3 and orders the debtor to deliver any collateral in the debt-
4 or's possession to the trustee. If the court does not so de-
5 termine, the stay provided by subsection (a) shall termi-
6 nate upon the conclusion of the hearing on the motion.”;
7 and

8 (2) in section 521, as amended by sections 106
9 and 225—

10 (A) in subsection (a)(2) by striking “con-
11 sumer”;

12 (B) in subsection (a)(2)(B)—

13 (i) by striking “forty-five days after
14 the filing of a notice of intent under this
15 section” and inserting “30 days after the
16 first date set for the meeting of creditors
17 under section 341(a)”; and

18 (ii) by striking “forty-five day” and
19 inserting “30-day”;

20 (C) in subsection (a)(2)(C) by inserting “,
21 except as provided in section 362(h)” before the
22 semicolon; and

23 (D) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(d) If the debtor fails timely to take the action speci-
25 fied in subsection (a)(6) of this section, or in paragraphs



1 (1) and (2) of section 362(h), with respect to property
2 which a lessor or bailor owns and has leased, rented, or
3 bailed to the debtor or as to which a creditor holds a secu-
4 rity interest not otherwise voidable under section 522(f),
5 544, 545, 547, 548, or 549, nothing in this title shall pre-
6 vent or limit the operation of a provision in the underlying
7 lease or agreement that has the effect of placing the debt-
8 or in default under such lease or agreement by reason of
9 the occurrence, pendency, or existence of a proceeding
10 under this title or the insolvency of the debtor. Nothing
11 in this subsection shall be deemed to justify limiting such
12 a provision in any other circumstance.”.

13 **SEC. 306. GIVING SECURED CREDITORS FAIR TREATMENT**
14 **IN CHAPTER 13.**

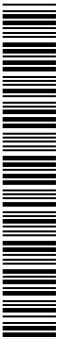
15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1325(a)(5)(B)(i) of title
16 11, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

17 “(i) the plan provides that—

18 “(I) the holder of such claim retain
19 the lien securing such claim until the ear-
20 lier of—

21 “(aa) the payment of the under-
22 lying debt determined under nonbank-
23 ruptcy law; or

24 “(bb) discharge under section
25 1328; and



1 “(II) if the case under this chapter is
2 dismissed or converted without completion
3 of the plan, such lien shall also be retained
4 by such holder to the extent recognized by
5 applicable nonbankruptcy law; and”.

6 (b) RESTORING THE FOUNDATION FOR SECURED
7 CREDIT.—Section 1325(a) of title 11, United States Code,
8 is amended by adding at the end the following:

9 “For purposes of paragraph (5), section 506 shall not
10 apply to a claim described in that paragraph if the creditor
11 has a purchase money security interest securing the debt
12 that is the subject of the claim, the debt was incurred
13 within the 910-day preceding the date of the filing of the
14 petition, and the collateral for that debt consists of a
15 motor vehicle (as defined in section 30102 of title 49) ac-
16 quired for the personal use of the debtor, or if collateral
17 for that debt consists of any other thing of value, if the
18 debt was incurred during the 1-year period preceding that
19 filing.”.

20 (c) DEFINITIONS.—Section 101 of title 11, United
21 States Code, is amended—

22 (1) by inserting after paragraph (13) the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(13A) ‘debtor’s principal residence’—



1 “(A) means a residential structure, includ-
2 ing incidental property, without regard to
3 whether that structure is attached to real prop-
4 erty; and

5 “(B) includes an individual condominium
6 or cooperative unit, a mobile or manufactured
7 home, or trailer;” and

8 (2) by inserting after paragraph (27), the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(27A) ‘incidental property’ means, with re-
11 spect to a debtor’s principal residence—

12 “(A) property commonly conveyed with a
13 principal residence in the area where the real
14 property is located;

15 “(B) all easements, rights, appurtenances,
16 fixtures, rents, royalties, mineral rights, oil or
17 gas rights or profits, water rights, escrow
18 funds, or insurance proceeds; and

19 “(C) all replacements or additions;”.

20 **SEC. 307. DOMICILIARY REQUIREMENTS FOR EXEMPTIONS.**

21 Section 522(b)(3) of title 11, United States Code, as
22 so designated by section 106, is amended—

23 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

24 (A) by striking “180 days” and inserting
25 “730 days”; and



1 (B) by striking “, or for a longer portion
2 of such 180-day period than in any other place”
3 and inserting “or if the debtor’s domicile has
4 not been located at a single State for such 730-
5 day period, the place in which the debtor’s
6 domicile was located for 180 days immediately
7 preceding the 730-day period or for a longer
8 portion of such 180-day period than in any
9 other place”; and

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

11 “If the effect of the domiciliary requirement under sub-
12 paragraph (A) is to render the debtor ineligible for any
13 exemption, the debtor may elect to exempt property that
14 is specified under subsection (d).”.

15 **SEC. 308. REDUCTION OF HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FOR**
16 **FRAUD.**

17 Section 522 of title 11, United States Code, as
18 amended by section 224, is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (b)(3)(A), as so designated by
20 this Act, by inserting “subject to subsections (o) and
21 (p),” before “any property”; and

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

23 “(o) For purposes of subsection (b)(3)(A), and not-
24 withstanding subsection (a), the value of an interest in—



1 “(1) real or personal property that the debtor
2 or a dependent of the debtor uses as a residence;

3 “(2) a cooperative that owns property that the
4 debtor or a dependent of the debtor uses as a resi-
5 dence;

6 “(3) a burial plot for the debtor or a dependent
7 of the debtor; or

8 “(4) real or personal property that the debtor
9 or a dependent of the debtor claims as a homestead;
10 shall be reduced to the extent that such value is attrib-
11 utable to any portion of any property that the debtor dis-
12 posed of in the 10-year period ending on the date of the
13 filing of the petition with the intent to hinder, delay, or
14 defraud a creditor and that the debtor could not exempt,
15 or that portion that the debtor could not exempt, under
16 subsection (b), if on such date the debtor had held the
17 property so disposed of.”.

18 **SEC. 309. PROTECTING SECURED CREDITORS IN CHAPTER**
19 **13 CASES.**

20 (a) STOPPING ABUSIVE CONVERSIONS FROM CHAP-
21 TER 13.—Section 348(f)(1) of title 11, United States
22 Code, is amended—

23 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at
24 the end;

25 (2) in subparagraph (B)—



1 (A) by striking “in the converted case,
2 with allowed secured claims” and inserting
3 “only in a case converted to a case under chap-
4 ter 11 or 12, but not in a case converted to a
5 case under chapter 7, with allowed secured
6 claims in cases under chapters 11 and 12”; and

7 (B) by striking the period and inserting “;
8 and”; and

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

10 “(C) with respect to cases converted from chap-
11 ter 13—

12 “(i) the claim of any creditor holding secu-
13 rity as of the date of the petition shall continue
14 to be secured by that security unless the full
15 amount of such claim determined under appli-
16 cable nonbankruptcy law has been paid in full
17 as of the date of conversion, notwithstanding
18 any valuation or determination of the amount
19 of an allowed secured claim made for the pur-
20 poses of the case under chapter 13; and

21 “(ii) unless a prebankruptcy default has
22 been fully cured under the plan at the time of
23 conversion, in any proceeding under this title or
24 otherwise, the default shall have the effect given
25 under applicable nonbankruptcy law.”.



1 (b) GIVING DEBTORS THE ABILITY TO KEEP
2 LEASED PERSONAL PROPERTY BY ASSUMPTION.—Section
3 365 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding
4 at the end the following:

5 “(p)(1) If a lease of personal property is rejected or
6 not timely assumed by the trustee under subsection (d),
7 the leased property is no longer property of the estate and
8 the stay under section 362(a) is automatically terminated.

9 “(2)(A) If the debtor in a case under chapter 7 is
10 an individual, the debtor may notify the creditor in writing
11 that the debtor desires to assume the lease. Upon being
12 so notified, the creditor may, at its option, notify the debt-
13 or that it is willing to have the lease assumed by the debt-
14 or and may condition such assumption on cure of any out-
15 standing default on terms set by the contract.

16 “(B) If, not later than 30 days after notice is pro-
17 vided under subparagraph (A), the debtor notifies the les-
18 sor in writing that the lease is assumed, the liability under
19 the lease will be assumed by the debtor and not by the
20 estate.

21 “(C) The stay under section 362 and the injunction
22 under section 524(a)(2) shall not be violated by notifica-
23 tion of the debtor and negotiation of cure under this sub-
24 section.



1 “(3) In a case under chapter 11 in which the debtor
2 is an individual and in a case under chapter 13, if the
3 debtor is the lessee with respect to personal property and
4 the lease is not assumed in the plan confirmed by the
5 court, the lease is deemed rejected as of the conclusion
6 of the hearing on confirmation. If the lease is rejected,
7 the stay under section 362 and any stay under section
8 1301 is automatically terminated with respect to the prop-
9 erty subject to the lease.”.

10 (c) ADEQUATE PROTECTION OF LESSORS AND PUR-
11 CHASE MONEY SECURED CREDITORS.—

12 (1) CONFIRMATION OF PLAN.—Section
13 1325(a)(5)(B) of title 11, United States Code, as
14 amended by section 306, is amended—

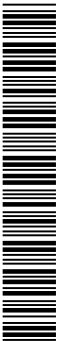
15 (A) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the
16 end;

17 (B) in clause (ii), by striking “or” at the
18 end and inserting “and”; and

19 (C) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(iii) if—

21 “(I) property to be distributed pursu-
22 ant to this subsection is in the form of
23 periodic payments, such payments shall be
24 in equal monthly amounts; and



1 “(II) the holder of the claim is se-
2 cured by personal property, the amount of
3 such payments shall not be less than an
4 amount sufficient to provide to the holder
5 of such claim adequate protection during
6 the period of the plan; or”.

7 (2) PAYMENTS.—Section 1326(a) of title 11,
8 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

9 “(a)(1) Unless the court orders otherwise, the debtor
10 shall commence making payments not later than 30 days
11 after the date of the filing of the plan or the order for
12 relief, whichever is earlier, in the amount—

13 “(A) proposed by the plan to the trustee;

14 “(B) scheduled in a lease of personal property
15 directly to the lessor for that portion of the obliga-
16 tion that becomes due after the order for relief, re-
17 ducing the payments under subparagraph (A) by the
18 amount so paid and providing the trustee with evi-
19 dence of such payment, including the amount and
20 date of payment; and

21 “(C) that provides adequate protection directly
22 to a creditor holding an allowed claim secured by
23 personal property to the extent the claim is attrib-
24 utable to the purchase of such property by the debt-
25 or for that portion of the obligation that becomes



1 due after the order for relief, reducing the payments
2 under subparagraph (A) by the amount so paid and
3 providing the trustee with evidence of such payment,
4 including the amount and date of payment.

5 “(2) A payment made under paragraph (1)(A) shall
6 be retained by the trustee until confirmation or denial of
7 confirmation. If a plan is confirmed, the trustee shall dis-
8 tribute any such payment in accordance with the plan as
9 soon as is practicable. If a plan is not confirmed, the trust-
10 ee shall return any such payments not previously paid and
11 not yet due and owing to creditors pursuant to paragraph
12 (3) to the debtor, after deducting any unpaid claim al-
13 lowed under section 503(b).

14 “(3) Subject to section 363, the court may, upon no-
15 tice and a hearing, modify, increase, or reduce the pay-
16 ments required under this subsection pending confirma-
17 tion of a plan.

18 “(4) Not later than 60 days after the date of filing
19 of a case under this chapter, a debtor retaining possession
20 of personal property subject to a lease or securing a claim
21 attributable in whole or in part to the purchase price of
22 such property shall provide the lessor or secured creditor
23 reasonable evidence of the maintenance of any required
24 insurance coverage with respect to the use or ownership



1 of such property and continue to do so for so long as the
2 debtor retains possession of such property.”.

3 **SEC. 310. LIMITATION ON LUXURY GOODS.**

4 Section 523(a)(2)(C) of title 11, United States Code,
5 is amended to read as follows:

6 “(C)(i) for purposes of subparagraph

7 (A)—

8 “(I) consumer debts owed to a single
9 creditor and aggregating more than \$500
10 for luxury goods or services incurred by an
11 individual debtor on or within 90 days be-
12 fore the order for relief under this title are
13 presumed to be nondischargeable; and

14 “(II) cash advances aggregating more
15 than \$750 that are extensions of consumer
16 credit under an open end credit plan ob-
17 tained by an individual debtor on or within
18 70 days before the order for relief under
19 this title, are presumed to be non-
20 dischargeable; and

21 “(ii) for purposes of this subparagraph—

22 “(I) the terms ‘consumer’, ‘credit’,
23 and ‘open end credit plan’ have the same
24 meanings as in section 103 of the Truth in
25 Lending Act; and



1 “(II) the term ‘luxury goods or serv-
2 ices’ does not include goods or services rea-
3 sonably necessary for the support or main-
4 tenance of the debtor or a dependent of the
5 debtor.”.

6 **SEC. 311. AUTOMATIC STAY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 362(b) of title 11, United
8 States Code, as amended by sections 224 and 303, is
9 amended by inserting after paragraph (21), the following:

10 “(22) subject to subsection (n), under sub-
11 section (a)(3), of the continuation of any eviction,
12 unlawful detainer action, or similar proceeding by a
13 lessor against a debtor involving residential property
14 in which the debtor resides as a tenant under a lease
15 or rental agreement and with respect to which the
16 lessor has obtained before the date of the filing of
17 the bankruptcy petition, a judgment for possession
18 of such property against the debtor;

19 “(23) subject to subsection (o), under sub-
20 section (a)(3), of an eviction action that seeks pos-
21 session of the residential property in which the debt-
22 or resides as a tenant under a lease or rental agree-
23 ment based on endangerment of such property or
24 the illegal use of controlled substances on such prop-
25 erty, but only if the lessor files with the court, and



1 serves upon the debtor, a certification under penalty
2 of perjury that such an eviction action has been
3 filed, or that the debtor, during the 30-day period
4 preceding the date of the filing of the certification,
5 has endangered property or illegally used or allowed
6 to be used a controlled substance on the property;

7 “(24) under subsection (a), of any transfer that
8 is not avoidable under section 544 and that is not
9 avoidable under section 549;”.

10 (b) LIMITATIONS.—Section 362 of title 11, United
11 States Code, as amended by sections 106 and 305, is
12 amended by adding at the end the following:

13 “(l)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this sub-
14 section, subsection (b)(22) shall apply on the date that
15 is 30 days after the date on which the bankruptcy petition
16 is filed, if the debtor files with the petition and serves upon
17 the lessor a certification under penalty of perjury that—

18 “(A) under nonbankruptcy law applicable in the
19 jurisdiction, there are circumstances under which the
20 debtor would be permitted to cure the entire mone-
21 tary default that gave rise to the judgment for pos-
22 session, after that judgment for possession was en-
23 tered; and

24 “(B) the debtor (or an adult dependent of the
25 debtor) has deposited with the clerk of the court,



1 any rent that would become due during the 30-day
2 period after the filing of the bankruptcy petition.

3 “(2) If, within the 30-day period after the filing of
4 the bankruptcy petition, the debtor (or an adult dependent
5 of the debtor) complies with paragraph (1) and files with
6 the court and serves upon the lessor a further certification
7 under penalty of perjury that the debtor (or an adult de-
8 pendent of the debtor) has cured, under nonbankruptcy
9 law applicable in the jurisdiction, the entire monetary de-
10 fault that gave rise to the judgment under which posses-
11 sion is sought by the lessor, subsection (b)(22) shall not
12 apply, unless ordered to apply by the court under para-
13 graph (3).

14 “(3)(A) If the lessor files an objection to any certifi-
15 cation filed by the debtor under paragraph (1) or (2), and
16 serves such objection upon the debtor, the court shall hold
17 a hearing within 10 days after the filing and service of
18 such objection to determine if the certification filed by the
19 debtor under paragraph (1) or (2) is true.

20 “(B) If the court upholds the objection of the lessor
21 filed under subparagraph (A)—

22 “(i) subsection (b)(22) shall apply immediately
23 and relief from the stay provided under subsection
24 (a)(3) shall not be required to enable the lessor to



1 complete the process to recover full possession of the
2 property; and

3 “(ii) the clerk of the court shall immediately
4 serve upon the lessor and the debtor a certified copy
5 of the court’s order upholding the lessor’s objection.

6 “(4) If a debtor, in accordance with paragraph (5),
7 indicates on the petition that there was a judgment for
8 possession of the residential rental property in which the
9 debtor resides and does not file a certification under para-
10 graph (1) or (2)—

11 “(A) subsection (b)(22) shall apply immediately
12 upon failure to file such certification, and relief from
13 the stay provided under subsection (a)(3) shall not
14 be required to enable the lessor to complete the
15 process to recover full possession of the property;
16 and

17 “(B) the clerk of the court shall immediately
18 serve upon the lessor and the debtor a certified copy
19 of the docket indicating the absence of a filed certifi-
20 cation and the applicability of the exception to the
21 stay under subsection (b)(22).

22 “(5)(A) Where a judgment for possession of residen-
23 tial property in which the debtor resides as a tenant under
24 a lease or rental agreement has been obtained by the les-
25 sor, the debtor shall so indicate on the bankruptcy petition



1 and shall provide the name and address of the lessor that
2 obtained that pre-petition judgment on the petition and
3 on any certification filed under this subsection.

4 “(B) The form of certification filed with the petition,
5 as specified in this subsection, shall provide for the debtor
6 to certify, and the debtor shall certify—

7 “(i) whether a judgment for possession of resi-
8 dential rental housing in which the debtor resides
9 has been obtained against the debtor before the date
10 of the filing of the petition; and

11 “(ii) whether the debtor is claiming under para-
12 graph (1) that under nonbankruptcy law applicable
13 in the jurisdiction, there are circumstances under
14 which the debtor would be permitted to cure the en-
15 tire monetary default that gave rise to the judgment
16 for possession, after that judgment of possession was
17 entered, and has made the appropriate deposit with
18 the court.

19 “(C) The standard forms (electronic and otherwise)
20 used in a bankruptcy proceeding shall be amended to re-
21 flect the requirements of this subsection.

22 “(D) The clerk of the court shall arrange for the
23 prompt transmittal of the rent deposited in accordance
24 with paragraph (1)(B) to the lessor.



1 “(m)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this sub-
2 section, subsection (b)(23) shall apply on the date that
3 is 15 days after the date on which the lessor files and
4 serves a certification described in subsection (b)(23).

5 “(2)(A) If the debtor files with the court an objection
6 to the truth or legal sufficiency of the certification de-
7 scribed in subsection (b)(23) and serves such objection
8 upon the lessor, subsection (b)(23) shall not apply, unless
9 ordered to apply by the court under this subsection.

10 “(B) If the debtor files and serves the objection under
11 subparagraph (A), the court shall hold a hearing within
12 10 days after the filing and service of such objection to
13 determine if the situation giving rise to the lessor’s certifi-
14 cation under paragraph (1) existed or has been remedied.

15 “(C) If the debtor can demonstrate to the satisfaction
16 of the court that the situation giving rise to the lessor’s
17 certification under paragraph (1) did not exist or has been
18 remedied, the stay provided under subsection (a)(3) shall
19 remain in effect until the termination of the stay under
20 this section.

21 “(D) If the debtor cannot demonstrate to the satis-
22 faction of the court that the situation giving rise to the
23 lessor’s certification under paragraph (1) did not exist or
24 has been remedied—



1 “(i) relief from the stay provided under sub-
2 section (a)(3) shall not be required to enable the les-
3 sor to proceed with the eviction; and

4 “(ii) the clerk of the court shall immediately
5 serve upon the lessor and the debtor a certified copy
6 of the court’s order upholding the lessor’s certifi-
7 cation.

8 “(3) If the debtor fails to file, within 15 days, an
9 objection under paragraph (2)(A)—

10 “(A) subsection (b)(23) shall apply immediately
11 upon such failure and relief from the stay provided
12 under subsection (a)(3) shall not be required to en-
13 able the lessor to complete the process to recover full
14 possession of the property; and

15 “(B) the clerk of the court shall immediately
16 serve upon the lessor and the debtor a certified copy
17 of the docket indicating such failure.”.

18 **SEC. 312. EXTENSION OF PERIOD BETWEEN BANKRUPTCY**

19 **DISCHARGES.**

20 Title 11, United States Code, is amended—

21 (1) in section 727(a)(8), by striking “six” and
22 inserting “8”; and

23 (2) in section 1328, by inserting after sub-
24 section (e) the following:



1 “(f) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), the
2 court shall not grant a discharge of all debts provided for
3 in the plan or disallowed under section 502, if the debtor
4 has received a discharge—

5 “(1) in a case filed under chapter 7, 11, or 12
6 of this title during the 4-year period preceding the
7 date of the order for relief under this chapter, or

8 “(2) in a case filed under chapter 13 of this
9 title during the 2-year period preceding the date of
10 such order.”.

11 **SEC. 313. DEFINITION OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND AN-**
12 **Tiques.**

13 (a) DEFINITION.—Section 522(f) of title 11, United
14 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(4)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), for purposes
17 of paragraph (1)(B), the term ‘household goods’ means—

18 “(i) clothing;

19 “(ii) furniture;

20 “(iii) appliances;

21 “(iv) 1 radio;

22 “(v) 1 television;

23 “(vi) 1 VCR;

24 “(vii) linens;

25 “(viii) china;



1 “(ix) crockery;

2 “(x) kitchenware;

3 “(xi) educational materials and educational
4 equipment primarily for the use of minor dependent
5 children of the debtor;

6 “(xii) medical equipment and supplies;

7 “(xiii) furniture exclusively for the use of minor
8 children, or elderly or disabled dependents of the
9 debtor;

10 “(xiv) personal effects (including the toys and
11 hobby equipment of minor dependent children and
12 wedding rings) of the debtor and the dependents of
13 the debtor; and

14 “(xv) 1 personal computer and related equip-
15 ment.

16 “(B) The term ‘household goods’ does not include—

17 “(i) works of art (unless by or of the debtor, or
18 any relative of the debtor);

19 “(ii) electronic entertainment equipment with a
20 fair market value of more than \$500 in the aggre-
21 gate (except 1 television, 1 radio, and 1 VCR);

22 “(iii) items acquired as antiques with a fair
23 market value of more than \$500 in the aggregate;



1 “(iv) jewelry with a fair market value of more
2 than \$500 in the aggregate (except wedding rings);
3 and

4 “(v) a computer (except as otherwise provided
5 for in this section), motor vehicle (including a trac-
6 tor or lawn tractor), boat, or a motorized rec-
7 reational device, conveyance, vehicle, watercraft, or
8 aircraft.”.

9 (b) STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the date
10 of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Executive
11 Office for United States Trustees shall submit a report
12 to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the
13 Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representa-
14 tives containing its findings regarding utilization of the
15 definition of household goods, as defined in section
16 522(f)(4) of title 11, United States Code, as added by sub-
17 section (a), with respect to the avoidance of nonpossessory,
18 nonpurchase money security interests in household goods
19 under section 522(f)(1)(B) of title 11, United States Code,
20 and the impact such section 522(f)(4) has had on debtors
21 and on the bankruptcy courts. Such report may include
22 recommendations for amendments to such section
23 522(f)(4) consistent with the Director’s findings.



1 **SEC. 314. DEBT INCURRED TO PAY NONDISCHARGEABLE**
2 **DEBTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 523(a) of title 11, United
4 States Code, is amended by inserting after paragraph (14)
5 the following:

6 “(14A) incurred to pay a tax to a governmental
7 unit, other than the United States, that would be
8 nondischargeable under paragraph (1);”.

9 (b) DISCHARGE UNDER CHAPTER 13.—Section
10 1328(a) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by
11 striking paragraphs (1) through (3) and inserting the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(1) provided for under section 1322(b)(5);

14 “(2) of the kind specified in paragraph (2), (3),
15 (4), (5), (8), or (9) of section 523(a);

16 “(3) for restitution, or a criminal fine, included
17 in a sentence on the debtor’s conviction of a crime;
18 or

19 “(4) for restitution, or damages, awarded in a
20 civil action against the debtor as a result of willful
21 or malicious injury by the debtor that caused per-
22 sonal injury to an individual or the death of an indi-
23 vidual.”.



1 **SEC. 315. GIVING CREDITORS FAIR NOTICE IN CHAPTERS 7**
2 **AND 13 CASES.**

3 (a) NOTICE.—Section 342 of title 11, United States
4 Code, as amended by section 102, is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (c)—

6 (A) by inserting “(1)” after “(c)”;

7 (B) by striking “, but the failure of such
8 notice to contain such information shall not in-
9 validate the legal effect of such notice”; and

10 (C) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(2)(A) If, within the 90 days before the commence-
12 ment of a voluntary case, a creditor supplies the debtor
13 in at least 2 communications sent to the debtor with the
14 current account number of the debtor and the address at
15 which such creditor requests to receive correspondence,
16 then any notice required by this title to be sent by the
17 debtor to such creditor shall be sent to such address and
18 shall include such account number.

19 (B) If a creditor would be in violation of applicable
20 nonbankruptcy law by sending any such communication
21 within such 90-day period and if such creditor supplies
22 the debtor in the last 2 communications with the current
23 account number of the debtor and the address at which
24 such creditor requests to receive correspondence, then any
25 notice required by this title to be sent by the debtor to



1 such creditor shall be sent to such address and shall in-
2 clude such account number; and

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

4 “(e)(1) In a case under chapter 7 or 13 of this title
5 of a debtor who is an individual, a creditor at any time
6 may both file with the court and serve on the debtor a
7 notice of address to be used to provide notice in such case
8 to such creditor.

9 “(2) Any notice in such case required to be provided
10 to such creditor by the debtor or the court later than 5
11 days after the court and the debtor receive such creditor’s
12 notice of address, shall be provided to such address.

13 “(f)(1) An entity may file with any bankruptcy court
14 a notice of address to be used by all the bankruptcy courts
15 or by particular bankruptcy courts, as so specified by such
16 entity at the time such notice is filed, to provide notice
17 to such entity in all cases under chapters 7 and 13 pend-
18 ing in the courts with respect to which such notice is filed,
19 in which such entity is a creditor.

20 “(2) In any case filed under chapter 7 or 13, any
21 notice required to be provided by a court with respect to
22 which a notice is filed under paragraph (1), to such entity
23 later than 30 days after the filing of such notice under
24 paragraph (1) shall be provided to such address unless
25 with respect to a particular case a different address is



1 specified in a notice filed and served in accordance with
2 subsection (e).

3 “(3) A notice filed under paragraph (1) may be with-
4 drawn by such entity.

5 “(g)(1) Notice provided to a creditor by the debtor
6 or the court other than in accordance with this section
7 (excluding this subsection) shall not be effective notice
8 until such notice is brought to the attention of such cred-
9 itor. If such creditor designates a person or an organiza-
10 tional subdivision of such creditor to be responsible for
11 receiving notices under this title and establishes reason-
12 able procedures so that such notices receivable by such
13 creditor are to be delivered to such person or such subdivi-
14 sion, then a notice provided to such creditor other than
15 in accordance with this section (excluding this subsection)
16 shall not be considered to have been brought to the atten-
17 tion of such creditor until such notice is received by such
18 person or such subdivision.

19 “(2) A monetary penalty may not be imposed on a
20 creditor for a violation of a stay in effect under section
21 362(a) (including a monetary penalty imposed under sec-
22 tion 362(k)) or for failure to comply with section 542 or
23 543 unless the conduct that is the basis of such violation
24 or of such failure occurs after such creditor receives notice
25 effective under this section of the order for relief.”.



1 (b) DEBTOR'S DUTIES.—Section 521 of title 11,
2 United States Code, as amended by sections 106, 225, and
3 305, is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a), as so designated by sec-
5 tion 106, by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-
6 lows:

7 “(1) file—

8 “(A) a list of creditors; and

9 “(B) unless the court orders otherwise—

10 “(i) a schedule of assets and liabil-
11 ities;

12 “(ii) a schedule of current income and
13 current expenditures;

14 “(iii) a statement of the debtor's fi-
15 nancial affairs and, if section 342(b) ap-
16 plies, a certificate—

17 “(I) of an attorney whose name
18 is indicated on the petition as the at-
19 torney for the debtor, or a bankruptcy
20 petition preparer signing the petition
21 under section 110(b)(1), indicating
22 that such attorney or the bankruptcy
23 petition preparer delivered to the
24 debtor the notice required by section
25 342(b); or



1 “(II) if no attorney is so indi-
2 cated, and no bankruptcy petition pre-
3 parer signed the petition, of the debt-
4 or that such notice was received and
5 read by the debtor;

6 “(iv) copies of all payment advices or
7 other evidence of payment received within
8 60 days before the date of the filing of the
9 petition, by the debtor from any employer
10 of the debtor;

11 “(v) a statement of the amount of
12 monthly net income, itemized to show how
13 the amount is calculated; and

14 “(vi) a statement disclosing any rea-
15 sonably anticipated increase in income or
16 expenditures over the 12-month period fol-
17 lowing the date of the filing of the peti-
18 tion;” and

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

20 “(e)(1) If the debtor in a case under chapter 7 or
21 13 is an individual and if a creditor files with the court
22 at any time a request to receive a copy of the petition,
23 schedules, and statement of financial affairs filed by the
24 debtor, then the court shall make such petition, such
25 schedules, and such statement available to such creditor.



1 “(2)(A) The debtor shall provide—

2 “(i) not later than 7 days before the date first
3 set for the first meeting of creditors, to the trustee
4 a copy of the Federal income tax return required
5 under applicable law (or at the election of the debt-
6 or, a transcript of such return) for the most recent
7 tax year ending immediately before the commence-
8 ment of the case and for which a Federal income tax
9 return was filed; and

10 “(ii) at the same time the debtor complies with
11 clause (i), a copy of such return (or if elected under
12 clause (i), such transcript) to any creditor that time-
13 ly requests such copy.

14 “(B) If the debtor fails to comply with clause (i) or
15 (ii) of subparagraph (A), the court shall dismiss the case
16 unless the debtor demonstrates that the failure to so com-
17 ply is due to circumstances beyond the control of the debt-
18 or.

19 “(C) If a creditor requests a copy of such tax return
20 or such transcript and if the debtor fails to provide a copy
21 of such tax return or such transcript to such creditor at
22 the time the debtor provides such tax return or such tran-
23 script to the trustee, then the court shall dismiss the case
24 unless the debtor demonstrates that the failure to provide



1 a copy of such tax return or such transcript is due to cir-
2 cumstances beyond the control of the debtor.

3 “(3) If a creditor in a case under chapter 13 files
4 with the court at any time a request to receive a copy
5 of the plan filed by the debtor, then the court shall make
6 available to such creditor a copy of the plan—

7 “(A) at a reasonable cost; and

8 “(B) not later than 5 days after such request
9 is filed.

10 “(f) At the request of the court, the United States
11 trustee, or any party in interest in a case under chapter
12 7, 11, or 13, a debtor who is an individual shall file with
13 the court—

14 “(1) at the same time filed with the taxing au-
15 thority, a copy of each Federal income tax return re-
16 quired under applicable law (or at the election of the
17 debtor, a transcript of such tax return) with respect
18 to each tax year of the debtor ending while the case
19 is pending under such chapter;

20 “(2) at the same time filed with the taxing au-
21 thority, each Federal income tax return required
22 under applicable law (or at the election of the debt-
23 or, a transcript of such tax return) that had not
24 been filed with such authority as of the date of the
25 commencement of the case and that was subse-



1 quently filed for any tax year of the debtor ending
2 in the 3-year period ending on the date of the com-
3 mencement of the case;

4 “(3) a copy of each amendment to any Federal
5 income tax return or transcript filed with the court
6 under paragraph (1) or (2); and

7 “(4) in a case under chapter 13—

8 “(A) on the date that is either 90 days
9 after the end of such tax year or 1 year after
10 the date of the commencement of the case,
11 whichever is later, if a plan is not confirmed be-
12 fore such later date; and

13 “(B) annually after the plan is confirmed
14 and until the case is closed, not later than the
15 date that is 45 days before the anniversary of
16 the confirmation of the plan;

17 a statement, under penalty of perjury, of the income
18 and expenditures of the debtor during the tax year
19 of the debtor most recently concluded before such
20 statement is filed under this paragraph, and of the
21 monthly income of the debtor, that shows how in-
22 come, expenditures, and monthly income are cal-
23 culated.

24 “(g)(1) A statement referred to in subsection (f)(4)
25 shall disclose—



1 “(A) the amount and sources of the income of
2 the debtor;

3 “(B) the identity of any person responsible with
4 the debtor for the support of any dependent of the
5 debtor; and

6 “(C) the identity of any person who contrib-
7 uted, and the amount contributed, to the household
8 in which the debtor resides.

9 “(2) The tax returns, amendments, and statement of
10 income and expenditures described in subsections
11 (e)(2)(A) and (f) shall be available to the United States
12 trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any), the
13 trustee, and any party in interest for inspection and copy-
14 ing, subject to the requirements of section 315(c) of the
15 Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection
16 Act of 2003.

17 “(h) If requested by the United States trustee or by
18 the trustee, the debtor shall provide—

19 “(1) a document that establishes the identity of
20 the debtor, including a driver’s license, passport, or
21 other document that contains a photograph of the
22 debtor; or

23 “(2) such other personal identifying information
24 relating to the debtor that establishes the identity of
25 the debtor.”.



1 (c)(1) Not later than 180 days after the date of the
2 enactment of this Act, the Director of the Administrative
3 Office of the United States Courts shall establish proce-
4 dures for safeguarding the confidentiality of any tax infor-
5 mation required to be provided under this section.

6 (2) The procedures under paragraph (1) shall include
7 restrictions on creditor access to tax information that is
8 required to be provided under this section.

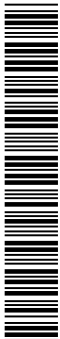
9 (3) Not later than 540 days after the date of enact-
10 ment of this Act, the Director of the Administrative Office
11 of the United States Courts shall prepare and submit to
12 the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker
13 of the House of Representatives a report that—

14 (A) assesses the effectiveness of the procedures
15 established under paragraph (1); and

16 (B) if appropriate, includes proposed legislation
17 to—

18 (i) further protect the confidentiality of tax
19 information; and

20 (ii) provide penalties for the improper use
21 by any person of the tax information required
22 to be provided under this section.



1 **SEC. 316. DISMISSAL FOR FAILURE TO TIMELY FILE SCHED-**
2 **ULES OR PROVIDE REQUIRED INFORMATION.**

3 Section 521 of title 11, United States Code, as
4 amended by sections 106, 225, 305, and 315, is amended
5 by adding at the end the following:

6 “(j)(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (4) and not-
7 withstanding section 707(a), if an individual debtor in a
8 voluntary case under chapter 7 or 13 fails to file all of
9 the information required under subsection (a)(1) within
10 45 days after the date of the filing of the petition, the
11 case shall be automatically dismissed effective on the 46th
12 day after the date of the filing of the petition.

13 “(2) Subject to paragraph (4) and with respect to
14 a case described in paragraph (1), any party in interest
15 may request the court to enter an order dismissing the
16 case. If requested, the court shall enter an order of dis-
17 missal not later than 5 days after such request.

18 “(3) Subject to paragraph (4) and upon request of
19 the debtor made within 45 days after the date of the filing
20 of the petition described in paragraph (1), the court may
21 allow the debtor an additional period of not to exceed 45
22 days to file the information required under subsection
23 (a)(1) if the court finds justification for extending the pe-
24 riod for the filing.

25 “(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this sub-
26 section, on the motion of the trustee filed before the expi-



1 ration of the applicable period of time specified in para-
2 graph (1), (2), or (3), and after notice and a hearing, the
3 court may decline to dismiss the case if the court finds
4 that the debtor attempted in good faith to file all the infor-
5 mation required by subsection (a)(1)(B)(iv) and that the
6 best interests of creditors would be served by administra-
7 tion of the case.”.

8 **SEC. 317. ADEQUATE TIME TO PREPARE FOR HEARING ON**
9 **CONFIRMATION OF THE PLAN.**

10 Section 1324 of title 11, United States Code, is
11 amended—

12 (1) by striking “After” and inserting the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) and after”;
15 and

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

17 “(b) The hearing on confirmation of the plan may
18 be held not earlier than 20 days and not later than 45
19 days after the date of the meeting of creditors under sec-
20 tion 341(a), unless the court determines that it would be
21 in the best interests of the creditors and the estate to hold
22 such hearing at an earlier date and there is no objection
23 to such earlier date.”.



1 **SEC. 318. CHAPTER 13 PLANS TO HAVE A 5-YEAR DURATION**
2 **IN CERTAIN CASES.**

3 Title 11, United States Code, is amended—

4 (1) by amending section 1322(d) to read as fol-
5 lows:

6 “(d)(1) If the current monthly income of the debtor
7 and the debtor’s spouse combined, when multiplied by 12,
8 is not less than—

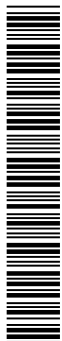
9 “(A) in the case of a debtor in a household of
10 1 person, the median family income of the applicable
11 State for 1 earner;

12 “(B) in the case of a debtor in a household of
13 2, 3, or 4 individuals, the highest median family in-
14 come of the applicable State for a family of the same
15 number or fewer individuals; or

16 “(C) in the case of a debtor in a household ex-
17 ceeding 4 individuals, the highest median family in-
18 come of the applicable State for a family of 4 or
19 fewer individuals, plus \$525 per month for each in-
20 dividual in excess of 4,

21 the plan may not provide for payments over a period that
22 is longer than 5 years.

23 “(2) If the current monthly income of the debtor and
24 the debtor’s spouse combined, when multiplied by 12, is
25 less than—



1 “(A) in the case of a debtor in a household of
2 1 person, the median family income of the applicable
3 State for 1 earner;

4 “(B) in the case of a debtor in a household of
5 2, 3, or 4 individuals, the highest median family in-
6 come of the applicable State for a family of the same
7 number or fewer individuals; or

8 “(C) in the case of a debtor in a household ex-
9 ceeding 4 individuals, the highest median family in-
10 come of the applicable State for a family of 4 or
11 fewer individuals, plus \$525 per month for each in-
12 dividual in excess of 4,

13 the plan may not provide for payments over a period that
14 is longer than 3 years, unless the court, for cause, ap-
15 proves a longer period, but the court may not approve a
16 period that is longer than 5 years.”;

17 (2) in section 1325(b)(1)(B), by striking
18 “three-year period” and inserting “applicable com-
19 mitment period”; and

20 (3) in section 1325(b), as amended by section
21 102, by adding at the end the following:

22 “(4) For purposes of this subsection, the ‘applicable
23 commitment period’—

24 “(A) subject to subparagraph (B), shall be—

25 “(i) 3 years; or



1 “(ii) not less than 5 years, if the current
2 monthly income of the debtor and the debtor’s
3 spouse combined, when multiplied by 12, is not
4 less than—

5 “(I) in the case of a debtor in a
6 household of 1 person, the median family
7 income of the applicable State for 1 earn-
8 er;

9 “(II) in the case of a debtor in a
10 household of 2, 3, or 4 individuals, the
11 highest median family income of the appli-
12 cable State for a family of the same num-
13 ber or fewer individuals; or

14 “(III) in the case of a debtor in a
15 household exceeding 4 individuals, the
16 highest median family income of the appli-
17 cable State for a family of 4 or fewer indi-
18 viduals, plus \$525 per month for each indi-
19 vidual in excess of 4; and

20 “(B) may be less than 3 or 5 years, whichever
21 is applicable under subparagraph (A), but only if the
22 plan provides for payment in full of all allowed unse-
23 cured claims over a shorter period.”; and



1 (4) in section 1329(c), by striking “three
2 years” and inserting “the applicable commitment pe-
3 riod under section 1325(b)(1)(B)”.

4 **SEC. 319. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING EXPANSION OF**
5 **RULE 9011 OF THE FEDERAL RULES OF BANK-**
6 **RUPTCY PROCEDURE.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that rule 9011 of the Fed-
8 eral Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (11 U.S.C. App.)
9 should be modified to include a requirement that all docu-
10 ments (including schedules), signed and unsigned, sub-
11 mitted to the court or to a trustee by debtors who rep-
12 resent themselves and debtors who are represented by at-
13 torneys be submitted only after the debtors or the debtors’
14 attorneys have made reasonable inquiry to verify that the
15 information contained in such documents is—

16 (1) well grounded in fact; and

17 (2) warranted by existing law or a good faith
18 argument for the extension, modification, or reversal
19 of existing law.

20 **SEC. 320. PROMPT RELIEF FROM STAY IN INDIVIDUAL**
21 **CASES.**

22 Section 362(e) of title 11, United States Code, is
23 amended—

24 (1) by inserting “(1)” after “(e)”; and

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



1 “(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), in a case under
2 chapter 7, 11, or 13 in which the debtor is an individual,
3 the stay under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date
4 that is 60 days after a request is made by a party in inter-
5 est under subsection (d), unless—

6 “(A) a final decision is rendered by the court
7 during the 60-day period beginning on the date of
8 the request; or

9 “(B) such 60-day period is extended—

10 “(i) by agreement of all parties in interest;

11 or

12 “(ii) by the court for such specific period
13 of time as the court finds is required for good
14 cause, as described in findings made by the
15 court.”.

16 **SEC. 321. CHAPTER 11 CASES FILED BY INDIVIDUALS.**

17 (a) PROPERTY OF THE ESTATE.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 11
19 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by add-
20 ing at the end the following:

21 **“§ 1115. Property of the estate**

22 “(a) In a case in which the debtor is an individual,
23 property of the estate includes, in addition to the property
24 specified in section 541—



1 “(1) all property of the kind specified in section
2 541 that the debtor acquires after the commence-
3 ment of the case but before the case is closed, dis-
4 missed, or converted to a case under chapter 7, 12,
5 or 13, whichever occurs first; and

6 “(2) earnings from services performed by the
7 debtor after the commencement of the case but be-
8 fore the case is closed, dismissed, or converted to a
9 case under chapter 7, 12, or 13, whichever occurs
10 first.”.

11 “(b) Except as provided in section 1104 or a con-
12 firmed plan or order confirming a plan, the debtor shall
13 remain in possession of all property of the estate.”.

14 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
15 tions for subchapter I of chapter 11 of title 11,
16 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
17 end the following:

 “1115. Property of the estate.”.

18 (b) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—Section 1123(a) of title
19 11, United States Code, is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (6), by striking “and” at the
21 end;

22 (2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period and
23 inserting “; and”; and

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



1 “(8) in a case in which the debtor is an indi-
2 vidual, provide for the payment to creditors under
3 the plan of all or such portion of earnings from per-
4 sonal services performed by the debtor after the
5 commencement of the case or other future income of
6 the debtor as is necessary for the execution of the
7 plan.”.

8 (c) CONFIRMATION OF PLAN.—

9 (1) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO VALUE OF
10 PROPERTY.—Section 1129(a) of title 11, United
11 States Code, as amended by section 213, is amended
12 by adding at the end the following:

13 “(15) In a case in which the debtor is an indi-
14 vidual and in which the holder of an allowed unse-
15 cured claim objects to the confirmation of the plan—

16 “(A) the value, as of the effective date of
17 the plan, of the property to be distributed
18 under the plan on account of such claim is not
19 less than the amount of such claim; or

20 “(B) the value of the property to be dis-
21 tributed under the plan is not less than the pro-
22 jected disposable income of the debtor (as de-
23 fined in section 1325(b)(2)) to be received dur-
24 ing the 5-year period beginning on the date that
25 the first payment is due under the plan, or dur-



1 ing the period for which the plan provides pay-
2 ments, whichever is longer.”.

3 (2) REQUIREMENT RELATING TO INTERESTS IN
4 PROPERTY.—Section 1129(b)(2)(B)(ii) of title 11,
5 United States Code, is amended by inserting before
6 the period at the end the following: “, except that
7 in a case in which the debtor is an individual, the
8 debtor may retain property included in the estate
9 under section 1115, subject to the requirements of
10 subsection (a)(14) of this section.”.

11 (d) EFFECT OF CONFIRMATION.—Section 1141(d) of
12 title 11, United States Code, is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “The con-
14 firmation of a plan does not discharge an individual
15 debtor” and inserting “A discharge under this chap-
16 ter does not discharge a debtor who is an indi-
17 vidual”; and

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

19 “(5) In a case in which the debtor is an individual—

20 “(A) unless after notice and a hearing the court
21 orders otherwise for cause, confirmation of the plan
22 does not discharge any debt provided for in the plan
23 until the court grants a discharge on completion of
24 all payments under the plan;



1 “(B) at any time after the confirmation of the
2 plan, and after notice and a hearing, the court may
3 grant a discharge to the debtor who has not com-
4 pleted payments under the plan if—

5 “(i) the value, as of the effective date of
6 the plan, of property actually distributed under
7 the plan on account of each allowed unsecured
8 claim is not less than the amount that would
9 have been paid on such claim if the estate of
10 the debtor had been liquidated under chapter 7
11 on such date; and

12 “(ii) modification of the plan under section
13 1127 is not practicable; and”.

14 (e) MODIFICATION OF PLAN.—Section 1127 of title
15 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
16 the following:

17 “(e) If the debtor is an individual, the plan may be
18 modified at any time after confirmation of the plan but
19 before the completion of payments under the plan, whether
20 or not the plan has been substantially consummated, upon
21 request of the debtor, the trustee, the United States trust-
22 ee, or the holder of an allowed unsecured claim, to—

23 “(1) increase or reduce the amount of payments
24 on claims of a particular class provided for by the
25 plan;



1 “(2) extend or reduce the time period for such
2 payments; or

3 “(3) alter the amount of the distribution to a
4 creditor whose claim is provided for by the plan to
5 the extent necessary to take account of any payment
6 of such claim made other than under the plan.

7 “(f)(1) Sections 1121 through 1128 and the require-
8 ments of section 1129 apply to any modification under
9 subsection (a).

10 “(2) The plan, as modified, shall become the plan
11 only after there has been disclosure under section 1125
12 as the court may direct, notice and a hearing, and such
13 modification is approved.”.

14 **SEC. 322. LIMITATIONS ON HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION.**

15 (a) EXEMPTIONS.—Section 522 of title 11, United
16 States Code, as amended by sections 224 and 308, is
17 amended by adding at the end the following:

18 “(p)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this
19 subsection and sections 544 and 548, as a result of elect-
20 ing under subsection (b)(3)(A) to exempt property under
21 State or local law, a debtor may not exempt any amount
22 of interest that was acquired by the debtor during the
23 1215-day period preceding the date of the filing of the
24 petition that exceeds in the aggregate \$125,000 in value
25 in—



1 “(A) real or personal property that the debtor
2 or a dependent of the debtor uses as a residence;

3 “(B) a cooperative that owns property that the
4 debtor or a dependent of the debtor uses as a resi-
5 dence;

6 “(C) a burial plot for the debtor or a dependent
7 of the debtor; or

8 “(D) real or personal property that the debtor
9 or dependent of the debtor claims as a homestead.

10 “(2)(A) The limitation under paragraph (1) shall not
11 apply to an exemption claimed under subsection (b)(3)(A)
12 by a family farmer for the principal residence of such
13 farmer.

14 “(B) For purposes of paragraph (1), any amount of
15 such interest does not include any interest transferred
16 from a debtor’s previous principal residence (which was
17 acquired prior to the beginning of such 1215-day period)
18 into the debtor’s current principal residence, if the debt-
19 or’s previous and current residences are located in the
20 same State.

21 “(q)(1) As a result of electing under subsection
22 (b)(3)(A) to exempt property under State or local law, a
23 debtor may not exempt any amount of an interest in prop-
24 erty described in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D)



1 of subsection (p)(1) which exceeds in the aggregate
2 \$125,000 if—

3 “(A) the court determines, after notice and a
4 hearing, that the debtor has been convicted of a fel-
5 ony (as defined in section 3156 of title 18), which
6 under the circumstances, demonstrates that the fil-
7 ing of the case was an abuse of the provisions of this
8 title; or

9 “(B) the debtor owes a debt arising from—

10 “(i) any violation of the Federal securities
11 laws (as defined in section 3(a)(47) of the Secu-
12 rities Exchange Act of 1934), any State securi-
13 ties laws, or any regulation or order issued
14 under Federal securities laws or State securities
15 laws;

16 “(ii) fraud, deceit, or manipulation in a fi-
17 duciary capacity or in connection with the pur-
18 chase or sale of any security registered under
19 section 12 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange
20 Act of 1934 or under section 6 of the Securities
21 Act of 1933;

22 “(iii) any civil remedy under section 1964
23 of title 18; or

24 “(iv) any criminal act, intentional tort, or
25 willful or reckless misconduct that caused seri-



1 ous physical injury or death to another indi-
2 vidual in the preceding 5 years.

3 “(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the extent the
4 amount of an interest in property described in subpara-
5 graphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of subsection (p)(1) is rea-
6 sonably necessary for the support of the debtor and any
7 dependent of the debtor.”.

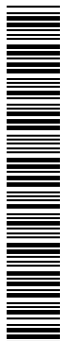
8 (b) ADJUSTMENT OF DOLLAR AMOUNTS.—Para-
9 graphs (1) and (2) of section 104(b) of title 11, United
10 States Code, as amended by section 224, are amended by
11 inserting “522(p), 522(q),” after “522(n),”.

12 **SEC. 323. EXCLUDING EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN PARTICI-**
13 **PANT CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER PROP-**
14 **ERTY FROM THE ESTATE.**

15 Section 541(b) of title 11, United States Code, as
16 amended by section 225, is amended by adding at the end
17 the following:

18 “(7) any amount—
19 “(A) withheld by an employer from the
20 wages of employees for payment as
21 contributions—

22 “(i) to—
23 “(I) an employee benefit plan
24 that is subject to title I of the Em-
25 ployee Retirement Income Security



1 Act of 1974 or under an employee
2 benefit plan which is a governmental
3 plan under section 414(d) of the In-
4 ternal Revenue Code of 1986;

5 “(II) a deferred compensation
6 plan under section 457 of the Internal
7 Revenue Code of 1986; or

8 “(III) a tax-deferred annuity
9 under section 403(b) of the Internal
10 Revenue Code of 1986;

11 except that such amount under this sub-
12 paragraph shall not constitute disposable
13 income as defined in section 1325(b)(2); or

14 “(ii) a health insurance plan regulated
15 by State law whether or not subject to
16 such title; or

17 “(B) received by an employer from employ-
18 ees for payment as contributions—

19 “(i) to—

20 “(I) an employee benefit plan
21 that is subject to title I of the Em-
22 ployee Retirement Income Security
23 Act of 1974 or under an employee
24 benefit plan which is a governmental



1 plan under section 414(d) of the In-
2 ternal Revenue Code of 1986;

3 “(II) a deferred compensation
4 plan under section 457 of the Internal
5 Revenue Code of 1986; or

6 “(III) a tax-deferred annuity
7 under section 403(b) of the Internal
8 Revenue Code of 1986;

9 except that such amount under this sub-
10 paragraph shall not constitute disposable
11 income, as defined in section 1325(b)(2);

12 or

13 “(ii) a health insurance plan regulated
14 by State law whether or not subject to
15 such title;”.

16 **SEC. 324. EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION IN MATTERS INVOLV-**
17 **ING BANKRUPTCY PROFESSIONALS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1334 of title 28, United
19 States Code, is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (b), by striking “Notwith-
21 standing” and inserting “Except as provided in sub-
22 section (e)(2), and notwithstanding”; and

23 (2) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the
24 following:



1 “(e) The district court in which a case under title
2 11 is commenced or is pending shall have exclusive
3 jurisdiction—

4 “(1) of all the property, wherever located, of the
5 debtor as of the commencement of such case, and of
6 property of the estate; and

7 “(2) over all claims or causes of action that in-
8 volve construction of section 327 of title 11, United
9 States Code, or rules relating to disclosure require-
10 ments under section 327.”.

11 (b) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall only apply to
12 cases filed after the date of enactment of this Act.

13 **SEC. 325. UNITED STATES TRUSTEE PROGRAM FILING FEE**
14 **INCREASE.**

15 (a) ACTIONS UNDER CHAPTER 7 OR 13 OF TITLE
16 11, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 1930(a) of title 28,
17 United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (1)
18 and inserting the following:

19 “(1) For a case commenced—

20 “(A) under chapter 7 of title 11, \$160; or

21 “(B) under chapter 13 of title 11, \$150.”.

22 (b) UNITED STATES TRUSTEE SYSTEM FUND.—Sec-
23 tion 589a(b) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

24 (1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the
25 following:



1 “(1)(A) 40.63 percent of the fees collected
2 under section 1930(a)(1)(A) of this title in cases
3 commenced under chapter 7 of title 11; and

4 “(B) 70.00 percent of the fees collected under
5 section 1930(a)(1)(B) of this title in cases com-
6 menced under chapter 13 of title 11;”;

7 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “one-half”
8 and inserting “three-fourths”; and

9 (3) in paragraph (4), by striking “one-half”
10 and inserting “100 percent”.

11 (c) COLLECTION AND DEPOSIT OF MISCELLANEOUS
12 BANKRUPTCY FEES.—Section 406(b) of the Judiciary Ap-
13 propriations Act, 1990 (28 U.S.C. 1931 note) is amended
14 by striking “pursuant to 28 U.S.C. section 1930(b) and
15 33.87 per centum of the fees hereafter collected under 28
16 U.S.C. section 1930(a)(1) and 25 percent of the fees here-
17 after collected under 28 U.S.C. section 1930(a)(3) shall
18 be deposited as offsetting receipts to the fund established
19 under 28 U.S.C. section 1931” and inserting “under sec-
20 tion 1930(b) of title 28, United States Code, and 31.25
21 percent of the fees collected under section 1930(a)(1)(A)
22 of that title, 30.00 percent of the fees collected under sec-
23 tion 1930(a)(1)(B) of that title, and 25 percent of the fees
24 collected under section 1930(a)(3) of that title shall be



1 deposited as offsetting receipts to the fund established
2 under section 1931 of that title”.

3 **SEC. 326. SHARING OF COMPENSATION.**

4 Section 504 of title 11, United States Code, is
5 amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(c) This section shall not apply with respect to shar-
7 ing, or agreeing to share, compensation with a bona fide
8 public service attorney referral program that operates in
9 accordance with non-Federal law regulating attorney re-
10 ferral services and with rules of professional responsibility
11 applicable to attorney acceptance of referrals.”.

12 **SEC. 327. FAIR VALUATION OF COLLATERAL.**

13 Section 506(a) of title 11, United States Code, is
14 amended by—

15 (1) inserting “(1)” after “(a)”; and

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

17 “(2) If the debtor is an individual in a case under
18 chapter 7 or 13, such value with respect to personal prop-
19 erty securing an allowed claim shall be determined based
20 on the replacement value of such property as of the date
21 of the filing of the petition without deduction for costs
22 of sale or marketing. With respect to property acquired
23 for personal, family, or household purposes, replacement
24 value shall mean the price a retail merchant would charge



1 for property of that kind considering the age and condition
2 of the property at the time value is determined.”.

3 **SEC. 328. DEFAULTS BASED ON NONMONETARY OBLIGA-**
4 **TIONS.**

5 (a) EXECUTORY CONTRACTS AND UNEXPIRED
6 LEASES.—Section 365 of title 11, United States Code, is
7 amended—

8 (1) in subsection (b)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking the
10 semicolon at the end and inserting the fol-
11 lowing: “other than a default that is a breach
12 of a provision relating to the satisfaction of any
13 provision (other than a penalty rate or penalty
14 provision) relating to a default arising from any
15 failure to perform nonmonetary obligations
16 under an unexpired lease of real property, if it
17 is impossible for the trustee to cure such de-
18 fault by performing nonmonetary acts at and
19 after the time of assumption, except that if
20 such default arises from a failure to operate in
21 accordance with a nonresidential real property
22 lease, then such default shall be cured by per-
23 formance at and after the time of assumption
24 in accordance with such lease, and pecuniary
25 losses resulting from such default shall be com-



1 pensated in accordance with the provisions of
2 this paragraph;” and

3 (B) in paragraph (2)(D), by striking “pen-
4 alty rate or provision” and inserting “penalty
5 rate or penalty provision”;

6 (2) in subsection (c)—

7 (A) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or” at
8 the end;

9 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “; or” at
10 the end and inserting a period; and

11 (C) by striking paragraph (4);

12 (3) in subsection (d)—

13 (A) by striking paragraphs (5) through
14 (9); and

15 (B) by redesignating paragraph (10) as
16 paragraph (5); and

17 (4) in subsection (f)(1) by striking “; except
18 that” and all that follows through the end of the
19 paragraph and inserting a period.

20 (b) IMPAIRMENT OF CLAIMS OR INTERESTS.—Sec-
21 tion 1124(2) of title 11, United States Code, is
22 amended—

23 (1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “or of a
24 kind that section 365(b)(2) expressly does not re-
25 quire to be cured” before the semicolon at the end;



1 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at
2 the end;

3 (3) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as sub-
4 paragraph (E); and

5 (4) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(D) if such claim or such interest arises
8 from any failure to perform a nonmonetary ob-
9 ligation, other than a default arising from fail-
10 ure to operate a nonresidential real property
11 lease subject to section 365(b)(1)(A), com-
12 pensates the holder of such claim or such inter-
13 est (other than the debtor or an insider) for any
14 actual pecuniary loss incurred by such holder as
15 a result of such failure; and”.

16 **SEC. 329. CLARIFICATION OF POSTPETITION WAGES AND**
17 **BENEFITS.**

18 Section 503(b)(1)(A) of title 11, United States Code,
19 is amended to read as follows:

20 “(A) the actual, necessary costs and expenses of pre-
21 serving the estate including—

22 “(i) wages, salaries, and commissions for serv-
23 ices rendered after the commencement of the case;
24 and



1 “(ii) wages and benefits awarded pursuant to a
2 judicial proceeding or a proceeding of the National
3 Labor Relations Board as back pay attributable to
4 any period of time occurring after commencement of
5 the case under this title, as a result of a violation
6 of Federal or State law by the debtor, without re-
7 gard to the time of the occurrence of unlawful con-
8 duct on which such award is based or to whether
9 any services were rendered, if the court determines
10 that payment of wages and benefits by reason of the
11 operation of this clause will not substantially in-
12 crease the probability of layoff or termination of cur-
13 rent employees, or of nonpayment of domestic sup-
14 port obligations, during the case under this title;”.

15 **SEC. 330. DELAY OF DISCHARGE DURING PENDENCY OF**
16 **CERTAIN PROCEEDINGS.**

17 (a) CHAPTER 7.—Section 727(a) of title 11, United
18 States Code, as amended by section 106, is amended—

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

21 (2) in paragraph (11) by striking the period at
22 the end and inserting “; or”; and

23 (3) by inserting after paragraph (11) the fol-
24 lowing:



1 “(12) the court after notice and a hearing held
2 not more than 10 days before the date of the entry
3 of the order granting the discharge finds that there
4 is reasonable cause to believe that—

5 “(A) section 522(q)(1) may be applicable
6 to the debtor; and

7 “(B) there is pending any proceeding in
8 which the debtor may be found guilty of a fel-
9 ony of the kind described in section
10 522(q)(1)(A) or liable for a debt of the kind de-
11 scribed in section 522(q)(1)(B); or”.

12 (b) CHAPTER 11.—Section 1141(d) of title 11,
13 United States Code, as amended by section 321, is amend-
14 ed by adding at the end the following:

15 “(C) unless after notice and a hearing held
16 not more than 10 days before the date of the
17 entry of the order granting the discharge, the
18 court finds that there is no reasonable cause to
19 believe that—

20 “(i) section 522(q)(1) may be applica-
21 ble to the debtor; and

22 “(ii) there is pending any proceeding
23 in which the debtor may be found guilty of
24 a felony of the kind described in section



1 522(q)(1)(A) or liable for a debt of the
2 kind described in section 522(q)(1)(B).”.

3 (c) CHAPTER 12.—Section 1228 of title 11, United
4 States Code, is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a) by striking “As” and in-
6 serting “Subject to subsection (d), as”,

7 (2) in subsection (b) by striking “At” and in-
8 serting “Subject to subsection (d), at”, and

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

10 “(f) The court may not grant a discharge under this
11 chapter unless the court after notice and a hearing held
12 not more than 10 days before the date of the entry of
13 the order granting the discharge finds that there is no rea-
14 sonable cause to believe that—

15 “(1) section 522(q)(1) may be applicable to the
16 debtor; and

17 “(2) there is pending any proceeding in which
18 the debtor may be found guilty of a felony of the
19 kind described in section 522(q)(1)(A) or liable for
20 a debt of the kind described in section
21 522(q)(1)(B).”.

22 (d) CHAPTER 13.—Section 1328 of title 11, United
23 States Code, as amended by section 106, is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (a) by striking “As” and in-
25 serting “Subject to subsection (d), as”,



1 (2) in subsection (b) by striking “At” and in-
2 sserting “Subject to subsection (d), at”, and

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

4 “(h) The court may not grant a discharge under this
5 chapter unless the court after notice and a hearing held
6 not more than 10 days before the date of the entry of
7 the order granting the discharge finds that there is no rea-
8 sonable cause to believe that—

9 “(1) section 522(q)(1) may be applicable to the
10 debtor; and

11 “(2) there is pending any proceeding in which
12 the debtor may be found guilty of a felony of the
13 kind described in section 522(q)(1)(A) or liable for
14 a debt of the kind described in section
15 522(q)(1)(B).”.

16 **TITLE IV—GENERAL AND SMALL**
17 **BUSINESS BANKRUPTCY PRO-**
18 **VISIONS**

19 **Subtitle A—General Business**
20 **Bankruptcy Provisions**

21 **SEC. 401. ADEQUATE PROTECTION FOR INVESTORS.**

22 (a) DEFINITION.—Section 101 of title 11, United
23 States Code, is amended by inserting after paragraph (48)
24 the following:



1 “(48A) ‘securities self regulatory organization’
2 means either a securities association registered with
3 the Securities and Exchange Commission under sec-
4 tion 15A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or
5 a national securities exchange registered with the
6 Securities and Exchange Commission under section
7 6 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934;”.

8 (b) AUTOMATIC STAY.—Section 362(b) of title 11,
9 United States Code, as amended by sections 224, 303, and
10 311, is amended by inserting after paragraph (24) the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(25) under subsection (a), of—

13 “(A) the commencement or continuation of
14 an investigation or action by a securities self
15 regulatory organization to enforce such organi-
16 zation’s regulatory power;

17 “(B) the enforcement of an order or deci-
18 sion, other than for monetary sanctions, ob-
19 tained in an action by such securities self regu-
20 latory organization to enforce such organiza-
21 tion’s regulatory power; or

22 “(C) any act taken by such securities self
23 regulatory organization to delist, delete, or
24 refuse to permit quotation of any stock that



1 does not meet applicable regulatory require-
2 ments;”.

3 **SEC. 402. MEETINGS OF CREDITORS AND EQUITY SECURITY**
4 **HOLDERS.**

5 Section 341 of title 11, United States Code, is
6 amended by adding at the end the following:

7 “(e) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), the
8 court, on the request of a party in interest and after notice
9 and a hearing, for cause may order that the United States
10 trustee not convene a meeting of creditors or equity secu-
11 rity holders if the debtor has filed a plan as to which the
12 debtor solicited acceptances prior to the commencement
13 of the case.”.

14 **SEC. 403. PROTECTION OF REFINANCE OF SECURITY IN-**
15 **TEREST.**

16 Subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of section 547(e)(2)
17 of title 11, United States Code, are each amended by strik-
18 ing “10” each place it appears and inserting “30”.

19 **SEC. 404. EXECUTORY CONTRACTS AND UNEXPIRED**
20 **LEASES.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 365(d)(4) of title 11,
22 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

23 “(4)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), an unexpired
24 lease of nonresidential real property under which the debt-
25 or is the lessee shall be deemed rejected, and the trustee



1 shall immediately surrender that nonresidential real prop-
2 erty to the lessor, if the trustee does not assume or reject
3 the unexpired lease by the earlier of—

4 “(i) the date that is 120 days after the date of
5 the order for relief; or

6 “(ii) the date of the entry of an order con-
7 firming a plan.

8 “(B)(i) The court may extend the period determined
9 under subparagraph (A), prior to the expiration of the
10 120-day period, for 90 days on the motion of the trustee
11 or lessor for cause.

12 “(ii) If the court grants an extension under clause
13 (i), the court may grant a subsequent extension only upon
14 prior written consent of the lessor in each instance.”.

15 (b) EXCEPTION.—Section 365(f)(1) of title 11,
16 United States Code, is amended by striking “subsection”
17 the first place it appears and inserting “subsections (b)
18 and”.

19 **SEC. 405. CREDITORS AND EQUITY SECURITY HOLDERS**
20 **COMMITTEES.**

21 (a) APPOINTMENT.—Section 1102(a) of title 11,
22 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
23 following:

24 “(4) On request of a party in interest and after notice
25 and a hearing, the court may order the United States



1 trustee to change the membership of a committee ap-
2 pointed under this subsection, if the court determines that
3 the change is necessary to ensure adequate representation
4 of creditors or equity security holders. The court may
5 order the United States trustee to increase the number
6 of members of a committee to include a creditor that is
7 a small business concern (as described in section 3(a)(1)
8 of the Small Business Act), if the court determines that
9 the creditor holds claims (of the kind represented by the
10 committee) the aggregate amount of which, in comparison
11 to the annual gross revenue of that creditor, is dispropor-
12 tionately large.”.

13 (b) INFORMATION.—Section 1102(b) of title 11,
14 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
15 following:

16 “(3) A committee appointed under subsection (a)
17 shall—

18 “(A) provide access to information for creditors
19 who—

20 “(i) hold claims of the kind represented by
21 that committee; and

22 “(ii) are not appointed to the committee;

23 “(B) solicit and receive comments from the
24 creditors described in subparagraph (A); and



1 “(C) be subject to a court order that compels
2 any additional report or disclosure to be made to the
3 creditors described in subparagraph (A).”.

4 **SEC. 406. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 546 OF TITLE 11,**
5 **UNITED STATES CODE.**

6 Section 546 of title 11, United States Code, is
7 amended—

8 (1) by redesignating the second subsection (g)
9 (as added by section 222(a) of Public Law 103–394)
10 as subsection (i);

11 (2) in subsection (i), as so redesignated, by in-
12 serting “and subject to the prior rights of holders of
13 security interests in such goods or the proceeds of
14 such goods” after “consent of a creditor”; and

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

16 “(j)(1) Notwithstanding paragraphs (2) and (3) of
17 section 545, the trustee may not avoid a warehouseman’s
18 lien for storage, transportation, or other costs incidental
19 to the storage and handling of goods.

20 “(2) The prohibition under paragraph (1) shall be ap-
21 plied in a manner consistent with any State statute appli-
22 cable to such lien that is similar to section 7–209 of the
23 Uniform Commercial Code, as in effect on the date of en-
24 actment of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Con-



1 sumer Protection Act of 2003, or any successor to such
2 section 7–209.”.

3 **SEC. 407. AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 330(a) OF TITLE 11,**
4 **UNITED STATES CODE.**

5 Section 330(a) of title 11, United States Code, is
6 amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (3)—

8 (A) by striking “(A) In” and inserting
9 “In”; and

10 (B) by inserting “to an examiner, trustee
11 under chapter 11, or professional person” after
12 “awarded”; and

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

14 “(7) In determining the amount of reasonable com-
15 pensation to be awarded to a trustee, the court shall treat
16 such compensation as a commission, based on section
17 326.”.

18 **SEC. 408. POSTPETITION DISCLOSURE AND SOLICITATION.**

19 Section 1125 of title 11, United States Code, is
20 amended by adding at the end the following:

21 “(g) Notwithstanding subsection (b), an acceptance
22 or rejection of the plan may be solicited from a holder
23 of a claim or interest if such solicitation complies with ap-
24 plicable nonbankruptcy law and if such holder was solie-



1 ited before the commencement of the case in a manner
2 complying with applicable nonbankruptcy law.”.

3 **SEC. 409. PREFERENCES.**

4 Section 547(e) of title 11, United States Code, is
5 amended—

6 (1) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the
7 following:

8 “(2) to the extent that such transfer was in
9 payment of a debt incurred by the debtor in the or-
10 dinary course of business or financial affairs of the
11 debtor and the transferee, and such transfer was—

12 “(A) made in the ordinary course of busi-
13 ness or financial affairs of the debtor and the
14 transferee; or

15 “(B) made according to ordinary business
16 terms;”;

17 (2) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at
18 the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

20 “(9) if, in a case filed by a debtor whose debts
21 are not primarily consumer debts, the aggregate
22 value of all property that constitutes or is affected
23 by such transfer is less than \$5,000.”.



1 **SEC. 410. VENUE OF CERTAIN PROCEEDINGS.**

2 Section 1409(b) of title 28, United States Code, is
3 amended by inserting “, or a debt (excluding a consumer
4 debt) against a noninsider of less than \$10,000,” after
5 “\$5,000”.

6 **SEC. 411. PERIOD FOR FILING PLAN UNDER CHAPTER 11.**

7 Section 1121(d) of title 11, United States Code, is
8 amended—

9 (1) by striking “On” and inserting “(1) Subject
10 to paragraph (2), on”; and

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

12 “(2)(A) The 120-day period specified in paragraph
13 (1) may not be extended beyond a date that is 18 months
14 after the date of the order for relief under this chapter.

15 “(B) The 180-day period specified in paragraph (1)
16 may not be extended beyond a date that is 20 months after
17 the date of the order for relief under this chapter.”.

18 **SEC. 412. FEES ARISING FROM CERTAIN OWNERSHIP IN-**
19 **TERESTS.**

20 Section 523(a)(16) of title 11, United States Code,
21 is amended—

22 (1) by striking “dwelling” the first place it ap-
23 pears;

24 (2) by striking “ownership or” and inserting
25 “ownership,”;



1 (3) by striking “housing” the first place it ap-
2 pears; and

3 (4) by striking “but only” and all that follows
4 through “such period,” and inserting “or a lot in a
5 homeowners association, for as long as the debtor or
6 the trustee has a legal, equitable, or possessory own-
7 ership interest in such unit, such corporation, or
8 such lot.”.

9 **SEC. 413. CREDITOR REPRESENTATION AT FIRST MEETING**
10 **OF CREDITORS.**

11 Section 341(e) of title 11, United States Code, is
12 amended by inserting at the end the following: “Notwith-
13 standing any local court rule, provision of a State constitu-
14 tion, any other Federal or State law that is not a bank-
15 ruptcy law, or other requirement that representation at
16 the meeting of creditors under subsection (a) be by an at-
17 torney, a creditor holding a consumer debt or any rep-
18 resentative of the creditor (which may include an entity
19 or an employee of an entity and may be a representative
20 for more than 1 creditor) shall be permitted to appear at
21 and participate in the meeting of creditors in a case under
22 chapter 7 or 13, either alone or in conjunction with an
23 attorney for the creditor. Nothing in this subsection shall
24 be construed to require any creditor to be represented by
25 an attorney at any meeting of creditors.”.



1 **SEC. 414. DEFINITION OF DISINTERESTED PERSON.**

2 Section 101(14) of title 11, United States Code, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 “(14) ‘disinterested person’ means a person
5 that—

6 “(A) is not a creditor, an equity security
7 holder, or an insider;

8 “(B) is not and was not, within 2 years be-
9 fore the date of the filing of the petition, a di-
10 rector, officer, or employee of the debtor; and

11 “(C) does not have an interest materially
12 adverse to the interest of the estate or of any
13 class of creditors or equity security holders, by
14 reason of any direct or indirect relationship to,
15 connection with, or interest in, the debtor, or
16 for any other reason;”.

17 **SEC. 415. FACTORS FOR COMPENSATION OF PROFES-**
18 **SIONAL PERSONS.**

19 Section 330(a)(3) of title 11, United States Code, is
20 amended—

21 (1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at
22 the end;

23 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as sub-
24 paragraph (F); and

25 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the fol-
26 lowing:



1 “(E) with respect to a professional person,
2 whether the person is board certified or otherwise
3 has demonstrated skill and experience in the bank-
4 ruptcy field; and”.

5 **SEC. 416. APPOINTMENT OF ELECTED TRUSTEE.**

6 Section 1104(b) of title 11, United States Code, is
7 amended—

8 (1) by inserting “(1)” after “(b)”; and

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

10 “(2)(A) If an eligible, disinterested trustee is elected
11 at a meeting of creditors under paragraph (1), the United
12 States trustee shall file a report certifying that election.

13 “(B) Upon the filing of a report under subparagraph
14 (A)—

15 “(i) the trustee elected under paragraph (1)
16 shall be considered to have been selected and ap-
17 pointed for purposes of this section; and

18 “(ii) the service of any trustee appointed under
19 subsection (d) shall terminate.

20 “(C) The court shall resolve any dispute arising out
21 of an election described in subparagraph (A).”.

22 **SEC. 417. UTILITY SERVICE.**

23 Section 366 of title 11, United States Code, is
24 amended—



1 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “subsection
2 (b)” and inserting “subsections (b) and (c)”; and

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

4 “(c)(1)(A) For purposes of this subsection, the term
5 ‘assurance of payment’ means—

6 “(i) a cash deposit;

7 “(ii) a letter of credit;

8 “(iii) a certificate of deposit;

9 “(iv) a surety bond;

10 “(v) a prepayment of utility consumption; or

11 “(vi) another form of security that is mutually
12 agreed on between the utility and the debtor or the
13 trustee.

14 “(B) For purposes of this subsection an administra-
15 tive expense priority shall not constitute an assurance of
16 payment.

17 “(2) Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), with respect
18 to a case filed under chapter 11, a utility referred to in
19 subsection (a) may alter, refuse, or discontinue utility
20 service, if during the 30-day period beginning on the date
21 of the filing of the petition, the utility does not receive
22 from the debtor or the trustee adequate assurance of pay-
23 ment for utility service that is satisfactory to the utility.

24 “(3)(A) On request of a party in interest and after
25 notice and a hearing, the court may order modification



1 of the amount of an assurance of payment under para-
2 graph (2).

3 “(B) In making a determination under this para-
4 graph whether an assurance of payment is adequate, the
5 court may not consider—

6 “(i) the absence of security before the date of
7 the filing of the petition;

8 “(ii) the payment by the debtor of charges for
9 utility service in a timely manner before the date of
10 the filing of the petition; or

11 “(iii) the availability of an administrative ex-
12 pense priority.

13 “(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, with
14 respect to a case subject to this subsection, a utility may
15 recover or set off against a security deposit provided to
16 the utility by the debtor before the date of the filing of
17 the petition without notice or order of the court.”.

18 **SEC. 418. BANKRUPTCY FEES.**

19 Section 1930 of title 28, United States Code, is
20 amended—

21 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “Notwith-
22 standing section 1915 of this title, the” and insert-
23 ing “The”; and

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



1 “(f)(1) Under the procedures prescribed by the Judi-
2 cial Conference of the United States, the district court or
3 the bankruptcy court may waive the filing fee in a case
4 under chapter 7 of title 11 for an individual if the court
5 determines that such individual has income less than 150
6 percent of the income official poverty line (as defined by
7 the Office of Management and Budget, and revised annu-
8 ally in accordance with section 673(2) of the Omnibus
9 Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981) applicable to a family
10 of the size involved and is unable to pay that fee in install-
11 ments. For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘filing
12 fee’ means the filing required by subsection (a), or any
13 other fee prescribed by the Judicial Conference under sub-
14 sections (b) and (c) that is payable to the clerk upon the
15 commencement of a case under chapter 7.

16 “(2) The district court or the bankruptcy court may
17 waive for such debtors other fees prescribed under sub-
18 sections (b) and (c).

19 “(3) This subsection does not restrict the district
20 court or the bankruptcy court from waiving, in accordance
21 with Judicial Conference policy, fees prescribed under this
22 section for other debtors and creditors.”.

23 **SEC. 419. MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION REGARDING AS-**
24 **SETS OF THE ESTATE.**

25 (a) IN GENERAL.—



1 (1) DISCLOSURE.—The Judicial Conference of
2 the United States, in accordance with section 2075
3 of title 28 of the United States Code and after con-
4 sideration of the views of the Director of the Execu-
5 tive Office for United States Trustees, shall propose
6 amended Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure
7 and in accordance with rule 9009 of the Federal
8 Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure shall prescribe offi-
9 cial bankruptcy forms directing debtors under chap-
10 ter 11 of title 11 of United States Code, to disclose
11 the information described in paragraph (2) by filing
12 and serving periodic financial and other reports de-
13 signed to provide such information.

14 (2) INFORMATION.—The information referred
15 to in paragraph (1) is the value, operations, and
16 profitability of any closely held corporation, partner-
17 ship, or of any other entity in which the debtor holds
18 a substantial or controlling interest.

19 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the rules and reports
20 under subsection (a) shall be to assist parties in interest
21 taking steps to ensure that the debtor's interest in any
22 entity referred to in subsection (a)(2) is used for the pay-
23 ment of allowed claims against debtor.



1 **Subtitle B—Small Business**
 2 **Bankruptcy Provisions**

3 **SEC. 431. FLEXIBLE RULES FOR DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**
 4 **AND PLAN.**

5 Section 1125 of title 11, United States Code, is
 6 amended—

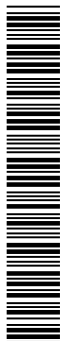
7 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting before the
 8 semicolon “and in determining whether a disclosure
 9 statement provides adequate information, the court
 10 shall consider the complexity of the case, the benefit
 11 of additional information to creditors and other par-
 12 ties in interest, and the cost of providing additional
 13 information”; and

14 (2) by striking subsection (f), and inserting the
 15 following:

16 “(f) Notwithstanding subsection (b), in a small busi-
 17 ness case—

18 “(1) the court may determine that the plan
 19 itself provides adequate information and that a sepa-
 20 rate disclosure statement is not necessary;

21 “(2) the court may approve a disclosure state-
 22 ment submitted on standard forms approved by the
 23 court or adopted under section 2075 of title 28; and



1 “(3)(A) the court may conditionally approve a
2 disclosure statement subject to final approval after
3 notice and a hearing;

4 “(B) acceptances and rejections of a plan may
5 be solicited based on a conditionally approved disclo-
6 sure statement if the debtor provides adequate infor-
7 mation to each holder of a claim or interest that is
8 solicited, but a conditionally approved disclosure
9 statement shall be mailed not later than 25 days be-
10 fore the date of the hearing on confirmation of the
11 plan; and

12 “(C) the hearing on the disclosure statement
13 may be combined with the hearing on confirmation
14 of a plan.”.

15 **SEC. 432. DEFINITIONS.**

16 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 101 of title 11, United
17 States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (51C) and
18 inserting the following:

19 “(51C) ‘small business case’ means a case filed
20 under chapter 11 of this title in which the debtor is
21 a small business debtor;

22 “(51D) ‘small business debtor’—

23 “(A) subject to subparagraph (B), means a
24 person engaged in commercial or business ac-
25 tivities (including any affiliate of such person



1 that is also a debtor under this title and exclud-
2 ing a person whose primary activity is the busi-
3 ness of owning or operating real property or ac-
4 tivities incidental thereto) that has aggregate
5 noncontingent liquidated secured and unsecured
6 debts as of the date of the petition or the date
7 of the order for relief in an amount not more
8 than \$2,000,000 (excluding debts owed to 1 or
9 more affiliates or insiders) for a case in which
10 the United States trustee has not appointed
11 under section 1102(a)(1) a committee of unse-
12 cured creditors or where the court has deter-
13 mined that the committee of unsecured credi-
14 tors is not sufficiently active and representative
15 to provide effective oversight of the debtor; and

16 “(B) does not include any member of a
17 group of affiliated debtors that has aggregate
18 noncontingent liquidated secured and unsecured
19 debts in an amount greater than \$2,000,000
20 (excluding debt owed to 1 or more affiliates or
21 insiders);”.

22 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1102(a)(3)
23 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting
24 “debtor” after “small business”.



1 (c) ADJUSTMENT OF DOLLAR AMOUNTS.—Section
2 104(b) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by
3 section 226, is amended by inserting “101(51D),” after
4 “101(3),” each place it appears.

5 **SEC. 433. STANDARD FORM DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND**
6 **PLAN.**

7 Within a reasonable period of time after the date of
8 enactment of this Act, the Judicial Conference of the
9 United States shall prescribe in accordance with rule 9009
10 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure official
11 standard form disclosure statements and plans of reorga-
12 nization for small business debtors (as defined in section
13 101 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by this
14 Act), designed to achieve a practical balance between—

15 (1) the reasonable needs of the courts, the
16 United States trustee, creditors, and other parties in
17 interest for reasonably complete information; and

18 (2) economy and simplicity for debtors.

19 **SEC. 434. UNIFORM NATIONAL REPORTING REQUIRE-**
20 **MENTS.**

21 (a) REPORTING REQUIRED.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 11, United
23 States Code, is amended by inserting after section
24 307 the following:



1 **“§ 308. Debtor reporting requirements**

2 “(a) For purposes of this section, the term ‘profit-
3 ability’ means, with respect to a debtor, the amount of
4 money that the debtor has earned or lost during current
5 and recent fiscal periods.

6 “(b) A small business debtor shall file periodic finan-
7 cial and other reports containing information including—

8 “(1) the debtor’s profitability;

9 “(2) reasonable approximations of the debtor’s
10 projected cash receipts and cash disbursements over
11 a reasonable period;

12 “(3) comparisons of actual cash receipts and
13 disbursements with projections in prior reports;

14 “(4)(A) whether the debtor is—

15 “(i) in compliance in all material respects
16 with postpetition requirements imposed by this
17 title and the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Pro-
18 cedure; and

19 “(ii) timely filing tax returns and other re-
20 quired government filings and paying taxes and
21 other administrative expenses when due;

22 “(B) if the debtor is not in compliance with the
23 requirements referred to in subparagraph (A)(i) or
24 filing tax returns and other required government fil-
25 ings and making the payments referred to in sub-
26 paragraph (A)(ii), what the failures are and how, at



1 what cost, and when the debtor intends to remedy
2 such failures; and

3 “(C) such other matters as are in the best in-
4 terests of the debtor and creditors, and in the public
5 interest in fair and efficient procedures under chap-
6 ter 11 of this title.”.

7 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
8 tions for chapter 3 of title 11, United States Code,
9 is amended by inserting after the item relating to
10 section 307 the following:

“308. Debtor reporting requirements.”.

11 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
12 subsection (a) shall take effect 60 days after the date on
13 which rules are prescribed under section 2075 of title 28,
14 United States Code, to establish forms to be used to com-
15 ply with section 308 of title 11, United States Code, as
16 added by subsection (a).

17 **SEC. 435. UNIFORM REPORTING RULES AND FORMS FOR**
18 **SMALL BUSINESS CASES.**

19 (a) PROPOSAL OF RULES AND FORMS.—The Judicial
20 Conference of the United States shall propose in accord-
21 ance with section 2073 of title 28 of the United States
22 Code amended Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure,
23 and shall prescribe in accordance with rule 9009 of the
24 Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure official bank-
25 ruptcy forms, directing small business debtors to file peri-



1 odic financial and other reports containing information,
2 including information relating to—

3 (1) the debtor's profitability;

4 (2) the debtor's cash receipts and disburse-
5 ments; and

6 (3) whether the debtor is timely filing tax re-
7 turns and paying taxes and other administrative ex-
8 penses when due.

9 (b) PURPOSE.—The rules and forms proposed under
10 subsection (a) shall be designed to achieve a practical bal-
11 ance among—

12 (1) the reasonable needs of the bankruptcy
13 court, the United States trustee, creditors, and other
14 parties in interest for reasonably complete informa-
15 tion;

16 (2) a small business debtor's interest that re-
17 quired reports be easy and inexpensive to complete;
18 and

19 (3) the interest of all parties that the required
20 reports help such debtor to understand such debtor's
21 financial condition and plan the such debtor's fu-
22 ture.

23 **SEC. 436. DUTIES IN SMALL BUSINESS CASES.**

24 (a) DUTIES IN CHAPTER 11 CASES.—Subchapter I
25 of chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code, as amended



1 by section 321, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 **“§ 1116. Duties of trustee or debtor in possession in**
4 **small business cases**

5 “In a small business case, a trustee or the debtor in
6 possession, in addition to the duties provided in this title
7 and as otherwise required by law, shall—

8 “(1) append to the voluntary petition or, in an
9 involuntary case, file not later than 7 days after the
10 date of the order for relief—

11 “(A) its most recent balance sheet, state-
12 ment of operations, cash-flow statement, Fed-
13 eral income tax return; or

14 “(B) a statement made under penalty of
15 perjury that no balance sheet, statement of op-
16 erations, or cash-flow statement has been pre-
17 pared and no Federal tax return has been filed;

18 “(2) attend, through its senior management
19 personnel and counsel, meetings scheduled by the
20 court or the United States trustee, including initial
21 debtor interviews, scheduling conferences, and meet-
22 ings of creditors convened under section 341 unless
23 the court, after notice and a hearing, waives that re-
24 quirement upon a finding of extraordinary and com-
25 pelling circumstances;



1 “(3) timely file all schedules and statements of
2 financial affairs, unless the court, after notice and a
3 hearing, grants an extension, which shall not extend
4 such time period to a date later than 30 days after
5 the date of the order for relief, absent extraordinary
6 and compelling circumstances;

7 “(4) file all postpetition financial and other re-
8 ports required by the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy
9 Procedure or by local rule of the district court;

10 “(5) subject to section 363(c)(2), maintain in-
11 surance customary and appropriate to the industry;

12 “(6)(A) timely file tax returns and other re-
13 quired government filings; and

14 “(B) subject to section 363(c)(2), timely pay all
15 taxes entitled to administrative expense priority ex-
16 cept those being contested by appropriate pro-
17 ceedings being diligently prosecuted; and

18 “(7) allow the United States trustee, or a des-
19 ignated representative of the United States trustee,
20 to inspect the debtor’s business premises, books, and
21 records at reasonable times, after reasonable prior
22 written notice, unless notice is waived by the debt-
23 or.”.

24 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
25 for chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code, as amended



1 by section 321, is amended by inserting after the item re-
2 lating to section 1115 the following:

“1116. Duties of trustee or debtor in possession in small business cases.”.

3 **SEC. 437. PLAN FILING AND CONFIRMATION DEADLINES.**

4 Section 1121 of title 11, United States Code, is
5 amended by striking subsection (e) and inserting the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(e) In a small business case—

8 “(1) only the debtor may file a plan until after
9 180 days after the date of the order for relief, unless
10 that period is—

11 “(A) extended as provided by this sub-
12 section, after notice and a hearing; or

13 “(B) the court, for cause, orders otherwise;

14 “(2) the plan and a disclosure statement (if
15 any) shall be filed not later than 300 days after the
16 date of the order for relief; and

17 “(3) the time periods specified in paragraphs
18 (1) and (2), and the time fixed in section 1129(e)
19 within which the plan shall be confirmed, may be ex-
20 tended only if—

21 “(A) the debtor, after providing notice to
22 parties in interest (including the United States
23 trustee), demonstrates by a preponderance of
24 the evidence that it is more likely than not that



1 the court will confirm a plan within a reason-
2 able period of time;

3 “(B) a new deadline is imposed at the time
4 the extension is granted; and

5 “(C) the order extending time is signed be-
6 fore the existing deadline has expired.”.

7 **SEC. 438. PLAN CONFIRMATION DEADLINE.**

8 Section 1129 of title 11, United States Code, is
9 amended by adding at the end the following:

10 “(e) In a small business case, the court shall confirm
11 a plan that complies with the applicable provisions of this
12 title and that is filed in accordance with section 1121(e)
13 not later than 45 days after the plan is filed unless the
14 time for confirmation is extended in accordance with sec-
15 tion 1121(e)(3).”.

16 **SEC. 439. DUTIES OF THE UNITED STATES TRUSTEE.**

17 Section 586(a) of title 28, United States Code, is
18 amended—

19 (1) in paragraph (3)—

20 (A) in subparagraph (G), by striking
21 “and” at the end;

22 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (H) as
23 subparagraph (I); and

24 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (G)
25 the following:



1 “(H) in small business cases (as defined in
2 section 101 of title 11), performing the addi-
3 tional duties specified in title 11 pertaining to
4 such cases; and”;

5 (2) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the
6 end;

7 (3) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at
8 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

9 (4) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(7) in each of such small business cases—

11 “(A) conduct an initial debtor interview as
12 soon as practicable after the date of the order
13 for relief but before the first meeting scheduled
14 under section 341(a) of title 11, at which time
15 the United States trustee shall—

16 “(i) begin to investigate the debtor’s
17 viability;

18 “(ii) inquire about the debtor’s busi-
19 ness plan;

20 “(iii) explain the debtor’s obligations
21 to file monthly operating reports and other
22 required reports;

23 “(iv) attempt to develop an agreed
24 scheduling order; and



1 “(v) inform the debtor of other obliga-
2 tions;

3 “(B) if determined to be appropriate and
4 advisable, visit the appropriate business prem-
5 ises of the debtor, ascertain the state of the
6 debtor’s books and records, and verify that the
7 debtor has filed its tax returns; and

8 “(C) review and monitor diligently the
9 debtor’s activities, to identify as promptly as
10 possible whether the debtor will be unable to
11 confirm a plan; and

12 “(8) in any case in which the United States
13 trustee finds material grounds for any relief under
14 section 1112 of title 11, the United States trustee
15 shall apply promptly after making that finding to
16 the court for relief.”.

17 **SEC. 440. SCHEDULING CONFERENCES.**

18 Section 105(d) of title 11, United States Code, is
19 amended—

20 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
21 striking “, may”; and

22 (2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the
23 following:



1 “(1) shall hold such status conferences as are
2 necessary to further the expeditious and economical
3 resolution of the case; and”.

4 **SEC. 441. SERIAL FILER PROVISIONS.**

5 Section 362 of title 11, United States Code, as
6 amended by sections 106, 305, and 311, is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (k), as so redesignated by sec-
8 tion 305—

9 (A) by striking “An” and inserting “(1)
10 Except as provided in paragraph (2), an”; and

11 (B) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(2) If such violation is based on an action taken by
13 an entity in the good faith belief that subsection (h) ap-
14 plies to the debtor, the recovery under paragraph (1) of
15 this subsection against such entity shall be limited to ac-
16 tual damages.”; and

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

18 “(n)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), sub-
19 section (a) does not apply in a case in which the debtor—

20 “(A) is a debtor in a small business case pend-
21 ing at the time the petition is filed;

22 “(B) was a debtor in a small business case that
23 was dismissed for any reason by an order that be-
24 came final in the 2-year period ending on the date



1 of the order for relief entered with respect to the pe-
2 tition;

3 “(C) was a debtor in a small business case in
4 which a plan was confirmed in the 2-year period
5 ending on the date of the order for relief entered
6 with respect to the petition; or

7 “(D) is an entity that has acquired substan-
8 tially all of the assets or business of a small business
9 debtor described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C),
10 unless such entity establishes by a preponderance of
11 the evidence that such entity acquired substantially
12 all of the assets or business of such small business
13 debtor in good faith and not for the purpose of evade-
14 ing this paragraph.

15 “(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply—

16 “(A) to an involuntary case involving no collu-
17 sion by the debtor with creditors; or

18 “(B) to the filing of a petition if—

19 “(i) the debtor proves by a preponderance
20 of the evidence that the filing of the petition re-
21 sulted from circumstances beyond the control of
22 the debtor not foreseeable at the time the case
23 then pending was filed; and

24 “(ii) it is more likely than not that the
25 court will confirm a feasible plan, but not a liq-



1 updating plan, within a reasonable period of
2 time.”.

3 **SEC. 442. EXPANDED GROUNDS FOR DISMISSAL OR CON-**
4 **VERSION AND APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE.**

5 (a) EXPANDED GROUNDS FOR DISMISSAL OR CON-
6 VERSION.—Section 1112 of title 11, United States Code,
7 is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
8 following:

9 “(b)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this
10 subsection, subsection (c) of this section, and section
11 1104(a)(3), on request of a party in interest, and after
12 notice and a hearing, absent unusual circumstances spe-
13 cifically identified by the court that establish that the re-
14 quested conversion or dismissal is not in the best interests
15 of creditors and the estate, the court shall convert a case
16 under this chapter to a case under chapter 7 or dismiss
17 a case under this chapter, whichever is in the best inter-
18 ests of creditors and the estate, if the movant establishes
19 cause.

20 “(2) The relief provided in paragraph (1) shall not
21 be granted absent unusual circumstances specifically iden-
22 tified by the court that establish that such relief is not
23 in the best interests of creditors and the estate, if the
24 debtor or another party in interest objects and establishes
25 that—



1 “(A) there is a reasonable likelihood that a plan
2 will be confirmed within the timeframes established
3 in sections 1121(e) and 1129(e) of this title, or if
4 such sections do not apply, within a reasonable pe-
5 riod of time; and

6 “(B) the grounds for granting such relief in-
7 clude an act or omission of the debtor other than
8 under paragraph (4)(A)—

9 “(i) for which there exists a reasonable
10 justification for the act or omission; and

11 “(ii) that will be cured within a reasonable
12 period of time fixed by the court.

13 “(3) The court shall commence the hearing on a mo-
14 tion under this subsection not later than 30 days after
15 filing of the motion, and shall decide the motion not later
16 than 15 days after commencement of such hearing, unless
17 the movant expressly consents to a continuance for a spe-
18 cific period of time or compelling circumstances prevent
19 the court from meeting the time limits established by this
20 paragraph.

21 “(4) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘cause’
22 includes—

23 “(A) substantial or continuing loss to or dimi-
24 nution of the estate and the absence of a reasonable
25 likelihood of rehabilitation;



1 “(B) gross mismanagement of the estate;

2 “(C) failure to maintain appropriate insurance
3 that poses a risk to the estate or to the public;

4 “(D) unauthorized use of cash collateral sub-
5 stantially harmful to 1 or more creditors;

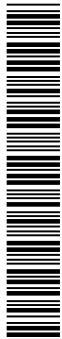
6 “(E) failure to comply with an order of the
7 court;

8 “(F) unexcused failure to satisfy timely any fil-
9 ing or reporting requirement established by this title
10 or by any rule applicable to a case under this chap-
11 ter;

12 “(G) failure to attend the meeting of creditors
13 convened under section 341(a) or an examination or-
14 dered under rule 2004 of the Federal Rules of
15 Bankruptcy Procedure without good cause shown by
16 the debtor;

17 “(H) failure timely to provide information or
18 attend meetings reasonably requested by the United
19 States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if
20 any);

21 “(I) failure timely to pay taxes owed after the
22 date of the order for relief or to file tax returns due
23 after the date of the order for relief;



1 “(J) failure to file a disclosure statement, or to
2 file or confirm a plan, within the time fixed by this
3 title or by order of the court;

4 “(K) failure to pay any fees or charges required
5 under chapter 123 of title 28;

6 “(L) revocation of an order of confirmation
7 under section 1144;

8 “(M) inability to effectuate substantial con-
9 summation of a confirmed plan;

10 “(N) material default by the debtor with re-
11 spect to a confirmed plan;

12 “(O) termination of a confirmed plan by reason
13 of the occurrence of a condition specified in the plan;
14 and

15 “(P) failure of the debtor to pay any domestic
16 support obligation that first becomes payable after
17 the date of the filing of the petition.

18 “(5) The court shall commence the hearing on a mo-
19 tion under this subsection not later than 30 days after
20 filing of the motion, and shall decide the motion not later
21 than 15 days after commencement of such hearing, unless
22 the movant expressly consents to a continuance for a spe-
23 cific period of time or compelling circumstances prevent
24 the court from meeting the time limits established by this
25 paragraph.”.



1 (b) ADDITIONAL GROUNDS FOR APPOINTMENT OF
2 TRUSTEE.—Section 1104(a) of title 11, United States
3 Code, is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “or” at the
5 end;

6 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at
7 the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

9 “(3) if grounds exist to convert or dismiss the
10 case under section 1112, but the court determines
11 that the appointment of a trustee or an examiner is
12 in the best interests of creditors and the estate.”.

13 **SEC. 443. STUDY OF OPERATION OF TITLE 11, UNITED**
14 **STATES CODE, WITH RESPECT TO SMALL**
15 **BUSINESSES.**

16 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
17 of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Ad-
18 ministration, in consultation with the Attorney General,
19 the Director of the Executive Office for United States
20 Trustees, and the Director of the Administrative Office
21 of the United States Courts, shall—

22 (1) conduct a study to determine—

23 (A) the internal and external factors that
24 cause small businesses, especially sole propri-
25 etorships, to become debtors in cases under title



1 11, United States Code, and that cause certain
2 small businesses to successfully complete cases
3 under chapter 11 of such title; and

4 (B) how Federal laws relating to bank-
5 ruptcy may be made more effective and efficient
6 in assisting small businesses to remain viable;
7 and

8 (2) submit to the President pro tempore of the
9 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representa-
10 tives a report summarizing that study.

11 **SEC. 444. PAYMENT OF INTEREST.**

12 Section 362(d)(3) of title 11, United States Code, is
13 amended—

14 (1) by inserting “or 30 days after the court de-
15 termines that the debtor is subject to this para-
16 graph, whichever is later” after “90-day period”;
17 and

18 (2) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting
19 the following:

20 “(B) the debtor has commenced monthly
21 payments that—

22 “(i) may, in the debtor’s sole discre-
23 tion, notwithstanding section 363(c)(2), be
24 made from rents or other income generated
25 before or after the commencement of the



1 case by or from the property to each cred-
2 itor whose claim is secured by such real es-
3 tate (other than a claim secured by a judg-
4 ment lien or by an unmatured statutory
5 lien); and

6 “(ii) are in an amount equal to inter-
7 est at the then applicable nondefault con-
8 tract rate of interest on the value of the
9 creditor’s interest in the real estate; or”.

10 **SEC. 445. PRIORITY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**

11 Section 503(b) of title 11, United States Code, is
12 amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the
14 end;

15 (2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at
16 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

18 “(7) with respect to a nonresidential real prop-
19 erty lease previously assumed under section 365,
20 and subsequently rejected, a sum equal to all mone-
21 tary obligations due, excluding those arising from or
22 relating to a failure to operate or a penalty provi-
23 sion, for the period of 2 years following the later of
24 the rejection date or the date of actual turnover of
25 the premises, without reduction or setoff for any



1 reason whatsoever except for sums actually received
2 or to be received from an entity other than the debt-
3 or, and the claim for remaining sums due for the
4 balance of the term of the lease shall be a claim
5 under section 502(b)(6);”.

6 **SEC. 446. DUTIES WITH RESPECT TO A DEBTOR WHO IS A**
7 **PLAN ADMINISTRATOR OF AN EMPLOYEE**
8 **BENEFIT PLAN.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 521(a) of title 11, United
10 States Code, as amended by section 106, is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the
12 end;

13 (2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at
14 the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

16 “(6) unless a trustee is serving in the case, con-
17 tinue to perform the obligations required of the ad-
18 ministrator (as defined in section 3 of the Employee
19 Retirement Income Security Act of 1974) of an em-
20 ployee benefit plan if at the time of the commence-
21 ment of the case the debtor (or any entity des-
22 ignated by the debtor) served as such adminis-
23 trator.”.



1 (b) DUTIES OF TRUSTEES.—Section 704(a) of title
2 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 102 and
3 219, is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (9), by striking “and” at the
5 end;

6 (2) in paragraph (10), by striking the period at
7 the end; and

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

9 “(11) if, at the time of the commencement of
10 the case, the debtor (or any entity designated by the
11 debtor) served as the administrator (as defined in
12 section 3 of the Employee Retirement Income Secu-
13 rity Act of 1974) of an employee benefit plan, con-
14 tinue to perform the obligations required of the ad-
15 ministrator; and”.

16 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1106(a)(1)
17 of title 11, United States Code, is amended to read as
18 follows:

19 “(1) perform the duties of the trustee, as speci-
20 fied in paragraphs (2), (5), (7), (8), (9), (10), and
21 (11) of section 704;”.

22 **SEC. 447. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE OF RETIRED EM-**
23 **PLOYEES.**

24 Section 1114(d) of title 11, United States Code, is
25 amended—



1 (1) by striking “appoint” and inserting “order
2 the appointment of”, and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following: “The
4 United States trustee shall appoint any such com-
5 mittee.”.

6 **TITLE V—MUNICIPAL**
7 **BANKRUPTCY PROVISIONS**

8 **SEC. 501. PETITION AND PROCEEDINGS RELATED TO PETI-**
9 **TION.**

10 (a) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT RELATING TO MUNICI-
11 PALITIES.—Section 921(d) of title 11, United States
12 Code, is amended by inserting “notwithstanding section
13 301(b)” before the period at the end.

14 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 301 of title
15 11, United States Code, is amended—

16 (1) by inserting “(a)” before “A voluntary”;
17 and

18 (2) by striking the last sentence and inserting
19 the following:

20 “(b) The commencement of a voluntary case under
21 a chapter of this title constitutes an order for relief under
22 such chapter.”.



1 **SEC. 502. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER SECTIONS TO CHAP-**
2 **TER 9.**

3 Section 901(a) of title 11, United States Code, is
4 amended—

5 (1) by inserting “555, 556,” after “553,”; and

6 (2) by inserting “559, 560, 561, 562” after
7 “557.”.

8 **TITLE VI—BANKRUPTCY DATA**

9 **SEC. 601. IMPROVED BANKRUPTCY STATISTICS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 6 of title 28, United
11 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing:

13 **“§ 159. Bankruptcy statistics**

14 “(a) The clerk of the district court, or the clerk of
15 the bankruptcy court if one is certified pursuant to section
16 156(b) of this title, shall collect statistics regarding debt-
17 ors who are individuals with primarily consumer debts
18 seeking relief under chapters 7, 11, and 13 of title 11.
19 Those statistics shall be in a standardized format pre-
20 scribed by the Director of the Administrative Office of the
21 United States Courts (referred to in this section as the
22 ‘Director’).

23 “(b) The Director shall—

24 “(1) compile the statistics referred to in sub-
25 section (a);



1 “(2) make the statistics available to the public;
2 and

3 “(3) not later than July 1, 2006, and annually
4 thereafter, prepare, and submit to Congress a report
5 concerning the information collected under sub-
6 section (a) that contains an analysis of the informa-
7 tion.

8 “(c) The compilation required under subsection (b)
9 shall—

10 “(1) be itemized, by chapter, with respect to
11 title 11;

12 “(2) be presented in the aggregate and for each
13 district; and

14 “(3) include information concerning—

15 “(A) the total assets and total liabilities of
16 the debtors described in subsection (a), and in
17 each category of assets and liabilities, as re-
18 ported in the schedules prescribed pursuant to
19 section 2075 of this title and filed by debtors;

20 “(B) the current monthly income, average
21 income, and average expenses of debtors as re-
22 ported on the schedules and statements that
23 each such debtor files under sections 521 and
24 1322 of title 11;



1 “(C) the aggregate amount of debt dis-
2 charged in cases filed during the reporting pe-
3 riod, determined as the difference between the
4 total amount of debt and obligations of a debtor
5 reported on the schedules and the amount of
6 such debt reported in categories which are pre-
7 dominantly nondischargeable;

8 “(D) the average period of time between
9 the date of the filing of the petition and the
10 closing of the case for cases closed during the
11 reporting period;

12 “(E) for cases closed during the reporting
13 period—

14 “(i) the number of cases in which a
15 reaffirmation agreement was filed; and

16 “(ii)(I) the total number of reaffirma-
17 tion agreements filed;

18 “(II) of those cases in which a reaffir-
19 mation agreement was filed, the number of
20 cases in which the debtor was not rep-
21 resented by an attorney; and

22 “(III) of those cases in which a reaf-
23 firmation agreement was filed, the number
24 of cases in which the reaffirmation agree-
25 ment was approved by the court;



1 “(F) with respect to cases filed under
2 chapter 13 of title 11, for the reporting
3 period—

4 “(i)(I) the number of cases in which a
5 final order was entered determining the
6 value of property securing a claim in an
7 amount less than the amount of the claim;
8 and

9 “(II) the number of final orders en-
10 tered determining the value of property se-
11 curing a claim;

12 “(ii) the number of cases dismissed,
13 the number of cases dismissed for failure
14 to make payments under the plan, the
15 number of cases refiled after dismissal,
16 and the number of cases in which the plan
17 was completed, separately itemized with re-
18 spect to the number of modifications made
19 before completion of the plan, if any; and

20 “(iii) the number of cases in which
21 the debtor filed another case during the 6-
22 year period preceding the filing;

23 “(G) the number of cases in which credi-
24 tors were fined for misconduct and any amount



1 of punitive damages awarded by the court for
2 creditor misconduct; and

3 “(H) the number of cases in which sanc-
4 tions under rule 9011 of the Federal Rules of
5 Bankruptcy Procedure were imposed against
6 debtor’s attorney or damages awarded under
7 such Rule.”.

8 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
9 for chapter 6 of title 28, United States Code, is amended
10 by adding at the end the following:

“159. Bankruptcy statistics.”.

11 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
12 this section shall take effect 18 months after the date of
13 enactment of this Act.

14 **SEC. 602. UNIFORM RULES FOR THE COLLECTION OF BANK-**
15 **RUPTCY DATA.**

16 (a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 39 of title 28, United
17 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
18 lowing:

19 **“§ 589b. Bankruptcy data**

20 “(a) RULES.—The Attorney General shall, within a
21 reasonable time after the effective date of this section,
22 issue rules requiring uniform forms for (and from time
23 to time thereafter to appropriately modify and approve)—

24 “(1) final reports by trustees in cases under
25 chapters 7, 12, and 13 of title 11; and



1 “(2) periodic reports by debtors in possession or
2 trustees in cases under chapter 11 of title 11.

3 “(b) REPORTS.—Each report referred to in sub-
4 section (a) shall be designed (and the requirements as to
5 place and manner of filing shall be established) so as to
6 facilitate compilation of data and maximum possible ac-
7 cess of the public, both by physical inspection at one or
8 more central filing locations, and by electronic access
9 through the Internet or other appropriate media.

10 “(c) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—The information re-
11 quired to be filed in the reports referred to in subsection
12 (b) shall be that which is in the best interests of debtors
13 and creditors, and in the public interest in reasonable and
14 adequate information to evaluate the efficiency and practi-
15 cality of the Federal bankruptcy system. In issuing rules
16 proposing the forms referred to in subsection (a), the At-
17 torney General shall strike the best achievable practical
18 balance between—

19 “(1) the reasonable needs of the public for in-
20 formation about the operational results of the Fed-
21 eral bankruptcy system;

22 “(2) economy, simplicity, and lack of undue
23 burden on persons with a duty to file reports; and

24 “(3) appropriate privacy concerns and safe-
25 guards.



1 “(d) FINAL REPORTS.—The uniform forms for final
2 reports required under subsection (a) for use by trustees
3 under chapters 7, 12, and 13 of title 11 shall, in addition
4 to such other matters as are required by law or as the
5 Attorney General in the discretion of the Attorney General
6 shall propose, include with respect to a case under such
7 title—

8 “(1) information about the length of time the
9 case was pending;

10 “(2) assets abandoned;

11 “(3) assets exempted;

12 “(4) receipts and disbursements of the estate;

13 “(5) expenses of administration, including for
14 use under section 707(b), actual costs of admin-
15 istering cases under chapter 13 of title 11;

16 “(6) claims asserted;

17 “(7) claims allowed; and

18 “(8) distributions to claimants and claims dis-
19 charged without payment,

20 in each case by appropriate category and, in cases under
21 chapters 12 and 13 of title 11, date of confirmation of
22 the plan, each modification thereto, and defaults by the
23 debtor in performance under the plan.

24 “(e) PERIODIC REPORTS.—The uniform forms for
25 periodic reports required under subsection (a) for use by



1 trustees or debtors in possession under chapter 11 of title
2 11 shall, in addition to such other matters as are required
3 by law or as the Attorney General in the discretion of the
4 Attorney General shall propose, include—

5 “(1) information about the industry classifica-
6 tion, published by the Department of Commerce, for
7 the businesses conducted by the debtor;

8 “(2) length of time the case has been pending;

9 “(3) number of full-time employees as of the
10 date of the order for relief and at the end of each
11 reporting period since the case was filed;

12 “(4) cash receipts, cash disbursements and
13 profitability of the debtor for the most recent period
14 and cumulatively since the date of the order for re-
15 lief;

16 “(5) compliance with title 11, whether or not
17 tax returns and tax payments since the date of the
18 order for relief have been timely filed and made;

19 “(6) all professional fees approved by the court
20 in the case for the most recent period and cumula-
21 tively since the date of the order for relief (sepa-
22 rately reported, for the professional fees incurred by
23 or on behalf of the debtor, between those that would
24 have been incurred absent a bankruptcy case and
25 those not); and



1 “(7) plans of reorganization filed and confirmed
2 and, with respect thereto, by class, the recoveries of
3 the holders, expressed in aggregate dollar values
4 and, in the case of claims, as a percentage of total
5 claims of the class allowed.”.

6 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
7 for chapter 39 of title 28, United States Code, is amended
8 by adding at the end the following:

 “589b. Bankruptcy data.”.

9 **SEC. 603. AUDIT PROCEDURES.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—

11 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCEDURES.—The
12 Attorney General (in judicial districts served by
13 United States trustees) and the Judicial Conference
14 of the United States (in judicial districts served by
15 bankruptcy administrators) shall establish proce-
16 dures to determine the accuracy, veracity, and com-
17 pleteness of petitions, schedules, and other informa-
18 tion that the debtor is required to provide under sec-
19 tions 521 and 1322 of title 11, United States Code,
20 and, if applicable, section 111 of such title, in cases
21 filed under chapter 7 or 13 of such title in which the
22 debtor is an individual. Such audits shall be in ac-
23 cordance with generally accepted auditing standards
24 and performed by independent certified public ac-
25 countants or independent licensed public account-



1 ants, provided that the Attorney General and the
2 Judicial Conference, as appropriate, may develop al-
3 ternative auditing standards not later than 2 years
4 after the date of enactment of this Act.

5 (2) PROCEDURES.—Those procedures required
6 by paragraph (1) shall—

7 (A) establish a method of selecting appro-
8 priate qualified persons to contract to perform
9 those audits;

10 (B) establish a method of randomly select-
11 ing cases to be audited, except that not less
12 than 1 out of every 250 cases in each Federal
13 judicial district shall be selected for audit;

14 (C) require audits of schedules of income
15 and expenses that reflect greater than average
16 variances from the statistical norm of the dis-
17 trict in which the schedules were filed if those
18 variances occur by reason of higher income or
19 higher expenses than the statistical norm of the
20 district in which the schedules were filed; and

21 (D) establish procedures for providing, not
22 less frequently than annually, public informa-
23 tion concerning the aggregate results of such
24 audits including the percentage of cases, by dis-



1 trict, in which a material misstatement of in-
2 come or expenditures is reported.

3 (b) AMENDMENTS.—Section 586 of title 28, United
4 States Code, is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (6)
6 and inserting the following:

7 “(6) make such reports as the Attorney General
8 directs, including the results of audits performed
9 under section 603(a) of the Bankruptcy Abuse Pre-
10 vention and Consumer Protection Act of 2003;”;

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

12 “(f)(1) The United States trustee for each district is
13 authorized to contract with auditors to perform audits in
14 cases designated by the United States trustee, in accord-
15 ance with the procedures established under section 603(a)
16 of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Pro-
17 tection Act of 2003.

18 “(2)(A) The report of each audit referred to in para-
19 graph (1) shall be filed with the court and transmitted
20 to the United States trustee. Each report shall clearly and
21 conspicuously specify any material misstatement of income
22 or expenditures or of assets identified by the person per-
23 forming the audit. In any case in which a material
24 misstatement of income or expenditures or of assets has
25 been reported, the clerk of the district court (or the clerk



1 of the bankruptcy court if one is certified under section
2 156(b) of this title) shall give notice of the misstatement
3 to the creditors in the case.

4 “(B) If a material misstatement of income or expend-
5 itures or of assets is reported, the United States trustee
6 shall—

7 “(i) report the material misstatement, if appro-
8 priate, to the United States Attorney pursuant to
9 section 3057 of title 18; and

10 “(ii) if advisable, take appropriate action, in-
11 cluding but not limited to commencing an adversary
12 proceeding to revoke the debtor’s discharge pursuant
13 to section 727(d) of title 11.”.

14 (c) AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 521 OF TITLE 11,
15 U.S.C.—Section 521(a) of title 11, United States Code,
16 as so designated by section 106, is amended in each of
17 paragraphs (3) and (4) by inserting “or an auditor serving
18 under section 586(f) of title 28” after “serving in the
19 case”.

20 (d) AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 727 OF TITLE 11,
21 U.S.C.—Section 727(d) of title 11, United States Code,
22 is amended—

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



1 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at
2 the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

4 “(4) the debtor has failed to explain
5 satisfactorily—

6 “(A) a material misstatement in an audit
7 referred to in section 586(f) of title 28; or

8 “(B) a failure to make available for inspec-
9 tion all necessary accounts, papers, documents,
10 financial records, files, and all other papers,
11 things, or property belonging to the debtor that
12 are requested for an audit referred to in section
13 586(f) of title 28.”.

14 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
15 this section shall take effect 18 months after the date of
16 enactment of this Act.

17 **SEC. 604. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING AVAILABILITY**
18 **OF BANKRUPTCY DATA.**

19 It is the sense of Congress that—

20 (1) the national policy of the United States
21 should be that all data held by bankruptcy clerks in
22 electronic form, to the extent such data reflects only
23 public records (as defined in section 107 of title 11,
24 United States Code), should be released in a usable
25 electronic form in bulk to the public, subject to such



1 appropriate privacy concerns and safeguards as Con-
2 gress and the Judicial Conference of the United
3 States may determine; and

4 (2) there should be established a bankruptcy
5 data system in which—

6 (A) a single set of data definitions and
7 forms are used to collect data nationwide; and

8 (B) data for any particular bankruptcy
9 case are aggregated in the same electronic
10 record.

11 **TITLE VII—BANKRUPTCY TAX** 12 **PROVISIONS**

13 **SEC. 701. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN LIENS.**

14 (a) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN LIENS.—Section 724
15 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding
17 paragraph (1), by inserting “(other than to the ex-
18 tent that there is a properly perfected unavoidable
19 tax lien arising in connection with an ad valorem tax
20 on real or personal property of the estate)” after
21 “under this title”;

22 (2) in subsection (b)(2), by inserting “(except
23 that such expenses, other than claims for wages, sal-
24 aries, or commissions that arise after the date of the
25 filing of the petition, shall be limited to expenses in-



1 curred under chapter 7 of this title and shall not in-
2 clude expenses incurred under chapter 11 of this
3 title)” after “507(a)(1)”; and

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

5 “(e) Before subordinating a tax lien on real or per-
6 sonal property of the estate, the trustee shall—

7 “(1) exhaust the unencumbered assets of the
8 estate; and

9 “(2) in a manner consistent with section
10 506(c), recover from property securing an allowed
11 secured claim the reasonable, necessary costs and
12 expenses of preserving or disposing of such property.

13 “(f) Notwithstanding the exclusion of ad valorem tax
14 liens under this section and subject to the requirements
15 of subsection (e), the following may be paid from property
16 of the estate which secures a tax lien, or the proceeds of
17 such property:

18 “(1) Claims for wages, salaries, and commis-
19 sions that are entitled to priority under section
20 507(a)(4).

21 “(2) Claims for contributions to an employee
22 benefit plan entitled to priority under section
23 507(a)(5).”.

24 (b) DETERMINATION OF TAX LIABILITY.—Section
25 505(a)(2) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—



1 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or” at
2 the end;

3 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period
4 at the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

6 “(C) the amount or legality of any amount aris-
7 ing in connection with an ad valorem tax on real or
8 personal property of the estate, if the applicable pe-
9 riod for contesting or redetermining that amount
10 under any law (other than a bankruptcy law) has ex-
11 pired.”.

12 **SEC. 702. TREATMENT OF FUEL TAX CLAIMS.**

13 Section 501 of title 11, United States Code, is
14 amended by adding at the end the following:

15 “(e) A claim arising from the liability of a debtor for
16 fuel use tax assessed consistent with the requirements of
17 section 31705 of title 49 may be filed by the base jurisdic-
18 tion designated pursuant to the International Fuel Tax
19 Agreement (as defined in section 31701 of title 49) and,
20 if so filed, shall be allowed as a single claim.”.

21 **SEC. 703. NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR A DETERMINATION OF**

22 **TAXES.**

23 Section 505(b) of title 11, United States Code, is
24 amended—



1 (1) in the first sentence, by inserting “at the
2 address and in the manner designated in paragraph
3 (1)” after “determination of such tax”;

4 (2) by striking “(1) upon payment” and insert-
5 ing “(A) upon payment”;

6 (3) by striking “(A) such governmental unit”
7 and inserting “(i) such governmental unit”;

8 (4) by striking “(B) such governmental unit”
9 and inserting “(ii) such governmental unit”;

10 (5) by striking “(2) upon payment” and insert-
11 ing “(B) upon payment”;

12 (6) by striking “(3) upon payment” and insert-
13 ing “(C) upon payment”;

14 (7) by striking “(b)” and inserting “(2)”; and

15 (8) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so
16 designated, the following:

17 “(b)(1)(A) The clerk shall maintain a list under
18 which a Federal, State, or local governmental unit respon-
19 sible for the collection of taxes within the district may—

20 “(i) designate an address for service of requests
21 under this subsection; and

22 “(ii) describe where further information con-
23 cerning additional requirements for filing such re-
24 quests may be found.



1 “(B) If such governmental unit does not designate
2 an address and provide such address to the clerk under
3 subparagraph (A), any request made under this subsection
4 may be served at the address for the filing of a tax return
5 or protest with the appropriate taxing authority of such
6 governmental unit.”.

7 **SEC. 704. RATE OF INTEREST ON TAX CLAIMS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 5 of title
9 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
10 the following:

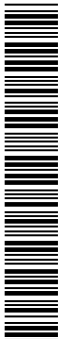
11 **“§ 511. Rate of interest on tax claims**

12 “(a) If any provision of this title requires the pay-
13 ment of interest on a tax claim or on an administrative
14 expense tax, or the payment of interest to enable a creditor
15 to receive the present value of the allowed amount of a
16 tax claim, the rate of interest shall be the rate determined
17 under applicable nonbankruptcy law.

18 “(b) In the case of taxes paid under a confirmed plan
19 under this title, the rate of interest shall be determined
20 as of the calendar month in which the plan is confirmed.”.

21 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
22 for subchapter 1 of chapter 5 of title 11, United States
23 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“511. Rate of interest on tax claims.”.



1 **SEC. 705. PRIORITY OF TAX CLAIMS.**

2 Section 507(a)(8) of title 11, United States Code, is
3 amended—

4 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

5 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by
6 inserting “for a taxable year ending on or be-
7 fore the date of the filing of the petition” after
8 “gross receipts”;

9 (B) in clause (i), by striking “for a taxable
10 year ending on or before the date of the filing
11 of the petition”; and

12 (C) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the
13 following:

14 “(ii) assessed within 240 days before
15 the date of the filing of the petition, exclu-
16 sive of—

17 “(I) any time during which an
18 offer in compromise with respect to
19 that tax was pending or in effect dur-
20 ing that 240-day period, plus 30 days;
21 and

22 “(II) any time during which a
23 stay of proceedings against collections
24 was in effect in a prior case under
25 this title during that 240-day period,
26 plus 90 days.”; and



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

2 “An otherwise applicable time period specified in
3 this paragraph shall be suspended for any period
4 during which a governmental unit is prohibited
5 under applicable nonbankruptcy law from collecting
6 a tax as a result of a request by the debtor for a
7 hearing and an appeal of any collection action taken
8 or proposed against the debtor, plus 90 days; plus
9 any time during which the stay of proceedings was
10 in effect in a prior case under this title or during
11 which collection was precluded by the existence of 1
12 or more confirmed plans under this title, plus 90
13 days.”.

14 **SEC. 706. PRIORITY PROPERTY TAXES INCURRED.**

15 Section 507(a)(8)(B) of title 11, United States Code,
16 is amended by striking “assessed” and inserting “in-
17 curred”.

18 **SEC. 707. NO DISCHARGE OF FRAUDULENT TAXES IN CHAP-**

19 **TER 13.**

20 Section 1328(a)(2) of title 11, United States Code,
21 as amended by section 314, is amended by striking “para-
22 graph” and inserting “section 507(a)(8)(C) or in para-
23 graph (1)(B), (1)(C),”.



1 **SEC. 708. NO DISCHARGE OF FRAUDULENT TAXES IN CHAP-**
2 **TER 11.**

3 Section 1141(d) of title 11, United States Code, as
4 amended by sections 321 and 330, is amended by adding
5 at the end the following:

6 “(6) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the confirma-
7 tion of a plan does not discharge a debtor that is a cor-
8 poration from any debt—

9 “(A) of a kind specified in paragraph (2)(A) or
10 (2)(B) of section 523(a) that is owed to a domestic
11 governmental unit, or owed to a person as the result
12 of an action filed under subchapter III of chapter 37
13 of title 31 or any similar State statute; or

14 “(B) for a tax or customs duty with respect to
15 which the debtor—

16 “(i) made a fraudulent return; or

17 “(ii) willfully attempted in any manner to
18 evade or to defeat such tax or such customs
19 duty.”.

20 **SEC. 709. STAY OF TAX PROCEEDINGS LIMITED TO**
21 **PREPETITION TAXES.**

22 Section 362(a)(8) of title 11, United States Code, is
23 amended by striking “the debtor” and inserting “a cor-
24 porate debtor’s tax liability for a taxable period the bank-
25 ruptcy court may determine or concerning the tax liability



1 of a debtor who is an individual for a taxable period end-
2 ing before the date of the order for relief under this title”.

3 **SEC. 710. PERIODIC PAYMENT OF TAXES IN CHAPTER 11**
4 **CASES.**

5 Section 1129(a)(9) of title 11, United States Code,
6 is amended—

7 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at
8 the end;

9 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “deferred
10 cash payments,” and all that follows through the
11 end of the subparagraph, and inserting “regular in-
12 stallment payments in cash—

13 “(i) of a total value, as of the effective
14 date of the plan, equal to the allowed
15 amount of such claim;

16 “(ii) over a period ending not later
17 than 5 years after the date of the order for
18 relief under section 301, 302, or 303; and

19 “(iii) in a manner not less favorable
20 than the most favored nonpriority unse-
21 curred claim provided for by the plan (other
22 than cash payments made to a class of
23 creditors under section 1122(b)); and”;
24 and

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



1 “(D) with respect to a secured claim which
2 would otherwise meet the description of an un-
3 secured claim of a governmental unit under sec-
4 tion 507(a)(8), but for the secured status of
5 that claim, the holder of that claim will receive
6 on account of that claim, cash payments, in the
7 same manner and over the same period, as pre-
8 scribed in subparagraph (C).”.

9 **SEC. 711. AVOIDANCE OF STATUTORY TAX LIENS PROHIB-**
10 **ITED.**

11 Section 545(2) of title 11, United States Code, is
12 amended by inserting before the semicolon at the end the
13 following: “, except in any case in which a purchaser is
14 a purchaser described in section 6323 of the Internal Rev-
15 enue Code of 1986, or in any other similar provision of
16 State or local law”.

17 **SEC. 712. PAYMENT OF TAXES IN THE CONDUCT OF BUSI-**
18 **NESS.**

19 (a) PAYMENT OF TAXES REQUIRED.—Section 960 of
20 title 28, United States Code, is amended—

21 (1) by inserting “(a)” before “Any”; and

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

23 “(b) A tax under subsection (a) shall be paid on or
24 before the due date of the tax under applicable nonbank-
25 ruptcy law, unless—



1 “(1) the tax is a property tax secured by a lien
2 against property that is abandoned under section
3 554 of title 11 within a reasonable period of time
4 after the lien attaches by the trustee in a case under
5 title 11; or

6 “(2) payment of the tax is excused under a spe-
7 cific provision of title 11.

8 “(c) In a case pending under chapter 7 of title 11,
9 payment of a tax may be deferred until final distribution
10 is made under section 726 of title 11, if—

11 “(1) the tax was not incurred by a trustee duly
12 appointed under chapter 7 of title 11; or

13 “(2) before the due date of the tax, an order of
14 the court makes a finding of probable insufficiency
15 of funds of the estate to pay in full the administra-
16 tive expenses allowed under section 503(b) of title
17 11 that have the same priority in distribution under
18 section 726(b) of title 11 as the priority of that
19 tax.”.

20 (b) PAYMENT OF AD VALOREM TAXES REQUIRED.—
21 Section 503(b)(1)(B)(i) of title 11, United States Code,
22 is amended by inserting “whether secured or unsecured,
23 including property taxes for which liability is in rem, in
24 personam, or both,” before “except”.



1 (c) REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE
2 EXPENSE TAXES ELIMINATED.—Section 503(b)(1) of
3 title 11, United States Code, is amended—

4 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at
5 the end;

6 (2) in subparagraph (C), by adding “and” at
7 the end; and

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

9 “(D) notwithstanding the requirements of sub-
10 section (a), a governmental unit shall not be re-
11 quired to file a request for the payment of an ex-
12 pense described in subparagraph (B) or (C), as a
13 condition of its being an allowed administrative ex-
14 pense;”.

15 (d) PAYMENT OF TAXES AND FEES AS SECURED
16 CLAIMS.—Section 506 of title 11, United States Code, is
17 amended—

18 (1) in subsection (b), by inserting “or State
19 statute” after “agreement”; and

20 (2) in subsection (c), by inserting “, including
21 the payment of all ad valorem property taxes with
22 respect to the property” before the period at the
23 end.



1 **SEC. 713. TARDILY FILED PRIORITY TAX CLAIMS.**

2 Section 726(a)(1) of title 11, United States Code, is
3 amended by striking “before the date on which the trustee
4 commences distribution under this section;” and inserting
5 the following: “on or before the earlier of—

6 “(A) the date that is 10 days after the
7 mailing to creditors of the summary of the
8 trustee’s final report; or

9 “(B) the date on which the trustee com-
10 mences final distribution under this section;”.

11 **SEC. 714. INCOME TAX RETURNS PREPARED BY TAX AU-**
12 **THORITIES.**

13 Section 523(a) of title 11, United States Code, as
14 amended by sections 215 and 224, is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (1)(B)—

16 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by
17 inserting “or equivalent report or notice,” after
18 “a return;”;

19 (B) in clause (i), by inserting “or given”
20 after “filed”; and

21 (C) in clause (ii)—

22 (i) by inserting “or given” after
23 “filed”; and

24 (ii) by inserting “, report, or notice”
25 after “return”; and

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



1 “For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘return’ means
2 a return that satisfies the requirements of applicable non-
3 bankruptcy law (including applicable filing requirements).
4 Such term includes a return prepared pursuant to section
5 6020(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or similar
6 State or local law, or a written stipulation to a judgment
7 or a final order entered by a nonbankruptcy tribunal, but
8 does not include a return made pursuant to section
9 6020(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or a simi-
10 lar State or local law.”.

11 **SEC. 715. DISCHARGE OF THE ESTATE’S LIABILITY FOR UN-**
12 **PAID TAXES.**

13 Section 505(b)(2) of title 11, United States Code, as
14 amended by section 703, is amended by inserting “the es-
15 tate,” after “misrepresentation,”.

16 **SEC. 716. REQUIREMENT TO FILE TAX RETURNS TO CON-**
17 **FIRM CHAPTER 13 PLANS.**

18 (a) **FILING OF PREPETITION TAX RETURNS RE-**
19 **QUIRED FOR PLAN CONFIRMATION.**—Section 1325(a) of
20 title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 102,
21 213, and 306, is amended by inserting after paragraph
22 (8) the following:

23 “(9) the debtor has filed all applicable Federal,
24 State, and local tax returns as required by section
25 1308.”.



1 (b) ADDITIONAL TIME PERMITTED FOR FILING TAX
2 RETURNS.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 13
4 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by add-
5 ing at the end the following:

6 **“§ 1308. Filing of prepetition tax returns**

7 “(a) Not later than the day before the date on which
8 the meeting of the creditors is first scheduled to be held
9 under section 341(a), if the debtor was required to file
10 a tax return under applicable nonbankruptcy law, the
11 debtor shall file with appropriate tax authorities all tax
12 returns for all taxable periods ending during the 4-year
13 period ending on the date of the filing of the petition.

14 “(b)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), if the tax returns
15 required by subsection (a) have not been filed by the date
16 on which the meeting of creditors is first scheduled to be
17 held under section 341(a), the trustee may hold open that
18 meeting for a reasonable period of time to allow the debtor
19 an additional period of time to file any unfiled returns,
20 but such additional period of time shall not extend
21 beyond—

22 “(A) for any return that is past due as of the
23 date of the filing of the petition, the date that is 120
24 days after the date of that meeting; or



1 “(B) for any return that is not past due as of
2 the date of the filing of the petition, the later of—

3 “(i) the date that is 120 days after the
4 date of that meeting; or

5 “(ii) the date on which the return is due
6 under the last automatic extension of time for
7 filing that return to which the debtor is enti-
8 tled, and for which request is timely made, in
9 accordance with applicable nonbankruptcy law.

10 “(2) After notice and a hearing, and order entered
11 before the tolling of any applicable filing period deter-
12 mined under this subsection, if the debtor demonstrates
13 by a preponderance of the evidence that the failure to file
14 a return as required under this subsection is attributable
15 to circumstances beyond the control of the debtor, the
16 court may extend the filing period established by the trust-
17 ee under this subsection for—

18 “(A) a period of not more than 30 days for re-
19 turns described in paragraph (1); and

20 “(B) a period not to extend after the applicable
21 extended due date for a return described in para-
22 graph (2).

23 “(c) For purposes of this section, the term ‘return’
24 includes a return prepared pursuant to subsection (a) or
25 (b) of section 6020 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,



1 or a similar State or local law, or a written stipulation
2 to a judgment or a final order entered by a nonbankruptcy
3 tribunal.”.

4 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of
5 sections for subchapter I of chapter 13 of title 11,
6 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
7 end the following:

“1308. Filing of prepetition tax returns.”.

8 (c) DISMISSAL OR CONVERSION ON FAILURE TO
9 COMPLY.—Section 1307 of title 11, United States Code,
10 is amended—

11 (1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as
12 subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

13 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(e) Upon the failure of the debtor to file a tax return
16 under section 1308, on request of a party in interest or
17 the United States trustee and after notice and a hearing,
18 the court shall dismiss a case or convert a case under this
19 chapter to a case under chapter 7 of this title, whichever
20 is in the best interest of the creditors and the estate.”.

21 (d) TIMELY FILED CLAIMS.—Section 502(b)(9) of
22 title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting be-
23 fore the period at the end the following: “, and except that
24 in a case under chapter 13, a claim of a governmental
25 unit for a tax with respect to a return filed under section



1 1308 shall be timely if the claim is filed on or before the
2 date that is 60 days after the date on which such return
3 was filed as required”.

4 (e) RULES FOR OBJECTIONS TO CLAIMS AND TO
5 CONFIRMATION.—It is the sense of Congress that the Ju-
6 dicial Conference of the United States should, as soon as
7 practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, pro-
8 pose amended Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure
9 that provide—

10 (1) notwithstanding the provisions of Rule
11 3015(f), in cases under chapter 13 of title 11,
12 United States Code, that an objection to the con-
13 firmation of a plan filed by a governmental unit on
14 or before the date that is 60 days after the date on
15 which the debtor files all tax returns required under
16 sections 1308 and 1325(a)(7) of title 11, United
17 States Code, shall be treated for all purposes as if
18 such objection had been timely filed before such con-
19 firmation; and

20 (2) in addition to the provisions of Rule 3007,
21 in a case under chapter 13 of title 11, United States
22 Code, that no objection to a claim for a tax with re-
23 spect to which a return is required to be filed under
24 section 1308 of title 11, United States Code, shall
25 be filed until such return has been filed as required.



1 **SEC. 717. STANDARDS FOR TAX DISCLOSURE.**

2 Section 1125(a)(1) of title 11, United States Code,
3 is amended—

4 (1) by inserting “including a discussion of the
5 potential material Federal tax consequences of the
6 plan to the debtor, any successor to the debtor, and
7 a hypothetical investor typical of the holders of
8 claims or interests in the case,” after “records”; and

9 (2) by striking “a hypothetical reasonable inves-
10 tor typical of holders of claims or interests” and in-
11 serting “such a hypothetical investor”.

12 **SEC. 718. SETOFF OF TAX REFUNDS.**

13 Section 362(b) of title 11, United States Code, as
14 amended by sections 224, 303, 311, and 401, is amended
15 by inserting after paragraph (25) the following:

16 “(26) under subsection (a), of the setoff under
17 applicable nonbankruptcy law of an income tax re-
18 fund, by a governmental unit, with respect to a tax-
19 able period that ended before the date of the order
20 for relief against an income tax liability for a taxable
21 period that also ended before the date of the order
22 for relief, except that in any case in which the setoff
23 of an income tax refund is not permitted under ap-
24 plicable nonbankruptcy law because of a pending ac-
25 tion to determine the amount or legality of a tax li-
26 ability, the governmental unit may hold the refund



1 pending the resolution of the action, unless the
2 court, on the motion of the trustee and after notice
3 and a hearing, grants the taxing authority adequate
4 protection (within the meaning of section 361) for
5 the secured claim of such authority in the setoff
6 under section 506(a);”.

7 **SEC. 719. SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE TREAT-**
8 **MENT OF STATE AND LOCAL TAXES.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—

10 (1) SPECIAL PROVISIONS.—Section 346 of title
11 11, United States Code, is amended to read as fol-
12 lows:

13 **“§ 346. Special provisions related to the treatment of**
14 **State and local taxes**

15 “(a) Whenever the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
16 provides that a separate taxable estate or entity is created
17 in a case concerning a debtor under this title, and the in-
18 come, gain, loss, deductions, and credits of such estate
19 shall be taxed to or claimed by the estate, a separate tax-
20 able estate is also created for purposes of any State and
21 local law imposing a tax on or measured by income and
22 such income, gain, loss, deductions, and credits shall be
23 taxed to or claimed by the estate and may not be taxed
24 to or claimed by the debtor. The preceding sentence shall
25 not apply if the case is dismissed. The trustee shall make



1 tax returns of income required under any such State or
2 local law.

3 “(b) Whenever the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
4 provides that no separate taxable estate shall be created
5 in a case concerning a debtor under this title, and the in-
6 come, gain, loss, deductions, and credits of an estate shall
7 be taxed to or claimed by the debtor, such income, gain,
8 loss, deductions, and credits shall be taxed to or claimed
9 by the debtor under a State or local law imposing a tax
10 on or measured by income and may not be taxed to or
11 claimed by the estate. The trustee shall make such tax
12 returns of income of corporations and of partnerships as
13 are required under any State or local law, but with respect
14 to partnerships, shall make such returns only to the extent
15 such returns are also required to be made under such
16 Code. The estate shall be liable for any tax imposed on
17 such corporation or partnership, but not for any tax im-
18 posed on partners or members.

19 “(c) With respect to a partnership or any entity treat-
20 ed as a partnership under a State or local law imposing
21 a tax on or measured by income that is a debtor in a case
22 under this title, any gain or loss resulting from a distribu-
23 tion of property from such partnership, or any distributive
24 share of any income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit of a
25 partner or member that is distributed, or considered dis-



1 tributed, from such partnership, after the commencement
2 of the case, is gain, loss, income, deduction, or credit, as
3 the case may be, of the partner or member, and if such
4 partner or member is a debtor in a case under this title,
5 shall be subject to tax in accordance with subsection (a)
6 or (b).

7 “(d) For purposes of any State or local law imposing
8 a tax on or measured by income, the taxable period of
9 a debtor in a case under this title shall terminate only
10 if and to the extent that the taxable period of such debtor
11 terminates under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

12 “(e) The estate in any case described in subsection
13 (a) shall use the same accounting method as the debtor
14 used immediately before the commencement of the case,
15 if such method of accounting complies with applicable non-
16 bankruptcy tax law.

17 “(f) For purposes of any State or local law imposing
18 a tax on or measured by income, a transfer of property
19 from the debtor to the estate or from the estate to the
20 debtor shall not be treated as a disposition for purposes
21 of any provision assigning tax consequences to a dispo-
22 sition, except to the extent that such transfer is treated as
23 a disposition under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

24 “(g) Whenever a tax is imposed pursuant to a State
25 or local law imposing a tax on or measured by income pur-



1 suant to subsection (a) or (b), such tax shall be imposed
2 at rates generally applicable to the same types of entities
3 under such State or local law.

4 “(h) The trustee shall withhold from any payment of
5 claims for wages, salaries, commissions, dividends, inter-
6 est, or other payments, or collect, any amount required
7 to be withheld or collected under applicable State or local
8 tax law, and shall pay such withheld or collected amount
9 to the appropriate governmental unit at the time and in
10 the manner required by such tax law, and with the same
11 priority as the claim from which such amount was with-
12 held or collected was paid.

13 “(i)(1) To the extent that any State or local law im-
14 posing a tax on or measured by income provides for the
15 carryover of any tax attribute from one taxable period to
16 a subsequent taxable period, the estate shall succeed to
17 such tax attribute in any case in which such estate is sub-
18 ject to tax under subsection (a).

19 “(2) After such a case is closed or dismissed, the
20 debtor shall succeed to any tax attribute to which the es-
21 tate succeeded under paragraph (1) to the extent con-
22 sistent with the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

23 “(3) The estate may carry back any loss or tax at-
24 tribute to a taxable period of the debtor that ended before



1 the date of the order for relief under this title to the extent
2 that—

3 “(A) applicable State or local tax law provides
4 for a carryback in the case of the debtor; and

5 “(B) the same or a similar tax attribute may be
6 carried back by the estate to such a taxable period
7 of the debtor under the Internal Revenue Code of
8 1986.

9 “(j)(1) For purposes of any State or local law impos-
10 ing a tax on or measured by income, income is not realized
11 by the estate, the debtor, or a successor to the debtor by
12 reason of discharge of indebtedness in a case under this
13 title, except to the extent, if any, that such income is sub-
14 ject to tax under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

15 “(2) Whenever the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
16 provides that the amount excluded from gross income in
17 respect of the discharge of indebtedness in a case under
18 this title shall be applied to reduce the tax attributes of
19 the debtor or the estate, a similar reduction shall be made
20 under any State or local law imposing a tax on or meas-
21 ured by income to the extent such State or local law recog-
22 nizes such attributes. Such State or local law may also
23 provide for the reduction of other attributes to the extent
24 that the full amount of income from the discharge of in-
25 debtedness has not been applied.



1 “(k)(1) Except as provided in this section and section
2 505, the time and manner of filing tax returns and the
3 items of income, gain, loss, deduction, and credit of any
4 taxpayer shall be determined under applicable nonbank-
5 ruptcy law.

6 “(2) For Federal tax purposes, the provisions of this
7 section are subject to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
8 and other applicable Federal nonbankruptcy law.”.

9 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
10 tions for chapter 3 of title 11, United States Code,
11 is amended by striking the item relating to section
12 346 and inserting the following:

“346. Special provisions related to the treatment of State and local taxes.”.

13 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title 11 of the
14 United States Code is amended—

15 (1) by striking section 728;

16 (2) in the table of sections for chapter 7 by
17 striking the item relating to section 728;

18 (3) in section 1146—

19 (A) by striking subsections (a) and (b);

20 and

21 (B) by redesignating subsections (c) and

22 (d) as subsections (a) and (b), respectively; and

23 (4) in section 1231—

24 (A) by striking subsections (a) and (b);

25 and



1 (B) by redesignating subsections (c) and
2 (d) as subsections (a) and (b), respectively.

3 **SEC. 720. DISMISSAL FOR FAILURE TO TIMELY FILE TAX**
4 **RETURNS.**

5 Section 521 of title 11, United States Code, as
6 amended by sections 106, 225, 305, 315, and 316, is
7 amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(k)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
9 title, if the debtor fails to file a tax return that becomes
10 due after the commencement of the case or to properly
11 obtain an extension of the due date for filing such return,
12 the taxing authority may request that the court enter an
13 order converting or dismissing the case.

14 “(2) If the debtor does not file the required return
15 or obtain the extension referred to in paragraph (1) within
16 90 days after a request is filed by the taxing authority
17 under that paragraph, the court shall convert or dismiss
18 the case, whichever is in the best interests of creditors and
19 the estate.”.

20 **TITLE VIII—ANCILLARY AND**
21 **OTHER CROSS-BORDER CASES**

22 **SEC. 801. AMENDMENT TO ADD CHAPTER 15 TO TITLE 11,**
23 **UNITED STATES CODE.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title 11, United States Code, is
25 amended by inserting after chapter 13 the following:



1 **“CHAPTER 15—ANCILLARY AND OTHER**
2 **CROSS-BORDER CASES**

“Sec.

“1501. Purpose and scope of application.

“SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

“1502. Definitions.

“1503. International obligations of the United States.

“1504. Commencement of ancillary case.

“1505. Authorization to act in a foreign country.

“1506. Public policy exception.

“1507. Additional assistance.

“1508. Interpretation.

“SUBCHAPTER II—ACCESS OF FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES AND
CREDITORS TO THE COURT

“1509. Right of direct access.

“1510. Limited jurisdiction.

“1511. Commencement of case under section 301 or 303.

“1512. Participation of a foreign representative in a case under this title.

“1513. Access of foreign creditors to a case under this title.

“1514. Notification to foreign creditors concerning a case under this title.

“SUBCHAPTER III—RECOGNITION OF A FOREIGN PROCEEDING
AND RELIEF

“1515. Application for recognition.

“1516. Presumptions concerning recognition.

“1517. Order granting recognition.

“1518. Subsequent information.

“1519. Relief that may be granted upon filing petition for recognition.

“1520. Effects of recognition of a foreign main proceeding.

“1521. Relief that may be granted upon recognition.

“1522. Protection of creditors and other interested persons.

“1523. Actions to avoid acts detrimental to creditors.

“1524. Intervention by a foreign representative.

“SUBCHAPTER IV—COOPERATION WITH FOREIGN COURTS AND
FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES

“1525. Cooperation and direct communication between the court and foreign
courts or foreign representatives.

“1526. Cooperation and direct communication between the trustee and foreign
courts or foreign representatives.

“1527. Forms of cooperation.

“SUBCHAPTER V—CONCURRENT PROCEEDINGS

“1528. Commencement of a case under this title after recognition of a foreign
main proceeding.

“1529. Coordination of a case under this title and a foreign proceeding.

“1530. Coordination of more than 1 foreign proceeding.



“1531. Presumption of insolvency based on recognition of a foreign main proceeding.

“1532. Rule of payment in concurrent proceedings.

1 **“§ 1501. Purpose and scope of application**

2 “(a) The purpose of this chapter is to incorporate the
3 Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency so as to provide
4 effective mechanisms for dealing with cases of cross-border
5 insolvency with the objectives of—

6 “(1) cooperation between—

7 “(A) courts of the United States, United
8 States trustees, trustees, examiners, debtors,
9 and debtors in possession; and

10 “(B) the courts and other competent au-
11 thorities of foreign countries involved in cross-
12 border insolvency cases;

13 “(2) greater legal certainty for trade and in-
14 vestment;

15 “(3) fair and efficient administration of cross-
16 border insolvencies that protects the interests of all
17 creditors, and other interested entities, including the
18 debtor;

19 “(4) protection and maximization of the value
20 of the debtor’s assets; and

21 “(5) facilitation of the rescue of financially
22 troubled businesses, thereby protecting investment
23 and preserving employment.

24 “(b) This chapter applies where—



1 “(1) assistance is sought in the United States
2 by a foreign court or a foreign representative in con-
3 nection with a foreign proceeding;

4 “(2) assistance is sought in a foreign country in
5 connection with a case under this title;

6 “(3) a foreign proceeding and a case under this
7 title with respect to the same debtor are pending
8 concurrently; or

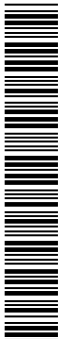
9 “(4) creditors or other interested persons in a
10 foreign country have an interest in requesting the
11 commencement of, or participating in, a case or pro-
12 ceeding under this title.

13 “(c) This chapter does not apply to—

14 “(1) a proceeding concerning an entity, other
15 than a foreign insurance company, identified by ex-
16 clusion in section 109(b);

17 “(2) an individual, or to an individual and such
18 individual’s spouse, who have debts within the limits
19 specified in section 109(e) and who are citizens of
20 the United States or aliens lawfully admitted for
21 permanent residence in the United States; or

22 “(3) an entity subject to a proceeding under the
23 Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970, a stock-
24 broker subject to subchapter III of chapter 7 of this



1 title, or a commodity broker subject to subchapter
2 IV of chapter 7 of this title.

3 “(d) The court may not grant relief under this chap-
4 ter with respect to any deposit, escrow, trust fund, or
5 other security required or permitted under any applicable
6 State insurance law or regulation for the benefit of claim
7 holders in the United States.

8 “SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

9 “§ 1502. Definitions

10 “For the purposes of this chapter, the term—

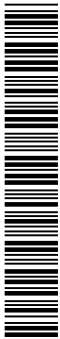
11 “(1) ‘debtor’ means an entity that is the subject
12 of a foreign proceeding;

13 “(2) ‘establishment’ means any place of oper-
14 ations where the debtor carries out a nontransitory
15 economic activity;

16 “(3) ‘foreign court’ means a judicial or other
17 authority competent to control or supervise a foreign
18 proceeding;

19 “(4) ‘foreign main proceeding’ means a foreign
20 proceeding pending in the country where the debtor
21 has the center of its main interests;

22 “(5) ‘foreign nonmain proceeding’ means a for-
23 eign proceeding, other than a foreign main pro-
24 ceeding, pending in a country where the debtor has
25 an establishment;



1 “(6) ‘trustee’ includes a trustee, a debtor in
2 possession in a case under any chapter of this title,
3 or a debtor under chapter 9 of this title;

4 “(7) ‘recognition’ means the entry of an order
5 granting recognition of a foreign main proceeding or
6 foreign nonmain proceeding under this chapter; and

7 “(8) ‘within the territorial jurisdiction of the
8 United States’, when used with reference to property
9 of a debtor, refers to tangible property located with-
10 in the territory of the United States and intangible
11 property deemed under applicable nonbankruptcy
12 law to be located within that territory, including any
13 property subject to attachment or garnishment that
14 may properly be seized or garnished by an action in
15 a Federal or State court in the United States.

16 **“§ 1503. International obligations of the United States**

17 “To the extent that this chapter conflicts with an ob-
18 ligation of the United States arising out of any treaty or
19 other form of agreement to which it is a party with one
20 or more other countries, the requirements of the treaty
21 or agreement prevail.

22 **“§ 1504. Commencement of ancillary case**

23 “A case under this chapter is commenced by the filing
24 of a petition for recognition of a foreign proceeding under
25 section 1515.



1 **“§ 1505. Authorization to act in a foreign country**

2 “A trustee or another entity (including an examiner)
3 may be authorized by the court to act in a foreign country
4 on behalf of an estate created under section 541. An entity
5 authorized to act under this section may act in any way
6 permitted by the applicable foreign law.

7 **“§ 1506. Public policy exception**

8 “Nothing in this chapter prevents the court from re-
9 fusing to take an action governed by this chapter if the
10 action would be manifestly contrary to the public policy
11 of the United States.

12 **“§ 1507. Additional assistance**

13 “(a) Subject to the specific limitations stated else-
14 where in this chapter the court, if recognition is granted,
15 may provide additional assistance to a foreign representa-
16 tive under this title or under other laws of the United
17 States.

18 “(b) In determining whether to provide additional as-
19 sistance under this title or under other laws of the United
20 States, the court shall consider whether such additional
21 assistance, consistent with the principles of comity, will
22 reasonably assure—

23 “(1) just treatment of all holders of claims
24 against or interests in the debtor’s property;



1 “(2) protection of claim holders in the United
2 States against prejudice and inconvenience in the
3 processing of claims in such foreign proceeding;

4 “(3) prevention of preferential or fraudulent
5 dispositions of property of the debtor;

6 “(4) distribution of proceeds of the debtor’s
7 property substantially in accordance with the order
8 prescribed by this title; and

9 “(5) if appropriate, the provision of an oppor-
10 tunity for a fresh start for the individual that such
11 foreign proceeding concerns.

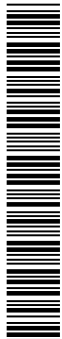
12 **“§ 1508. Interpretation**

13 “In interpreting this chapter, the court shall consider
14 its international origin, and the need to promote an appli-
15 cation of this chapter that is consistent with the applica-
16 tion of similar statutes adopted by foreign jurisdictions.

17 **“SUBCHAPTER II—ACCESS OF FOREIGN REP-**
18 **RESENTATIVES AND CREDITORS TO THE**
19 **COURT**

20 **“§ 1509. Right of direct access**

21 “(a) A foreign representative may commence a case
22 under section 1504 by filing directly with the court a peti-
23 tion for recognition of a foreign proceeding under section
24 1515.



1 “(b) If the court grants recognition under section
2 1515, and subject to any limitations that the court may
3 impose consistent with the policy of this chapter—

4 “(1) the foreign representative has the capacity
5 to sue and be sued in a court in the United States;

6 “(2) the foreign representative may apply di-
7 rectly to a court in the United States for appropriate
8 relief in that court; and

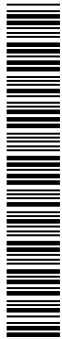
9 “(3) a court in the United States shall grant
10 comity or cooperation to the foreign representative.

11 “(c) A request for comity or cooperation by a foreign
12 representative in a court in the United States other than
13 the court which granted recognition shall be accompanied
14 by a certified copy of an order granting recognition under
15 section 1517.

16 “(d) If the court denies recognition under this chap-
17 ter, the court may issue any appropriate order necessary
18 to prevent the foreign representative from obtaining com-
19 ity or cooperation from courts in the United States.

20 “(e) Whether or not the court grants recognition, and
21 subject to sections 306 and 1510, a foreign representative
22 is subject to applicable nonbankruptcy law.

23 “(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this sec-
24 tion, the failure of a foreign representative to commence
25 a case or to obtain recognition under this chapter does



1 not affect any right the foreign representative may have
2 to sue in a court in the United States to collect or recover
3 a claim which is the property of the debtor.

4 **“§ 1510. Limited jurisdiction**

5 “The sole fact that a foreign representative files a
6 petition under section 1515 does not subject the foreign
7 representative to the jurisdiction of any court in the
8 United States for any other purpose.

9 **“§ 1511. Commencement of case under section 301 or**
10 **303**

11 “(a) Upon recognition, a foreign representative may
12 commence—

13 “(1) an involuntary case under section 303; or

14 “(2) a voluntary case under section 301 or 302,
15 if the foreign proceeding is a foreign main pro-
16 ceeding.

17 “(b) The petition commencing a case under sub-
18 section (a) must be accompanied by a certified copy of
19 an order granting recognition. The court where the peti-
20 tion for recognition has been filed must be advised of the
21 foreign representative’s intent to commence a case under
22 subsection (a) prior to such commencement.



1 **“§ 1512. Participation of a foreign representative in a**
2 **case under this title**

3 “Upon recognition of a foreign proceeding, the for-
4 eign representative in the recognized proceeding is entitled
5 to participate as a party in interest in a case regarding
6 the debtor under this title.

7 **“§ 1513. Access of foreign creditors to a case under**
8 **this title**

9 “(a) Foreign creditors have the same rights regarding
10 the commencement of, and participation in, a case under
11 this title as domestic creditors.

12 “(b)(1) Subsection (a) does not change or codify
13 present law as to the priority of claims under section 507
14 or 726, except that the claim of a foreign creditor under
15 those sections shall not be given a lower priority than that
16 of general unsecured claims without priority solely because
17 the holder of such claim is a foreign creditor.

18 “(2)(A) Subsection (a) and paragraph (1) do not
19 change or codify present law as to the allowability of for-
20 eign revenue claims or other foreign public law claims in
21 a proceeding under this title.

22 “(B) Allowance and priority as to a foreign tax claim
23 or other foreign public law claim shall be governed by any
24 applicable tax treaty of the United States, under the con-
25 ditions and circumstances specified therein.



1 **“§ 1514. Notification to foreign creditors concerning a**
2 **case under this title**

3 “(a) Whenever in a case under this title notice is to
4 be given to creditors generally or to any class or category
5 of creditors, such notice shall also be given to the known
6 creditors generally, or to creditors in the notified class or
7 category, that do not have addresses in the United States.
8 The court may order that appropriate steps be taken with
9 a view to notifying any creditor whose address is not yet
10 known.

11 “(b) Such notification to creditors with foreign ad-
12 dresses described in subsection (a) shall be given individ-
13 ually, unless the court considers that, under the cir-
14 cumstances, some other form of notification would be
15 more appropriate. No letter or other formality is required.

16 “(c) When a notification of commencement of a case
17 is to be given to foreign creditors, such notification shall—

18 “(1) indicate the time period for filing proofs of
19 claim and specify the place for filing such proofs of
20 claim;

21 “(2) indicate whether secured creditors need to
22 file proofs of claim; and

23 “(3) contain any other information required to
24 be included in such notification to creditors under
25 this title and the orders of the court.



1 “(d) Any rule of procedure or order of the court as
2 to notice or the filing of a proof of claim shall provide
3 such additional time to creditors with foreign addresses
4 as is reasonable under the circumstances.

5 “SUBCHAPTER III—RECOGNITION OF A
6 FOREIGN PROCEEDING AND RELIEF

7 “§ 1515. **Application for recognition**

8 “(a) A foreign representative applies to the court for
9 recognition of a foreign proceeding in which the foreign
10 representative has been appointed by filing a petition for
11 recognition.

12 “(b) A petition for recognition shall be accompanied
13 by—

14 “(1) a certified copy of the decision com-
15 mencing such foreign proceeding and appointing the
16 foreign representative;

17 “(2) a certificate from the foreign court affirm-
18 ing the existence of such foreign proceeding and of
19 the appointment of the foreign representative; or

20 “(3) in the absence of evidence referred to in
21 paragraphs (1) and (2), any other evidence accept-
22 able to the court of the existence of such foreign
23 proceeding and of the appointment of the foreign
24 representative.



1 “(c) A petition for recognition shall also be accom-
2 panied by a statement identifying all foreign proceedings
3 with respect to the debtor that are known to the foreign
4 representative.

5 “(d) The documents referred to in paragraphs (1)
6 and (2) of subsection (b) shall be translated into English.
7 The court may require a translation into English of addi-
8 tional documents.

9 **“§ 1516. Presumptions concerning recognition**

10 “(a) If the decision or certificate referred to in section
11 1515(b) indicates that the foreign proceeding is a foreign
12 proceeding and that the person or body is a foreign rep-
13 resentative, the court is entitled to so presume.

14 “(b) The court is entitled to presume that documents
15 submitted in support of the petition for recognition are
16 authentic, whether or not they have been legalized.

17 “(c) In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the
18 debtor’s registered office, or habitual residence in the case
19 of an individual, is presumed to be the center of the debt-
20 or’s main interests.

21 **“§ 1517. Order granting recognition**

22 “(a) Subject to section 1506, after notice and a hear-
23 ing, an order recognizing a foreign proceeding shall be en-
24 tered if—



1 “(1) such foreign proceeding for which recogni-
2 tion is sought is a foreign main proceeding or for-
3 foreign nonmain proceeding within the meaning of sec-
4 tion 1502;

5 “(2) the foreign representative applying for rec-
6 ognition is a person or body; and

7 “(3) the petition meets the requirements of sec-
8 tion 1515.

9 “(b) Such foreign proceeding shall be recognized—

10 “(1) as a foreign main proceeding if it is pend-
11 ing in the country where the debtor has the center
12 of its main interests; or

13 “(2) as a foreign nonmain proceeding if the
14 debtor has an establishment within the meaning of
15 section 1502 in the foreign country where the pro-
16 ceeding is pending.

17 “(c) A petition for recognition of a foreign proceeding
18 shall be decided upon at the earliest possible time. Entry
19 of an order recognizing a foreign proceeding constitutes
20 recognition under this chapter.

21 “(d) The provisions of this subchapter do not prevent
22 modification or termination of recognition if it is shown
23 that the grounds for granting it were fully or partially
24 lacking or have ceased to exist, but in considering such
25 action the court shall give due weight to possible prejudice



1 to parties that have relied upon the order granting rec-
2 ognition. A case under this chapter may be closed in the
3 manner prescribed under section 350.

4 **“§ 1518. Subsequent information**

5 “From the time of filing the petition for recognition
6 of a foreign proceeding, the foreign representative shall
7 file with the court promptly a notice of change of status
8 concerning—

9 “(1) any substantial change in the status of
10 such foreign proceeding or the status of the foreign
11 representative’s appointment; and

12 “(2) any other foreign proceeding regarding the
13 debtor that becomes known to the foreign represent-
14 ative.

15 **“§ 1519. Relief that may be granted upon filing peti-
16 tion for recognition**

17 “(a) From the time of filing a petition for recognition
18 until the court rules on the petition, the court may, at
19 the request of the foreign representative, where relief is
20 urgently needed to protect the assets of the debtor or the
21 interests of the creditors, grant relief of a provisional na-
22 ture, including—

23 “(1) staying execution against the debtor’s as-
24 sets;



1 “(2) entrusting the administration or realiza-
2 tion of all or part of the debtor’s assets located in
3 the United States to the foreign representative or
4 another person authorized by the court, including an
5 examiner, in order to protect and preserve the value
6 of assets that, by their nature or because of other
7 circumstances, are perishable, susceptible to devalu-
8 ation or otherwise in jeopardy; and

9 “(3) any relief referred to in paragraph (3),
10 (4), or (7) of section 1521(a).

11 “(b) Unless extended under section 1521(a)(6), the
12 relief granted under this section terminates when the peti-
13 tion for recognition is granted.

14 “(c) It is a ground for denial of relief under this sec-
15 tion that such relief would interfere with the administra-
16 tion of a foreign main proceeding.

17 “(d) The court may not enjoin a police or regulatory
18 act of a governmental unit, including a criminal action or
19 proceeding, under this section.

20 “(e) The standards, procedures, and limitations ap-
21 plicable to an injunction shall apply to relief under this
22 section.

23 “(f) The exercise of rights not subject to the stay
24 arising under section 362(a) pursuant to paragraph (6),
25 (7), (17), or (27) of section 362(b) or pursuant to section



1 362(n) shall not be stayed by any order of a court or ad-
2 ministrative agency in any proceeding under this chapter.

3 **“§ 1520. Effects of recognition of a foreign main pro-**
4 **ceeding**

5 “(a) Upon recognition of a foreign proceeding that
6 is a foreign main proceeding—

7 “(1) sections 361 and 362 apply with respect to
8 the debtor and the property of the debtor that is
9 within the territorial jurisdiction of the United
10 States;

11 “(2) sections 363, 549, and 552 apply to a
12 transfer of an interest of the debtor in property that
13 is within the territorial jurisdiction of the United
14 States to the same extent that the sections would
15 apply to property of an estate;

16 “(3) unless the court orders otherwise, the for-
17 eign representative may operate the debtor’s busi-
18 ness and may exercise the rights and powers of a
19 trustee under and to the extent provided by sections
20 363 and 552; and

21 “(4) section 552 applies to property of the debt-
22 or that is within the territorial jurisdiction of the
23 United States.

24 “(b) Subsection (a) does not affect the right to com-
25 mence an individual action or proceeding in a foreign



1 country to the extent necessary to preserve a claim against
2 the debtor.

3 “(c) Subsection (a) does not affect the right of a for-
4 eign representative or an entity to file a petition com-
5 mencing a case under this title or the right of any party
6 to file claims or take other proper actions in such a case.

7 **“§ 1521. Relief that may be granted upon recognition**

8 “(a) Upon recognition of a foreign proceeding, wheth-
9 er main or nonmain, where necessary to effectuate the
10 purpose of this chapter and to protect the assets of the
11 debtor or the interests of the creditors, the court may, at
12 the request of the foreign representative, grant any appro-
13 priate relief, including—

14 “(1) staying the commencement or continuation
15 of an individual action or proceeding concerning the
16 debtor’s assets, rights, obligations or liabilities to the
17 extent they have not been stayed under section
18 1520(a);

19 “(2) staying execution against the debtor’s as-
20 sets to the extent it has not been stayed under sec-
21 tion 1520(a);

22 “(3) suspending the right to transfer, encumber
23 or otherwise dispose of any assets of the debtor to
24 the extent this right has not been suspended under
25 section 1520(a);



1 “(4) providing for the examination of witnesses,
2 the taking of evidence or the delivery of information
3 concerning the debtor’s assets, affairs, rights, obliga-
4 tions or liabilities;

5 “(5) entrusting the administration or realiza-
6 tion of all or part of the debtor’s assets within the
7 territorial jurisdiction of the United States to the
8 foreign representative or another person, including
9 an examiner, authorized by the court;

10 “(6) extending relief granted under section
11 1519(a); and

12 “(7) granting any additional relief that may be
13 available to a trustee, except for relief available
14 under sections 522, 544, 545, 547, 548, 550, and
15 724(a).

16 “(b) Upon recognition of a foreign proceeding, wheth-
17 er main or nonmain, the court may, at the request of the
18 foreign representative, entrust the distribution of all or
19 part of the debtor’s assets located in the United States
20 to the foreign representative or another person, including
21 an examiner, authorized by the court, provided that the
22 court is satisfied that the interests of creditors in the
23 United States are sufficiently protected.

24 “(c) In granting relief under this section to a rep-
25 resentative of a foreign nonmain proceeding, the court



1 must be satisfied that the relief relates to assets that,
2 under the law of the United States, should be adminis-
3 tered in the foreign nonmain proceeding or concerns infor-
4 mation required in that proceeding.

5 “(d) The court may not enjoin a police or regulatory
6 act of a governmental unit, including a criminal action or
7 proceeding, under this section.

8 “(e) The standards, procedures, and limitations ap-
9 plicable to an injunction shall apply to relief under para-
10 graphs (1), (2), (3), and (6) of subsection (a).

11 “(f) The exercise of rights not subject to the stay
12 arising under section 362(a) pursuant to paragraph (6),
13 (7), (17), or (27) of section 362(b) or pursuant to section
14 362(n) shall not be stayed by any order of a court or ad-
15 ministrative agency in any proceeding under this chapter.

16 **“§ 1522. Protection of creditors and other interested**
17 **persons**

18 “(a) The court may grant relief under section 1519
19 or 1521, or may modify or terminate relief under sub-
20 section (c), only if the interests of the creditors and other
21 interested entities, including the debtor, are sufficiently
22 protected.

23 “(b) The court may subject relief granted under sec-
24 tion 1519 or 1521, or the operation of the debtor’s busi-
25 ness under section 1520(a)(3), to conditions it considers



1 appropriate, including the giving of security or the filing
2 of a bond.

3 “(c) The court may, at the request of the foreign rep-
4 resentative or an entity affected by relief granted under
5 section 1519 or 1521, or at its own motion, modify or
6 terminate such relief.

7 “(d) Section 1104(d) shall apply to the appointment
8 of an examiner under this chapter. Any examiner shall
9 comply with the qualification requirements imposed on a
10 trustee by section 322.

11 **“§ 1523. Actions to avoid acts detrimental to creditors**

12 “(a) Upon recognition of a foreign proceeding, the
13 foreign representative has standing in a case concerning
14 the debtor pending under another chapter of this title to
15 initiate actions under sections 522, 544, 545, 547, 548,
16 550, 553, and 724(a).

17 “(b) When a foreign proceeding is a foreign nonmain
18 proceeding, the court must be satisfied that an action
19 under subsection (a) relates to assets that, under United
20 States law, should be administered in the foreign nonmain
21 proceeding.

22 **“§ 1524. Intervention by a foreign representative**

23 “Upon recognition of a foreign proceeding, the for-
24 eign representative may intervene in any proceedings in



1 a State or Federal court in the United States in which
2 the debtor is a party.

3 “SUBCHAPTER IV—COOPERATION WITH FOR-
4 EIGN COURTS AND FOREIGN REPRESENTA-
5 TIVES

6 “§ 1525. Cooperation and direct communication be-
7 tween the court and foreign courts or for-
8 eign representatives

9 “(a) Consistent with section 1501, the court shall co-
10 operate to the maximum extent possible with a foreign
11 court or a foreign representative, either directly or
12 through the trustee.

13 “(b) The court is entitled to communicate directly
14 with, or to request information or assistance directly from,
15 a foreign court or a foreign representative, subject to the
16 rights of a party in interest to notice and participation.

17 “§ 1526. Cooperation and direct communication be-
18 tween the trustee and foreign courts or
19 foreign representatives

20 “(a) Consistent with section 1501, the trustee or
21 other person, including an examiner, authorized by the
22 court, shall, subject to the supervision of the court, cooper-
23 ate to the maximum extent possible with a foreign court
24 or a foreign representative.



1 “(b) The trustee or other person, including an exam-
2 iner, authorized by the court is entitled, subject to the su-
3 pervision of the court, to communicate directly with a for-
4 eign court or a foreign representative.

5 **“§ 1527. Forms of cooperation**

6 “Cooperation referred to in sections 1525 and 1526
7 may be implemented by any appropriate means,
8 including—

9 “(1) appointment of a person or body, including
10 an examiner, to act at the direction of the court;

11 “(2) communication of information by any
12 means considered appropriate by the court;

13 “(3) coordination of the administration and su-
14 pervision of the debtor’s assets and affairs;

15 “(4) approval or implementation of agreements
16 concerning the coordination of proceedings; and

17 “(5) coordination of concurrent proceedings re-
18 garding the same debtor.

19 **“SUBCHAPTER V—CONCURRENT PROCEEDINGS**

20 **“§ 1528. Commencement of a case under this title**

21 **after recognition of a foreign main pro-**

22 **ceeding**

23 “After recognition of a foreign main proceeding, a
24 case under another chapter of this title may be commenced
25 only if the debtor has assets in the United States. The



1 effects of such case shall be restricted to the assets of the
2 debtor that are within the territorial jurisdiction of the
3 United States and, to the extent necessary to implement
4 cooperation and coordination under sections 1525, 1526,
5 and 1527, to other assets of the debtor that are within
6 the jurisdiction of the court under sections 541(a) of this
7 title, and 1334(e) of title 28, to the extent that such other
8 assets are not subject to the jurisdiction and control of
9 a foreign proceeding that has been recognized under this
10 chapter.

11 **“§ 1529. Coordination of a case under this title and a**
12 **foreign proceeding**

13 “If a foreign proceeding and a case under another
14 chapter of this title are pending concurrently regarding
15 the same debtor, the court shall seek cooperation and co-
16 ordination under sections 1525, 1526, and 1527, and the
17 following shall apply:

18 “(1) If the case in the United States pending
19 at the time the petition for recognition of such for-
20 eign proceeding is filed—

21 “(A) any relief granted under section 1519
22 or 1521 must be consistent with the relief
23 granted in the case in the United States; and



1 “(B) section 1520 does not apply even if
2 such foreign proceeding is recognized as a for-
3 eign main proceeding.

4 “(2) If a case in the United States under this
5 title commences after recognition, or after the date
6 of the filing of the petition for recognition, of such
7 foreign proceeding—

8 “(A) any relief in effect under section
9 1519 or 1521 shall be reviewed by the court
10 and shall be modified or terminated if incon-
11 sistent with the case in the United States; and

12 “(B) if such foreign proceeding is a foreign
13 main proceeding, the stay and suspension re-
14 ferred to in section 1520(a) shall be modified or
15 terminated if inconsistent with the relief grant-
16 ed in the case in the United States.

17 “(3) In granting, extending, or modifying relief
18 granted to a representative of a foreign nonmain
19 proceeding, the court must be satisfied that the re-
20 lief relates to assets that, under the laws of the
21 United States, should be administered in the foreign
22 nonmain proceeding or concerns information re-
23 quired in that proceeding.



1 “(4) In achieving cooperation and coordination
2 under sections 1528 and 1529, the court may grant
3 any of the relief authorized under section 305.

4 **“§ 1530. Coordination of more than 1 foreign pro-**
5 **ceeding**

6 “In matters referred to in section 1501, with respect
7 to more than 1 foreign proceeding regarding the debtor,
8 the court shall seek cooperation and coordination under
9 sections 1525, 1526, and 1527, and the following shall
10 apply:

11 “(1) Any relief granted under section 1519 or
12 1521 to a representative of a foreign nonmain pro-
13 ceeding after recognition of a foreign main pro-
14 ceeding must be consistent with the foreign main
15 proceeding.

16 “(2) If a foreign main proceeding is recognized
17 after recognition, or after the filing of a petition for
18 recognition, of a foreign nonmain proceeding, any
19 relief in effect under section 1519 or 1521 shall be
20 reviewed by the court and shall be modified or termi-
21 nated if inconsistent with the foreign main pro-
22 ceeding.

23 “(3) If, after recognition of a foreign nonmain
24 proceeding, another foreign nonmain proceeding is
25 recognized, the court shall grant, modify, or termi-



1 nate relief for the purpose of facilitating coordina-
2 tion of the proceedings.

3 **“§ 1531. Presumption of insolvency based on recogni-
4 tion of a foreign main proceeding**

5 “In the absence of evidence to the contrary, recogni-
6 tion of a foreign main proceeding is, for the purpose of
7 commencing a proceeding under section 303, proof that
8 the debtor is generally not paying its debts as such debts
9 become due.

10 **“§ 1532. Rule of payment in concurrent proceedings**

11 “Without prejudice to secured claims or rights in
12 rem, a creditor who has received payment with respect to
13 its claim in a foreign proceeding pursuant to a law relating
14 to insolvency may not receive a payment for the same
15 claim in a case under any other chapter of this title re-
16 garding the debtor, so long as the payment to other credi-
17 tors of the same class is proportionately less than the pay-
18 ment the creditor has already received.”.

19 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters
20 for title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting
21 after the item relating to chapter 13 the following:

“15. Ancillary and Other Cross-Border Cases 1501”.

22 **SEC. 802. OTHER AMENDMENTS TO TITLES 11 AND 28,
23 UNITED STATES CODE.**

24 (a) APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTERS.—Section 103 of
25 title 11, United States Code, is amended—



1 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting before the pe-
2 riod the following: “, and this chapter, sections 307,
3 362(n), 555 through 557, and 559 through 562
4 apply in a case under chapter 15”; and

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

6 “(k) Chapter 15 applies only in a case under such
7 chapter, except that—

8 “(1) sections 1505, 1513, and 1514 apply in all
9 cases under this title; and

10 “(2) section 1509 applies whether or not a case
11 under this title is pending.”.

12 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 101 of title 11, United
13 States Code, is amended by striking paragraphs (23) and
14 (24) and inserting the following:

15 “(23) ‘foreign proceeding’ means a collective ju-
16 dicial or administrative proceeding in a foreign coun-
17 try, including an interim proceeding, under a law re-
18 lating to insolvency or adjustment of debt in which
19 proceeding the assets and affairs of the debtor are
20 subject to control or supervision by a foreign court,
21 for the purpose of reorganization or liquidation;

22 “(24) ‘foreign representative’ means a person
23 or body, including a person or body appointed on an
24 interim basis, authorized in a foreign proceeding to
25 administer the reorganization or the liquidation of



1 the debtor's assets or affairs or to act as a rep-
2 resentative of such foreign proceeding;”.

3 (c) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 28, UNITED STATES
4 CODE.—

5 (1) PROCEDURES.—Section 157(b)(2) of title
6 28, United States Code, is amended—

7 (A) in subparagraph (N), by striking
8 “and” at the end;

9 (B) in subparagraph (O), by striking the
10 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

11 (C) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(P) recognition of foreign proceedings and
13 other matters under chapter 15 of title 11.”.

14 (2) BANKRUPTCY CASES AND PROCEEDINGS.—
15 Section 1334(c) of title 28, United States Code, is
16 amended by striking “Nothing in” and inserting
17 “Except with respect to a case under chapter 15 of
18 title 11, nothing in”.

19 (3) DUTIES OF TRUSTEES.—Section 586(a)(3)
20 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by strik-
21 ing “or 13” and inserting “13, or 15”.

22 (4) VENUE OF CASES ANCILLARY TO FOREIGN
23 PROCEEDINGS.—Section 1410 of title 28, United
24 States Code, is amended to read as follows:



1 **“§ 1410. Venue of cases ancillary to foreign pro-**
2 **ceedings**

3 “A case under chapter 15 of title 11 may be com-
4 menced in the district court of the United States for the
5 district—

6 “(1) in which the debtor has its principal place
7 of business or principal assets in the United States;

8 “(2) if the debtor does not have a place of busi-
9 ness or assets in the United States, in which there
10 is pending against the debtor an action or pro-
11 ceeding in a Federal or State court; or

12 “(3) in a case other than those specified in
13 paragraph (1) or (2), in which venue will be con-
14 sistent with the interests of justice and the conven-
15 ience of the parties, having regard to the relief
16 sought by the foreign representative.”.

17 (d) OTHER SECTIONS OF TITLE 11.—Title 11 of the
18 United States Code is amended—

19 (1) in section 109(b), by striking paragraph (3)
20 and inserting the following:

21 “(3)(A) a foreign insurance company, engaged
22 in such business in the United States; or

23 “(B) a foreign bank, savings bank, cooperative
24 bank, savings and loan association, building and
25 loan association, or credit union, that has a branch
26 or agency (as defined in section 1(b) of the Inter-



1 national Banking Act of 1978 in the United
2 States.”;

3 (2) in section 303, by striking subsection (k);

4 (3) by striking section 304;

5 (4) in the table of sections for chapter 3 by
6 striking the item relating to section 304;

7 (5) in section 306 by striking “, 304,” each
8 place it appears;

9 (6) in section 305(a) by striking paragraph (2)
10 and inserting the following:

11 “(2)(A) a petition under section 1515 for rec-
12 ognition of a foreign proceeding has been granted;
13 and

14 “(B) the purposes of chapter 15 of this title
15 would be best served by such dismissal or suspen-
16 sion.”; and

17 (7) in section 508—

18 (A) by striking subsection (a); and

19 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “(b)”.



1 **TITLE IX—FINANCIAL**
 2 **CONTRACT PROVISIONS**

3 **SEC. 901. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN AGREEMENTS BY CON-**
 4 **SERVATORS OR RECEIVERS OF INSURED DE-**
 5 **POSITORY INSTITUTIONS.**

6 (a) DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED FINANCIAL CON-
 7 TRACT.—Section 11(e)(8)(D) of the Federal Deposit In-
 8 surance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(8)(D)) is amended—

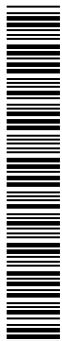
9 (1) by striking “subsection—” and inserting
 10 “subsection, the following definitions shall apply:”;
 11 and

12 (2) in clause (i), by inserting “, resolution, or
 13 order” after “any similar agreement that the Cor-
 14 poration determines by regulation”.

15 (b) DEFINITION OF SECURITIES CONTRACT.—Sec-
 16 tion 11(e)(8)(D)(ii) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act
 17 (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(8)(D)(ii)) is amended to read as fol-
 18 lows:

19 “(ii) SECURITIES CONTRACT.—The
 20 term ‘securities contract’—

21 “(I) means a contract for the
 22 purchase, sale, or loan of a security, a
 23 certificate of deposit, a mortgage loan,
 24 or any interest in a mortgage loan, a
 25 group or index of securities, certifi-



1 cates of deposit, or mortgage loans or
2 interests therein (including any inter-
3 est therein or based on the value
4 thereof) or any option on any of the
5 foregoing, including any option to
6 purchase or sell any such security,
7 certificate of deposit, mortgage loan,
8 interest, group or index, or option,
9 and including any repurchase or re-
10 verse repurchase transaction on any
11 such security, certificate of deposit,
12 mortgage loan, interest, group or
13 index, or option;

14 “(II) does not include any pur-
15 chase, sale, or repurchase obligation
16 under a participation in a commercial
17 mortgage loan unless the Corporation
18 determines by regulation, resolution,
19 or order to include any such agree-
20 ment within the meaning of such
21 term;

22 “(III) means any option entered
23 into on a national securities exchange
24 relating to foreign currencies;



1 “(IV) means the guarantee by or
2 to any securities clearing agency of
3 any settlement of cash, securities, cer-
4 tificates of deposit, mortgage loans or
5 interests therein, group or index of se-
6 curities, certificates of deposit, or
7 mortgage loans or interests therein
8 (including any interest therein or
9 based on the value thereof) or option
10 on any of the foregoing, including any
11 option to purchase or sell any such se-
12 curity, certificate of deposit, mortgage
13 loan, interest, group or index, or op-
14 tion;

15 “(V) means any margin loan;

16 “(VI) means any other agree-
17 ment or transaction that is similar to
18 any agreement or transaction referred
19 to in this clause;

20 “(VII) means any combination of
21 the agreements or transactions re-
22 ferred to in this clause;

23 “(VIII) means any option to
24 enter into any agreement or trans-
25 action referred to in this clause;



1 “(IX) means a master agreement
2 that provides for an agreement or
3 transaction referred to in subclause
4 (I), (III), (IV), (V), (VI), (VII), or
5 (VIII), together with all supplements
6 to any such master agreement, with-
7 out regard to whether the master
8 agreement provides for an agreement
9 or transaction that is not a securities
10 contract under this clause, except that
11 the master agreement shall be consid-
12 ered to be a securities contract under
13 this clause only with respect to each
14 agreement or transaction under the
15 master agreement that is referred to
16 in subclause (I), (III), (IV), (V), (VI),
17 (VII), or (VIII); and

18 “(X) means any security agree-
19 ment or arrangement or other credit
20 enhancement related to any agree-
21 ment or transaction referred to in this
22 clause, including any guarantee or re-
23 imbursement obligation in connection
24 with any agreement or transaction re-
25 ferred to in this clause.”.



1 (c) DEFINITION OF COMMODITY CONTRACT.—Sec-
2 tion 11(e)(8)(D)(iii) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act
3 (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(8)(D)(iii)) is amended to read as fol-
4 lows:

5 “(iii) COMMODITY CONTRACT.—The
6 term ‘commodity contract’ means—

7 “(I) with respect to a futures
8 commission merchant, a contract for
9 the purchase or sale of a commodity
10 for future delivery on, or subject to
11 the rules of, a contract market or
12 board of trade;

13 “(II) with respect to a foreign fu-
14 tures commission merchant, a foreign
15 future;

16 “(III) with respect to a leverage
17 transaction merchant, a leverage
18 transaction;

19 “(IV) with respect to a clearing
20 organization, a contract for the pur-
21 chase or sale of a commodity for fu-
22 ture delivery on, or subject to the
23 rules of, a contract market or board
24 of trade that is cleared by such clear-
25 ing organization, or commodity option



1 traded on, or subject to the rules of,
2 a contract market or board of trade
3 that is cleared by such clearing orga-
4 nization;

5 “(V) with respect to a commodity
6 options dealer, a commodity option;

7 “(VI) any other agreement or
8 transaction that is similar to any
9 agreement or transaction referred to
10 in this clause;

11 “(VII) any combination of the
12 agreements or transactions referred to
13 in this clause;

14 “(VIII) any option to enter into
15 any agreement or transaction referred
16 to in this clause;

17 “(IX) a master agreement that
18 provides for an agreement or trans-
19 action referred to in subclause (I),
20 (II), (III), (IV), (V), (VI), (VII), or
21 (VIII), together with all supplements
22 to any such master agreement, with-
23 out regard to whether the master
24 agreement provides for an agreement
25 or transaction that is not a com-



1 commodity contract under this clause, ex-
 2 cept that the master agreement shall
 3 be considered to be a commodity con-
 4 tract under this clause only with re-
 5 spect to each agreement or trans-
 6 action under the master agreement
 7 that is referred to in subclause (I),
 8 (II), (III), (IV), (V), (VI), (VII), or
 9 (VIII); or

10 “(X) any security agreement or
 11 arrangement or other credit enhance-
 12 ment related to any agreement or
 13 transaction referred to in this clause,
 14 including any guarantee or reimburse-
 15 ment obligation in connection with
 16 any agreement or transaction referred
 17 to in this clause.”.

18 (d) DEFINITION OF FORWARD CONTRACT.—Section
 19 11(e)(8)(D)(iv) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12
 20 U.S.C. 1821(e)(8)(D)(iv)) is amended to read as follows:

21 “(iv) FORWARD CONTRACT.—The
 22 term ‘forward contract’ means—

23 “(I) a contract (other than a
 24 commodity contract) for the purchase,
 25 sale, or transfer of a commodity or



1 any similar good, article, service,
2 right, or interest which is presently or
3 in the future becomes the subject of
4 dealing in the forward contract trade,
5 or product or byproduct thereof, with
6 a maturity date more than 2 days
7 after the date the contract is entered
8 into, including, a repurchase trans-
9 action, reverse repurchase transaction,
10 consignment, lease, swap, hedge
11 transaction, deposit, loan, option, allo-
12 cated transaction, unallocated trans-
13 action, or any other similar agree-
14 ment;

15 “(II) any combination of agree-
16 ments or transactions referred to in
17 subclauses (I) and (III);

18 “(III) any option to enter into
19 any agreement or transaction referred
20 to in subclause (I) or (II);

21 “(IV) a master agreement that
22 provides for an agreement or trans-
23 action referred to in subclauses (I),
24 (II), or (III), together with all supple-
25 ments to any such master agreement,



1 without regard to whether the master
2 agreement provides for an agreement
3 or transaction that is not a forward
4 contract under this clause, except that
5 the master agreement shall be consid-
6 ered to be a forward contract under
7 this clause only with respect to each
8 agreement or transaction under the
9 master agreement that is referred to
10 in subclause (I), (II), or (III); or

11 “(V) any security agreement or
12 arrangement or other credit enhance-
13 ment related to any agreement or
14 transaction referred to in subclause
15 (I), (II), (III), or (IV), including any
16 guarantee or reimbursement obliga-
17 tion in connection with any agreement
18 or transaction referred to in any such
19 subclause.”.

20 (e) DEFINITION OF REPURCHASE AGREEMENT.—
21 Section 11(e)(8)(D)(v) of the Federal Deposit Insurance
22 Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(8)(D)(v)) is amended to read as
23 follows:

24 “(v) REPURCHASE AGREEMENT.—The
25 term ‘repurchase agreement’ (which defini-



1 tion also applies to a reverse repurchase
2 agreement)—

3 “(I) means an agreement, includ-
4 ing related terms, which provides for
5 the transfer of one or more certifi-
6 cates of deposit, mortgage-related se-
7 curities (as such term is defined in
8 the Securities Exchange Act of 1934),
9 mortgage loans, interests in mortgage-
10 related securities or mortgage loans,
11 eligible bankers’ acceptances, qualified
12 foreign government securities or secu-
13 rities that are direct obligations of, or
14 that are fully guaranteed by, the
15 United States or any agency of the
16 United States against the transfer of
17 funds by the transferee of such certifi-
18 cates of deposit, eligible bankers’ ac-
19 ceptances, securities, mortgage loans,
20 or interests with a simultaneous
21 agreement by such transferee to
22 transfer to the transferor thereof cer-
23 tificates of deposit, eligible bankers’
24 acceptances, securities, mortgage
25 loans, or interests as described above,



1 at a date certain not later than 1 year
2 after such transfers or on demand,
3 against the transfer of funds, or any
4 other similar agreement;

5 “(II) does not include any repur-
6 chase obligation under a participation
7 in a commercial mortgage loan unless
8 the Corporation determines by regula-
9 tion, resolution, or order to include
10 any such participation within the
11 meaning of such term;

12 “(III) means any combination of
13 agreements or transactions referred to
14 in subclauses (I) and (IV);

15 “(IV) means any option to enter
16 into any agreement or transaction re-
17 ferred to in subclause (I) or (III);

18 “(V) means a master agreement
19 that provides for an agreement or
20 transaction referred to in subclause
21 (I), (III), or (IV), together with all
22 supplements to any such master
23 agreement, without regard to whether
24 the master agreement provides for an
25 agreement or transaction that is not a



1 repurchase agreement under this
2 clause, except that the master agree-
3 ment shall be considered to be a re-
4 purchase agreement under this sub-
5 clause only with respect to each agree-
6 ment or transaction under the master
7 agreement that is referred to in sub-
8 clause (I), (III), or (IV); and

9 “(VI) means any security agree-
10 ment or arrangement or other credit
11 enhancement related to any agree-
12 ment or transaction referred to in
13 subclause (I), (III), (IV), or (V), in-
14 cluding any guarantee or reimburse-
15 ment obligation in connection with
16 any agreement or transaction referred
17 to in any such subclause.

18 For purposes of this clause, the term
19 ‘qualified foreign government security’
20 means a security that is a direct obligation
21 of, or that is fully guaranteed by, the cen-
22 tral government of a member of the Orga-
23 nization for Economic Cooperation and
24 Development (as determined by regulation



1 or order adopted by the appropriate Fed-
2 eral banking authority).”.

3 (f) DEFINITION OF SWAP AGREEMENT.—Section
4 11(e)(8)(D)(vi) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12
5 U.S.C. 1821(e)(8)(D)(vi)) is amended to read as follows:

6 “(vi) SWAP AGREEMENT.—The term
7 ‘swap agreement’ means—

8 “(I) any agreement, including the
9 terms and conditions incorporated by
10 reference in any such agreement,
11 which is an interest rate swap, option,
12 future, or forward agreement, includ-
13 ing a rate floor, rate cap, rate collar,
14 cross-currency rate swap, and basis
15 swap; a spot, same day-tomorrow, to-
16 morrow-next, forward, or other for-
17 eign exchange or precious metals
18 agreement; a currency swap, option,
19 future, or forward agreement; an eq-
20 uity index or equity swap, option, fu-
21 ture, or forward agreement; a debt
22 index or debt swap, option, future, or
23 forward agreement; a total return,
24 credit spread or credit swap, option,
25 future, or forward agreement; a com-



1 commodity index or commodity swap, op-
2 tion, future, or forward agreement; or
3 a weather swap, weather derivative, or
4 weather option;

5 “(II) any agreement or trans-
6 action that is similar to any other
7 agreement or transaction referred to
8 in this clause and that is of a type
9 that has been, is presently, or in the
10 future becomes, the subject of recur-
11 rent dealings in the swap markets (in-
12 cluding terms and conditions incor-
13 porated by reference in such agree-
14 ment) and that is a forward, swap, fu-
15 ture, or option on one or more rates,
16 currencies, commodities, equity securi-
17 ties or other equity instruments, debt
18 securities or other debt instruments,
19 quantitative measures associated with
20 an occurrence, extent of an occur-
21 rence, or contingency associated with
22 a financial, commercial, or economic
23 consequence, or economic or financial
24 indices or measures of economic or fi-
25 nancial risk or value;

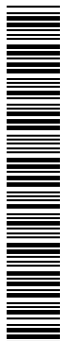


1 “(III) any combination of agree-
2 ments or transactions referred to in
3 this clause;

4 “(IV) any option to enter into
5 any agreement or transaction referred
6 to in this clause;

7 “(V) a master agreement that
8 provides for an agreement or trans-
9 action referred to in subclause (I),
10 (II), (III), or (IV), together with all
11 supplements to any such master
12 agreement, without regard to whether
13 the master agreement contains an
14 agreement or transaction that is not a
15 swap agreement under this clause, ex-
16 cept that the master agreement shall
17 be considered to be a swap agreement
18 under this clause only with respect to
19 each agreement or transaction under
20 the master agreement that is referred
21 to in subclause (I), (II), (III), or (IV);
22 and

23 “(VI) any security agreement or
24 arrangement or other credit enhance-
25 ment related to any agreements or



1 transactions referred to in subclause
2 (I), (II), (III), (IV), or (V), including
3 any guarantee or reimbursement obli-
4 gation in connection with any agree-
5 ment or transaction referred to in any
6 such subclause.

7 Such term is applicable for purposes of
8 this subsection only and shall not be con-
9 strued or applied so as to challenge or af-
10 fect the characterization, definition, or
11 treatment of any swap agreement under
12 any other statute, regulation, or rule, in-
13 cluding the Securities Act of 1933, the Se-
14 curities Exchange Act of 1934, the Public
15 Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, the
16 Trust Indenture Act of 1939, the Invest-
17 ment Company Act of 1940, the Invest-
18 ment Advisers Act of 1940, the Securities
19 Investor Protection Act of 1970, the Com-
20 modity Exchange Act, the Gramm-Leach-
21 Bliley Act, and the Legal Certainty for
22 Bank Products Act of 2000.”

23 (g) DEFINITION OF TRANSFER.—Section
24 11(e)(8)(D)(viii) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12
25 U.S.C. 1821(e)(8)(D)(viii)) is amended to read as follows:



1 “(viii) TRANSFER.—The term ‘trans-
2 fer’ means every mode, direct or indirect,
3 absolute or conditional, voluntary or invol-
4 untary, of disposing of or parting with
5 property or with an interest in property,
6 including retention of title as a security in-
7 terest and foreclosure of the depository in-
8 stitution’s equity of redemption.”.

9 (h) TREATMENT OF QUALIFIED FINANCIAL CON-
10 TRACTS.—Section 11(e)(8) of the Federal Deposit Insur-
11 ance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(8)) is amended—

12 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

13 (A) by striking “paragraph (10)” and in-
14 serting “paragraphs (9) and (10)”;

15 (B) in clause (i), by striking “to cause the
16 termination or liquidation” and inserting “such
17 person has to cause the termination, liquida-
18 tion, or acceleration”; and

19 (C) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the
20 following:

21 “(ii) any right under any security
22 agreement or arrangement or other credit
23 enhancement related to one or more quali-
24 fied financial contracts described in clause
25 (i);” and



1 (2) in subparagraph (E), by striking clause (ii)
2 and inserting the following:

3 “(ii) any right under any security
4 agreement or arrangement or other credit
5 enhancement related to one or more quali-
6 fied financial contracts described in clause
7 (i);”.

8 (i) AVOIDANCE OF TRANSFERS.—Section
9 11(e)(8)(C)(i) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12
10 U.S.C. 1821(e)(8)(C)(i)) is amended by inserting “section
11 5242 of the Revised Statutes of the United States or any
12 other Federal or State law relating to the avoidance of
13 preferential or fraudulent transfers,” before “the Corpora-
14 tion”.

15 **SEC. 902. AUTHORITY OF THE CORPORATION WITH RE-**
16 **SPECT TO FAILED AND FAILING INSTITU-**
17 **TIONS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 11(e)(8) of the Federal
19 Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(8)) is
20 amended—

21 (1) in subparagraph (E), by striking “other
22 than paragraph (12) of this subsection, subsection
23 (d)(9)” and inserting “other than subsections (d)(9)
24 and (e)(10)”; and



1 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
2 paragraphs:

3 “(F) CLARIFICATION.—No provision of law
4 shall be construed as limiting the right or
5 power of the Corporation, or authorizing any
6 court or agency to limit or delay, in any man-
7 ner, the right or power of the Corporation to
8 transfer any qualified financial contract in ac-
9 cordance with paragraphs (9) and (10) of this
10 subsection or to disaffirm or repudiate any such
11 contract in accordance with subsection (e)(1) of
12 this section.

13 “(G) WALKAWAY CLAUSES NOT EFFEC-
14 TIVE.—

15 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
16 the provisions of subparagraphs (A) and
17 (E), and sections 403 and 404 of the Fed-
18 eral Deposit Insurance Corporation Im-
19 provement Act of 1991, no walkaway
20 clause shall be enforceable in a qualified fi-
21 nancial contract of an insured depository
22 institution in default.

23 “(ii) WALKAWAY CLAUSE DEFINED.—
24 For purposes of this subparagraph, the
25 term ‘walkaway clause’ means a provision



1 in a qualified financial contract that, after
2 calculation of a value of a party's position
3 or an amount due to or from 1 of the par-
4 ties in accordance with its terms upon ter-
5 mination, liquidation, or acceleration of the
6 qualified financial contract, either does not
7 create a payment obligation of a party or
8 extinguishes a payment obligation of a
9 party in whole or in part solely because of
10 such party's status as a nondefaulting
11 party.”.

12 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
13 Section 11(e)(12)(A) of the Federal Deposit Insurance
14 Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(12)(A)) is amended by inserting
15 “or the exercise of rights or powers by” after “the ap-
16 pointment of”.

17 **SEC. 903. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TRANSFERS OF**
18 **QUALIFIED FINANCIAL CONTRACTS.**

19 (a) TRANSFERS OF QUALIFIED FINANCIAL CON-
20 TRACTS TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—Section 11(e)(9)
21 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C.
22 1821(e)(9)) is amended to read as follows:

23 “(9) TRANSFER OF QUALIFIED FINANCIAL CON-
24 TRACTS.—



1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In making any trans-
2 fer of assets or liabilities of a depository institu-
3 tion in default which includes any qualified fi-
4 nancial contract, the conservator or receiver for
5 such depository institution shall either—

6 “(i) transfer to one financial institu-
7 tion, other than a financial institution for
8 which a conservator, receiver, trustee in
9 bankruptcy, or other legal custodian has
10 been appointed or which is otherwise the
11 subject of a bankruptcy or insolvency
12 proceeding—

13 “(I) all qualified financial con-
14 tracts between any person or any af-
15 filiate of such person and the depository
16 institution in default;

17 “(II) all claims of such person or
18 any affiliate of such person against
19 such depository institution under any
20 such contract (other than any claim
21 which, under the terms of any such
22 contract, is subordinated to the claims
23 of general unsecured creditors of such
24 institution);



1 “(III) all claims of such deposi-
2 tory institution against such person or
3 any affiliate of such person under any
4 such contract; and

5 “(IV) all property securing or
6 any other credit enhancement for any
7 contract described in subclause (I) or
8 any claim described in subclause (II)
9 or (III) under any such contract; or

10 “(ii) transfer none of the qualified fi-
11 nancial contracts, claims, property or other
12 credit enhancement referred to in clause (i)
13 (with respect to such person and any affil-
14 iate of such person).

15 “(B) TRANSFER TO FOREIGN BANK, FOR-
16 EIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION, OR BRANCH OR
17 AGENCY OF A FOREIGN BANK OR FINANCIAL IN-
18 STITUTION.—In transferring any qualified fi-
19 nancial contracts and related claims and prop-
20 erty under subparagraph (A)(i), the conservator
21 or receiver for the depository institution shall
22 not make such transfer to a foreign bank, fi-
23 nancial institution organized under the laws of
24 a foreign country, or a branch or agency of a
25 foreign bank or financial institution unless,



1 under the law applicable to such bank, financial
2 institution, branch or agency, to the qualified
3 financial contracts, and to any netting contract,
4 any security agreement or arrangement or other
5 credit enhancement related to one or more
6 qualified financial contracts, the contractual
7 rights of the parties to such qualified financial
8 contracts, netting contracts, security agree-
9 ments or arrangements, or other credit en-
10 hancements are enforceable substantially to the
11 same extent as permitted under this section.

12 “(C) TRANSFER OF CONTRACTS SUBJECT
13 TO THE RULES OF A CLEARING ORGANIZA-
14 TION.—In the event that a conservator or re-
15 ceiver transfers any qualified financial contract
16 and related claims, property, and credit en-
17 hancements pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i)
18 and such contract is cleared by or subject to the
19 rules of a clearing organization, the clearing or-
20 ganization shall not be required to accept the
21 transferee as a member by virtue of the trans-
22 fer.

23 “(D) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this
24 paragraph, the term ‘financial institution’
25 means a broker or dealer, a depository institu-



1 tion, a futures commission merchant, or any
2 other institution, as determined by the Corpora-
3 tion by regulation to be a financial institution,
4 and the term ‘clearing organization’ has the
5 same meaning as in section 402 of the Federal
6 Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement
7 Act of 1991.’’.

8 (b) NOTICE TO QUALIFIED FINANCIAL CONTRACT
9 COUNTERPARTIES.—Section 11(e)(10)(A) of the Federal
10 Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(10)(A)) is
11 amended in the material immediately following clause (ii)
12 by striking “the conservator” and all that follows through
13 the period and inserting the following: “the conservator
14 or receiver shall notify any person who is a party to any
15 such contract of such transfer by 5:00 p.m. (eastern time)
16 on the business day following the date of the appointment
17 of the receiver in the case of a receivership, or the business
18 day following such transfer in the case of a conservator-
19 ship.’’.

20 (c) RIGHTS AGAINST RECEIVER AND TREATMENT OF
21 BRIDGE BANKS.—Section 11(e)(10) of the Federal De-
22 posit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(10)) is
23 amended—

24 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as sub-
25 paragraph (D); and



1 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-
2 lowing new subparagraphs:

3 “(B) CERTAIN RIGHTS NOT ENFORCE-
4 ABLE.—

5 “(i) RECEIVERSHIP.—A person who is
6 a party to a qualified financial contract
7 with an insured depository institution may
8 not exercise any right that such person has
9 to terminate, liquidate, or net such con-
10 tract under paragraph (8)(A) of this sub-
11 section or section 403 or 404 of the Fed-
12 eral Deposit Insurance Corporation Im-
13 provement Act of 1991, solely by reason of
14 or incidental to the appointment of a re-
15 ceiver for the depository institution (or the
16 insolvency or financial condition of the de-
17 pository institution for which the receiver
18 has been appointed)—

19 “(I) until 5:00 p.m. (eastern
20 time) on the business day following
21 the date of the appointment of the re-
22 ceiver; or

23 “(II) after the person has re-
24 ceived notice that the contract has



1 been transferred pursuant to para-
2 graph (9)(A).

3 “(ii) CONSERVATORSHIP.—A person
4 who is a party to a qualified financial con-
5 tract with an insured depository institution
6 may not exercise any right that such per-
7 son has to terminate, liquidate, or net such
8 contract under paragraph (8)(E) of this
9 subsection or section 403 or 404 of the
10 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
11 Improvement Act of 1991, solely by reason
12 of or incidental to the appointment of a
13 conservator for the depository institution
14 (or the insolvency or financial condition of
15 the depository institution for which the
16 conservator has been appointed).

17 “(iii) NOTICE.—For purposes of this
18 paragraph, the Corporation as receiver or
19 conservator of an insured depository insti-
20 tution shall be deemed to have notified a
21 person who is a party to a qualified finan-
22 cial contract with such depository institu-
23 tion if the Corporation has taken steps
24 reasonably calculated to provide notice to



1 such person by the time specified in sub-
2 paragraph (A).

3 “(C) TREATMENT OF BRIDGE BANKS.—

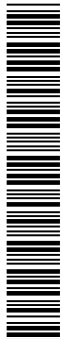
4 The following institutions shall not be consid-
5 ered to be a financial institution for which a
6 conservator, receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, or
7 other legal custodian has been appointed or
8 which is otherwise the subject of a bankruptcy
9 or insolvency proceeding for purposes of para-
10 graph (9):

11 “(i) A bridge bank.

12 “(ii) A depository institution orga-
13 nized by the Corporation, for which a con-
14 servator is appointed either—

15 “(I) immediately upon the orga-
16 nization of the institution; or

17 “(II) at the time of a purchase
18 and assumption transaction between
19 the depository institution and the Cor-
20 poration as receiver for a depository
21 institution in default.”.



1 **SEC. 904. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO DISAFFIRMANCE OR**
2 **REPUDIATION OF QUALIFIED FINANCIAL**
3 **CONTRACTS.**

4 Section 11(e) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act
5 (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (11) through
7 (15) as paragraphs (12) through (16), respectively;

8 (2) by inserting after paragraph (10) the fol-
9 lowing new paragraph:

10 “(11) DISAFFIRMANCE OR REPUDIATION OF
11 QUALIFIED FINANCIAL CONTRACTS.—In exercising
12 the rights of disaffirmance or repudiation of a con-
13 servator or receiver with respect to any qualified fi-
14 nancial contract to which an insured depository in-
15 stitution is a party, the conservator or receiver for
16 such institution shall either—

17 “(A) disaffirm or repudiate all qualified fi-
18 nancial contracts between—

19 “(i) any person or any affiliate of
20 such person; and

21 “(ii) the depository institution in de-
22 fault; or

23 “(B) disaffirm or repudiate none of the
24 qualified financial contracts referred to in sub-
25 paragraph (A) (with respect to such person or
26 any affiliate of such person).”; and



1 (3) by adding at the end the following new
2 paragraph:

3 “(17) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—The meanings of
4 terms used in this subsection are applicable for pur-
5 poses of this subsection only, and shall not be con-
6 strued or applied so as to challenge or affect the
7 characterization, definition, or treatment of any
8 similar terms under any other statute, regulation, or
9 rule, including the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, the
10 Legal Certainty for Bank Products Act of 2000, the
11 securities laws (as that term is defined in section
12 3(a)(47) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934),
13 and the Commodity Exchange Act.”.

14 **SEC. 905. CLARIFYING AMENDMENT RELATING TO MASTER**
15 **AGREEMENTS.**

16 Section 11(e)(8)(D)(vii) of the Federal Deposit In-
17 surance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(8)(D)(vii)) is amended to
18 read as follows:

19 “(vii) TREATMENT OF MASTER
20 AGREEMENT AS ONE AGREEMENT.—Any
21 master agreement for any contract or
22 agreement described in any preceding
23 clause of this subparagraph (or any master
24 agreement for such master agreement or
25 agreements), together with all supplements



1 to such master agreement, shall be treated
2 as a single agreement and a single quali-
3 fied financial contract. If a master agree-
4 ment contains provisions relating to agree-
5 ments or transactions that are not them-
6 selves qualified financial contracts, the
7 master agreement shall be deemed to be a
8 qualified financial contract only with re-
9 spect to those transactions that are them-
10 selves qualified financial contracts.”.

11 **SEC. 906. FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION**
12 **IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1991.**

13 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 402 of the Federal De-
14 posit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 (12
15 U.S.C. 4402) is amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (2)—

17 (A) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by inserting
18 before the semicolon “, or is exempt from such
19 registration by order of the Securities and Ex-
20 change Commission”; and

21 (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting be-
22 fore the period “, that has been granted an ex-
23emption under section 4(c)(1) of the Com-
24modity Exchange Act, or that is a multilateral



1 clearing organization (as defined in section 408
2 of this Act)”;

3 (2) in paragraph (6)—

4 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B)
5 through (D) as subparagraphs (C) through (E),
6 respectively;

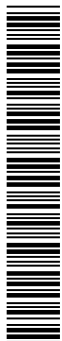
7 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (A)
8 the following new subparagraph:

9 “(B) an uninsured national bank or an un-
10 insured State bank that is a member of the
11 Federal Reserve System, if the national bank or
12 State member bank is not eligible to make ap-
13 plication to become an insured bank under sec-
14 tion 5 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act;”;
15 and

16 (C) by amending subparagraph (C), so re-
17 designated, to read as follows:

18 “(C) a branch or agency of a foreign bank,
19 a foreign bank and any branch or agency of the
20 foreign bank, or the foreign bank that estab-
21 lished the branch or agency, as those terms are
22 defined in section 1(b) of the International
23 Banking Act of 1978;”;

24 (3) in paragraph (11), by inserting before the
25 period “and any other clearing organization with



1 which such clearing organization has a netting con-
2 tract”;

3 (4) by amending paragraph (14)(A)(i) to read
4 as follows:

5 “(i) means a contract or agreement
6 between 2 or more financial institutions,
7 clearing organizations, or members that
8 provides for netting present or future pay-
9 ment obligations or payment entitlements
10 (including liquidation or close out values
11 relating to such obligations or entitle-
12 ments) among the parties to the agree-
13 ment; and”;

14 (5) by adding at the end the following new
15 paragraph:

16 “(15) PAYMENT.—The term ‘payment’ means a
17 payment of United States dollars, another currency,
18 or a composite currency, and a noncash delivery, in-
19 cluding a payment or delivery to liquidate an
20 unmatured obligation.”.

21 (b) ENFORCEABILITY OF BILATERAL NETTING CON-
22 TRACTS.—Section 403 of the Federal Deposit Insurance
23 Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 (12 U.S.C. 4403)
24 is amended—



1 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
2 following:

3 “(a) GENERAL RULE.—Notwithstanding any other
4 provision of State or Federal law (other than paragraphs
5 (8)(E), (8)(F), and (10)(B) of section 11(e) of the Federal
6 Deposit Insurance Act or any order authorized under sec-
7 tion 5(b)(2) of the Securities Investor Protection Act of
8 1970), the covered contractual payment obligations and
9 the covered contractual payment entitlements between any
10 2 financial institutions shall be netted in accordance with,
11 and subject to the conditions of, the terms of any applica-
12 ble netting contract (except as provided in section
13 561(b)(2) of title 11, United States Code).”; and

14 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
15 section:

16 “(f) ENFORCEABILITY OF SECURITY AGREE-
17 MENTS.—The provisions of any security agreement or ar-
18 rangement or other credit enhancement related to one or
19 more netting contracts between any 2 financial institu-
20 tions shall be enforceable in accordance with their terms
21 (except as provided in section 561(b)(2) of title 11, United
22 States Code), and shall not be stayed, avoided, or other-
23 wise limited by any State or Federal law (other than para-
24 graphs (8)(E), (8)(F), and (10)(B) of section 11(e) of the



1 Federal Deposit Insurance Act and section 5(b)(2) of the
2 Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970).”.

3 (c) ENFORCEABILITY OF CLEARING ORGANIZATION
4 NETTING CONTRACTS.—Section 404 of the Federal De-
5 posit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 (12
6 U.S.C. 4404) is amended—

7 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
8 following:

9 “(a) GENERAL RULE.—Notwithstanding any other
10 provision of State or Federal law (other than paragraphs
11 (8)(E), (8)(F), and (10)(B) of section 11(e) of the Federal
12 Deposit Insurance Act and any order authorized under
13 section 5(b)(2) of the Securities Investor Protection Act
14 of 1970), the covered contractual payment obligations and
15 the covered contractual payment entitlements of a member
16 of a clearing organization to and from all other members
17 of a clearing organization shall be netted in accordance
18 with and subject to the conditions of any applicable net-
19 ting contract (except as provided in section 561(b)(2) of
20 title 11, United States Code).”; and

21 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
22 section:

23 “(h) ENFORCEABILITY OF SECURITY AGREE-
24 MENTS.—The provisions of any security agreement or ar-
25 rangement or other credit enhancement related to one or



1 more netting contracts between any 2 members of a clear-
2 ing organization shall be enforceable in accordance with
3 their terms (except as provided in section 561(b)(2) of
4 title 11, United States Code), and shall not be stayed,
5 avoided, or otherwise limited by any State or Federal law
6 (other than paragraphs (8)(E), (8)(F), and (10)(B) of sec-
7 tion 11(e) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act and sec-
8 tion 5(b)(2) of the Securities Investor Protection Act of
9 1970).”.

10 (d) ENFORCEABILITY OF CONTRACTS WITH UNIN-
11 SURED NATIONAL BANKS, UNINSURED FEDERAL
12 BRANCHES AND AGENCIES, CERTAIN UNINSURED STATE
13 MEMBER BANKS, AND EDGE ACT CORPORATIONS.—The
14 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act
15 of 1991 (12 U.S.C. 4401 et seq.) is amended—

16 (1) by redesignating section 407 as section
17 407A; and

18 (2) by inserting after section 406 the following
19 new section:



1 **“SEC. 407. TREATMENT OF CONTRACTS WITH UNINSURED**
2 **NATIONAL BANKS, UNINSURED FEDERAL**
3 **BRANCHES AND AGENCIES, CERTAIN UNIN-**
4 **SURED STATE MEMBER BANKS, AND EDGE**
5 **ACT CORPORATIONS.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
7 vision of law, paragraphs (8), (9), (10), and (11) of section
8 11(e) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act shall apply
9 to an uninsured national bank or uninsured Federal
10 branch or Federal agency, a corporation chartered under
11 section 25A of the Federal Reserve Act, or an uninsured
12 State member bank which operates, or operates as, a mul-
13 tilateral clearing organization pursuant to section 409 of
14 this Act, except that for such purpose—

15 “(1) any reference to the ‘Corporation as re-
16 ceiver’ or ‘the receiver or the Corporation’ shall refer
17 to the receiver appointed by the Comptroller of the
18 Currency in the case of an uninsured national bank
19 or uninsured Federal branch or agency, or to the re-
20 ceiver appointed by the Board of Governors of the
21 Federal Reserve System in the case of a corporation
22 chartered under section 25A of the Federal Reserve
23 Act or an uninsured State member bank;

24 “(2) any reference to the ‘Corporation’ (other
25 than in section 11(e)(8)(D) of such Act), the ‘Cor-
26 poration, whether acting as such or as conservator



1 or receiver', a 'receiver', or a 'conservator' shall refer
2 to the receiver or conservator appointed by the
3 Comptroller of the Currency in the case of an unin-
4 sured national bank or uninsured Federal branch or
5 agency, or to the receiver or conservator appointed
6 by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve
7 System in the case of a corporation chartered under
8 section 25A of the Federal Reserve Act or an unin-
9 sured State member bank; and

10 “(3) any reference to an ‘insured depository in-
11 stitution’ or ‘depository institution’ shall refer to an
12 uninsured national bank, an uninsured Federal
13 branch or Federal agency, a corporation chartered
14 under section 25A of the Federal Reserve Act, or an
15 uninsured State member bank which operates, or op-
16 erates as, a multilateral clearing organization pursu-
17 ant to section 409 of this Act.

18 “(b) LIABILITY.—The liability of a receiver or conser-
19 vator of an uninsured national bank, uninsured Federal
20 branch or agency, a corporation chartered under section
21 25A of the Federal Reserve Act, or an uninsured State
22 member bank which operates, or operates as, a multilat-
23 eral clearing organization pursuant to section 409 of this
24 Act, shall be determined in the same manner and subject
25 to the same limitations that apply to receivers and con-



1 servators of insured depository institutions under section
2 11(e) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

3 “(c) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller of the
5 Currency in the case of an uninsured national bank
6 or uninsured Federal branch or agency and the
7 Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
8 in the case of a corporation chartered under section
9 25A of the Federal Reserve Act, or an uninsured
10 State member bank that operates, or operates as, a
11 multilateral clearing organization pursuant to sec-
12 tion 409 of this Act, in consultation with the Fed-
13 eral Deposit Insurance Corporation, may each pro-
14 mulgate regulations solely to implement this section.

15 “(2) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENT.—In promul-
16 gating regulations, limited solely to implementing
17 paragraphs (8), (9), (10), and (11) of section 11(e)
18 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, the Comp-
19 troller of the Currency and the Board of Governors
20 of the Federal Reserve System each shall ensure
21 that the regulations generally are consistent with the
22 regulations and policies of the Federal Deposit In-
23 surance Corporation adopted pursuant to the Fed-
24 eral Deposit Insurance Act.



1 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the
2 terms ‘Federal branch’, ‘Federal agency’, and ‘foreign
3 bank’ have the same meanings as in section 1(b) of the
4 International Banking Act of 1978.”.

5 **SEC. 907. BANKRUPTCY LAW AMENDMENTS.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS OF FORWARD CONTRACT, REPUR-
7 CHASE AGREEMENT, SECURITIES CLEARING AGENCY,
8 SWAP AGREEMENT, COMMODITY CONTRACT, AND SECU-
9 RITIES CONTRACT.—Title 11, United States Code, is
10 amended—

11 (1) in section 101—

12 (A) in paragraph (25)—

13 (i) by striking “means a contract”
14 and inserting “means—

15 “(A) a contract”;

16 (ii) by striking “, or any combination
17 thereof or option thereon;” and inserting
18 “, or any other similar agreement;”; and

19 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(B) any combination of agreements or
22 transactions referred to in subparagraphs (A)
23 and (C);



1 “(C) any option to enter into an agreement
2 or transaction referred to in subparagraph (A)
3 or (B);

4 “(D) a master agreement that provides for
5 an agreement or transaction referred to in sub-
6 paragraph (A), (B), or (C), together with all
7 supplements to any such master agreement,
8 without regard to whether such master agree-
9 ment provides for an agreement or transaction
10 that is not a forward contract under this para-
11 graph, except that such master agreement shall
12 be considered to be a forward contract under
13 this paragraph only with respect to each agree-
14 ment or transaction under such master agree-
15 ment that is referred to in subparagraph (A),
16 (B), or (C); or

17 “(E) any security agreement or arrange-
18 ment, or other credit enhancement related to
19 any agreement or transaction referred to in
20 subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D), including
21 any guarantee or reimbursement obligation by
22 or to a forward contract merchant or financial
23 participant in connection with any agreement or
24 transaction referred to in any such subpara-
25 graph, but not to exceed the damages in con-



1 nection with any such agreement or transaction,
2 measured in accordance with section 562;”;

3 (B) in paragraph (46), by striking “on any
4 day during the period beginning 90 days before
5 the date of” and inserting “at any time before”;

6 (C) by amending paragraph (47) to read
7 as follows:

8 “(47) ‘repurchase agreement’ (which definition
9 also applies to a reverse repurchase agreement)—

10 “(A) means—

11 “(i) an agreement, including related
12 terms, which provides for the transfer of
13 one or more certificates of deposit, mort-
14 gage related securities (as defined in sec-
15 tion 3 of the Securities Exchange Act of
16 1934), mortgage loans, interests in mort-
17 gage related securities or mortgage loans,
18 eligible bankers’ acceptances, qualified for-
19 eign government securities (defined as a
20 security that is a direct obligation of, or
21 that is fully guaranteed by, the central
22 government of a member of the Organiza-
23 tion for Economic Cooperation and Devel-
24 opment), or securities that are direct obli-
25 gations of, or that are fully guaranteed by,



1 the United States or any agency of the
2 United States against the transfer of funds
3 by the transferee of such certificates of de-
4 posit, eligible bankers' acceptances, securi-
5 ties, mortgage loans, or interests, with a
6 simultaneous agreement by such transferee
7 to transfer to the transferor thereof certifi-
8 cates of deposit, eligible bankers' accept-
9 ance, securities, mortgage loans, or inter-
10 ests of the kind described in this clause, at
11 a date certain not later than 1 year after
12 such transfer or on demand, against the
13 transfer of funds;

14 “(ii) any combination of agreements
15 or transactions referred to in clauses (i)
16 and (iii);

17 “(iii) an option to enter into an agree-
18 ment or transaction referred to in clause
19 (i) or (ii);

20 “(iv) a master agreement that pro-
21 vides for an agreement or transaction re-
22 ferred to in clause (i), (ii), or (iii), together
23 with all supplements to any such master
24 agreement, without regard to whether such
25 master agreement provides for an agree-



1 ment or transaction that is not a repur-
2 chase agreement under this paragraph, ex-
3 cept that such master agreement shall be
4 considered to be a repurchase agreement
5 under this paragraph only with respect to
6 each agreement or transaction under the
7 master agreement that is referred to in
8 clause (i), (ii), or (iii); or

9 “(v) any security agreement or ar-
10 rangement or other credit enhancement re-
11 lated to any agreement or transaction re-
12 ferred to in clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv), in-
13 cluding any guarantee or reimbursement
14 obligation by or to a repo participant or fi-
15 nancial participant in connection with any
16 agreement or transaction referred to in
17 any such clause, but not to exceed the
18 damages in connection with any such
19 agreement or transaction, measured in ac-
20 cordance with section 562 of this title; and

21 “(B) does not include a repurchase obliga-
22 tion under a participation in a commercial
23 mortgage loan;”;

24 (D) in paragraph (48), by inserting “, or
25 exempt from such registration under such sec-



1 tion pursuant to an order of the Securities and
2 Exchange Commission,” after “1934”; and

3 (E) by amending paragraph (53B) to read
4 as follows:

5 “(53B) ‘swap agreement’—

6 “(A) means—

7 “(i) any agreement, including the
8 terms and conditions incorporated by ref-
9 erence in such agreement, which is—

10 “(I) an interest rate swap, op-
11 tion, future, or forward agreement, in-
12 cluding a rate floor, rate cap, rate col-
13 lar, cross-currency rate swap, and
14 basis swap;

15 “(II) a spot, same day-tomorrow,
16 tomorrow-next, forward, or other for-
17 eign exchange or precious metals
18 agreement;

19 “(III) a currency swap, option,
20 future, or forward agreement;

21 “(IV) an equity index or equity
22 swap, option, future, or forward
23 agreement;

24 “(V) a debt index or debt swap,
25 option, future, or forward agreement;



1 “(VI) a total return, credit
2 spread or credit swap, option, future,
3 or forward agreement;

4 “(VII) a commodity index or a
5 commodity swap, option, future, or
6 forward agreement; or

7 “(VIII) a weather swap, weather
8 derivative, or weather option;

9 “(ii) any agreement or transaction
10 that is similar to any other agreement or
11 transaction referred to in this paragraph
12 and that—

13 “(I) is of a type that has been, is
14 presently, or in the future becomes,
15 the subject of recurrent dealings in
16 the swap markets (including terms
17 and conditions incorporated by ref-
18 erence therein); and

19 “(II) is a forward, swap, future,
20 or option on one or more rates, cur-
21 rencies, commodities, equity securities,
22 or other equity instruments, debt se-
23 curities or other debt instruments,
24 quantitative measures associated with
25 an occurrence, extent of an occur-



1 rence, or contingency associated with
2 a financial, commercial, or economic
3 consequence, or economic or financial
4 indices or measures of economic or fi-
5 nancial risk or value;

6 “(iii) any combination of agreements
7 or transactions referred to in this subpara-
8 graph;

9 “(iv) any option to enter into an
10 agreement or transaction referred to in
11 this subparagraph;

12 “(v) a master agreement that provides
13 for an agreement or transaction referred to
14 in clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv), together
15 with all supplements to any such master
16 agreement, and without regard to whether
17 the master agreement contains an agree-
18 ment or transaction that is not a swap
19 agreement under this paragraph, except
20 that the master agreement shall be consid-
21 ered to be a swap agreement under this
22 paragraph only with respect to each agree-
23 ment or transaction under the master
24 agreement that is referred to in clause (i),
25 (ii), (iii), or (iv); or



1 “(vi) any security agreement or ar-
2 rangement or other credit enhancement re-
3 lated to any agreements or transactions re-
4 ferred to in clause (i) through (v), includ-
5 ing any guarantee or reimbursement obli-
6 gation by or to a swap participant or fi-
7 nancial participant in connection with any
8 agreement or transaction referred to in
9 any such clause, but not to exceed the
10 damages in connection with any such
11 agreement or transaction, measured in ac-
12 cordance with section 562; and

13 “(B) is applicable for purposes of this title
14 only, and shall not be construed or applied so
15 as to challenge or affect the characterization,
16 definition, or treatment of any swap agreement
17 under any other statute, regulation, or rule, in-
18 cluding the Securities Act of 1933, the Securi-
19 ties Exchange Act of 1934, the Public Utility
20 Holding Company Act of 1935, the Trust In-
21 denture Act of 1939, the Investment Company
22 Act of 1940, the Investment Advisers Act of
23 1940, the Securities Investor Protection Act of
24 1970, the Commodity Exchange Act, the



1 Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, and the Legal Cer-
2 tainty for Bank Products Act of 2000;”;

3 (2) in section 741(7), by striking paragraph (7)
4 and inserting the following:

5 “(7) ‘securities contract’—

6 “(A) means—

7 “(i) a contract for the purchase, sale,
8 or loan of a security, a certificate of de-
9 posit, a mortgage loan or any interest in a
10 mortgage loan, a group or index of securi-
11 ties, certificates of deposit, or mortgage
12 loans or interests therein (including an in-
13 terest therein or based on the value there-
14 of), or option on any of the foregoing, in-
15 cluding an option to purchase or sell any
16 such security, certificate of deposit, mort-
17 gage loan, interest, group or index, or op-
18 tion, and including any repurchase or re-
19 verse repurchase transaction on any such
20 security, certificate of deposit, mortgage
21 loan, interest, group or index, or option;

22 “(ii) any option entered into on a na-
23 tional securities exchange relating to for-
24 eign currencies;



1 “(iii) the guarantee by or to any secu-
2 rities clearing agency of a settlement of
3 cash, securities, certificates of deposit,
4 mortgage loans or interests therein, group
5 or index of securities, or mortgage loans or
6 interests therein (including any interest
7 therein or based on the value thereof), or
8 option on any of the foregoing, including
9 an option to purchase or sell any such se-
10 curity, certificate of deposit, mortgage
11 loan, interest, group or index, or option;

12 “(iv) any margin loan;

13 “(v) any other agreement or trans-
14 action that is similar to an agreement or
15 transaction referred to in this subpara-
16 graph;

17 “(vi) any combination of the agree-
18 ments or transactions referred to in this
19 subparagraph;

20 “(vii) any option to enter into any
21 agreement or transaction referred to in
22 this subparagraph;

23 “(viii) a master agreement that pro-
24 vides for an agreement or transaction re-
25 ferred to in clause (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v),



1 (vi), or (vii), together with all supplements
2 to any such master agreement, without re-
3 gard to whether the master agreement pro-
4 vides for an agreement or transaction that
5 is not a securities contract under this sub-
6 paragraph, except that such master agree-
7 ment shall be considered to be a securities
8 contract under this subparagraph only with
9 respect to each agreement or transaction
10 under such master agreement that is re-
11 ferred to in clause (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v),
12 (vi), or (vii); or

13 “(ix) any security agreement or ar-
14 rangement or other credit enhancement re-
15 lated to any agreement or transaction re-
16 ferred to in this subparagraph, including
17 any guarantee or reimbursement obligation
18 by or to a stockbroker, securities clearing
19 agency, financial institution, or financial
20 participant in connection with any agree-
21 ment or transaction referred to in this sub-
22 paragraph, but not to exceed the damages
23 in connection with any such agreement or
24 transaction, measured in accordance with
25 section 562; and



1 “(B) does not include any purchase, sale,
2 or repurchase obligation under a participation
3 in a commercial mortgage loan;” and

4 (3) in section 761(4)—

5 (A) by striking “or” at the end of subpara-
6 graph (D); and

7 (B) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(F) any other agreement or transaction
9 that is similar to an agreement or transaction
10 referred to in this paragraph;

11 “(G) any combination of the agreements or
12 transactions referred to in this paragraph;

13 “(H) any option to enter into an agree-
14 ment or transaction referred to in this para-
15 graph;

16 “(I) a master agreement that provides for
17 an agreement or transaction referred to in sub-
18 paragraph (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), (F), (G), or
19 (H), together with all supplements to such mas-
20 ter agreement, without regard to whether the
21 master agreement provides for an agreement or
22 transaction that is not a commodity contract
23 under this paragraph, except that the master
24 agreement shall be considered to be a com-
25 modity contract under this paragraph only with



1 respect to each agreement or transaction under
2 the master agreement that is referred to in sub-
3 paragraph (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), (F), (G), or
4 (H); or

5 “(J) any security agreement or arrange-
6 ment or other credit enhancement related to
7 any agreement or transaction referred to in this
8 paragraph, including any guarantee or reim-
9 bursement obligation by or to a commodity
10 broker or financial participant in connection
11 with any agreement or transaction referred to
12 in this paragraph, but not to exceed the dam-
13 ages in connection with any such agreement or
14 transaction, measured in accordance with sec-
15 tion 562;”.

16 (b) DEFINITIONS OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION, FI-
17 NANCIAL PARTICIPANT, AND FORWARD CONTRACT MER-
18 CHANT.—Section 101 of title 11, United States Code, is
19 amended—

20 (1) by striking paragraph (22) and inserting
21 the following:

22 “(22) ‘financial institution’ means—

23 “(A) a Federal reserve bank, or an entity
24 (domestic or foreign) that is a commercial or
25 savings bank, industrial savings bank, savings



1 and loan association, trust company, or receiver
2 or conservator for such entity and, when any
3 such Federal reserve bank, receiver, conservator
4 or entity is acting as agent or custodian for a
5 customer in connection with a securities con-
6 tract (as defined in section 741) such customer;
7 or

8 “(B) in connection with a securities con-
9 tract (as defined in section 741) an investment
10 company registered under the Investment Com-
11 pany Act of 1940;”;

12 (2) by inserting after paragraph (22) the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(22A) ‘financial participant’ means—

15 “(A) an entity that, at the time it enters
16 into a securities contract, commodity contract,
17 swap agreement, repurchase agreement, or for-
18 ward contract, or at the time of the date of the
19 filing of the petition, has one or more agree-
20 ments or transactions described in paragraph
21 (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), or (6) of section 561(a)
22 with the debtor or any other entity (other than
23 an affiliate) of a total gross dollar value of not
24 less than \$1,000,000,000 in notional or actual
25 principal amount outstanding on any day dur-



1 ing the previous 15-month period, or has gross
2 mark-to-market positions of not less than
3 \$100,000,000 (aggregated across
4 counterparties) in one or more such agreements
5 or transactions with the debtor or any other en-
6 tity (other than an affiliate) on any day during
7 the previous 15-month period; or

8 “(B) a clearing organization (as defined in
9 section 402 of the Federal Deposit Insurance
10 Corporation Improvement Act of 1991);”; and

11 (3) by striking paragraph (26) and inserting
12 the following:

13 “(26) ‘forward contract merchant’ means a
14 Federal reserve bank, or an entity the business of
15 which consists in whole or in part of entering into
16 forward contracts as or with merchants in a com-
17 modity (as defined in section 761) or any similar
18 good, article, service, right, or interest which is pres-
19 ently or in the future becomes the subject of dealing
20 in the forward contract trade;”.

21 (c) DEFINITION OF MASTER NETTING AGREEMENT
22 AND MASTER NETTING AGREEMENT PARTICIPANT.—Sec-
23 tion 101 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by
24 inserting after paragraph (38) the following new para-
25 graphs:



1 “(38A) ‘master netting agreement’—

2 “(A) means an agreement providing for
3 the exercise of rights, including rights of net-
4 ting, setoff, liquidation, termination, accelera-
5 tion, or close out, under or in connection with
6 one or more contracts that are described in any
7 one or more of paragraphs (1) through (5) of
8 section 561(a), or any security agreement or ar-
9 rangement or other credit enhancement related
10 to one or more of the foregoing, including any
11 guarantee or reimbursement obligation related
12 to 1 or more of the foregoing; and

13 “(B) if the agreement contains provisions
14 relating to agreements or transactions that are
15 not contracts described in paragraphs (1)
16 through (5) of section 561(a), shall be deemed
17 to be a master netting agreement only with re-
18 spect to those agreements or transactions that
19 are described in any one or more of paragraphs
20 (1) through (5) of section 561(a);

21 “(38B) ‘master netting agreement participant’
22 means an entity that, at any time before the date of
23 the filing of the petition, is a party to an out-
24 standing master netting agreement with the debt-
25 or;”.



1 (d) SWAP AGREEMENTS, SECURITIES CONTRACTS,
2 COMMODITY CONTRACTS, FORWARD CONTRACTS, REPUR-
3 CHASE AGREEMENTS, AND MASTER NETTING AGREE-
4 MENTS UNDER THE AUTOMATIC-STAY.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 362(b) of title 11,
6 United States Code, as amended by sections 224,
7 303, 311, 401, and 718, is amended—

8 (A) in paragraph (6), by inserting
9 “, pledged to, under the control of,” after “held
10 by”;

11 (B) in paragraph (7), by inserting
12 “, pledged to, under the control of,” after “held
13 by”;

14 (C) by striking paragraph (17) and insert-
15 ing the following:

16 “(17) under subsection (a), of the setoff by a
17 swap participant or financial participant of a mutual
18 debt and claim under or in connection with one or
19 more swap agreements that constitutes the setoff of
20 a claim against the debtor for any payment or other
21 transfer of property due from the debtor under or in
22 connection with any swap agreement against any
23 payment due to the debtor from the swap partici-
24 pant or financial participant under or in connection
25 with any swap agreement or against cash, securities,



1 or other property held by, pledged to, under the con-
2 trol of, or due from such swap participant or finan-
3 cial participant to margin, guarantee, secure, or set-
4 tle any swap agreement;” and

5 (D) by inserting after paragraph (26) the
6 following:

7 “(27) under subsection (a), of the setoff by a
8 master netting agreement participant of a mutual
9 debt and claim under or in connection with one or
10 more master netting agreements or any contract or
11 agreement subject to such agreements that con-
12 stitutes the setoff of a claim against the debtor for
13 any payment or other transfer of property due from
14 the debtor under or in connection with such agree-
15 ments or any contract or agreement subject to such
16 agreements against any payment due to the debtor
17 from such master netting agreement participant
18 under or in connection with such agreements or any
19 contract or agreement subject to such agreements or
20 against cash, securities, or other property held by,
21 pledged to, under the control of, or due from such
22 master netting agreement participant to margin,
23 guarantee, secure, or settle such agreements or any
24 contract or agreement subject to such agreements,
25 to the extent that such participant is eligible to exer-



1 cise such offset rights under paragraph (6), (7), or
2 (17) for each individual contract covered by the mas-
3 ter netting agreement in issue.”.

4 (2) LIMITATION.—Section 362 of title 11,
5 United States Code, as amended by sections 106,
6 305, 311, and 441, is amended by adding at the end
7 the following:

8 “(o) The exercise of rights not subject to the stay
9 arising under subsection (a) pursuant to paragraph (6),
10 (7), (17), or (27) of subsection (b) shall not be stayed
11 by any order of a court or administrative agency in any
12 proceeding under this title.”.

13 (e) LIMITATION OF AVOIDANCE POWERS UNDER
14 MASTER NETTING AGREEMENT.—Section 546 of title 11,
15 United States Code, is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (g) (as added by section 103
17 of Public Law 101–311)—

18 (A) by striking “under a swap agreement”;

19 (B) by striking “in connection with a swap
20 agreement” and inserting “under or in connec-
21 tion with any swap agreement”; and

22 (C) by inserting “or financial participant”
23 after “swap participant” each place such term
24 appears; and

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



1 “(j) Notwithstanding sections 544, 545, 547,
2 548(a)(1)(B), and 548(b) the trustee may not avoid a
3 transfer made by or to a master netting agreement partici-
4 pant under or in connection with any master netting
5 agreement or any individual contract covered thereby that
6 is made before the commencement of the case, except
7 under section 548(a)(1)(A) and except to the extent that
8 the trustee could otherwise avoid such a transfer made
9 under an individual contract covered by such master net-
10 ting agreement.”.

11 (f) FRAUDULENT TRANSFERS OF MASTER NETTING
12 AGREEMENTS.—Section 548(d)(2) of title 11, United
13 States Code, is amended—

14 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at
15 the end;

16 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period
17 and inserting “; and”; and

18 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
19 paragraph:

20 “(E) a master netting agreement participant
21 that receives a transfer in connection with a master
22 netting agreement or any individual contract covered
23 thereby takes for value to the extent of such trans-
24 fer, except that, with respect to a transfer under any
25 individual contract covered thereby, to the extent



1 that such master netting agreement participant oth-
2 erwise did not take (or is otherwise not deemed to
3 have taken) such transfer for value.”.

4 (g) TERMINATION OR ACCELERATION OF SECURITIES
5 CONTRACTS.—Section 555 of title 11, United States Code,
6 is amended—

7 (1) by amending the section heading to read as
8 follows:

9 **“§ 555. Contractual right to liquidate, terminate, or**
10 **accelerate a securities contract”;**

11 and

12 (2) in the first sentence, by striking “liquida-
13 tion” and inserting “liquidation, termination, or ac-
14 celeration”.

15 (h) TERMINATION OR ACCELERATION OF COMMOD-
16 ITIES OR FORWARD CONTRACTS.—Section 556 of title 11,
17 United States Code, is amended—

18 (1) by amending the section heading to read as
19 follows:

20 **“§ 556. Contractual right to liquidate, terminate, or**
21 **accelerate a commodities contract or for-**
22 **ward contract”;**

23 (2) in the first sentence, by striking “liquida-
24 tion” and inserting “liquidation, termination, or ac-
25 celeration”; and



1 (3) in the second sentence, by striking “As
2 used” and all that follows through “right,” and in-
3 serting “As used in this section, the term ‘contractual
4 right’ includes a right set forth in a rule or
5 bylaw of a derivatives clearing organization (as de-
6 fined in the Commodity Exchange Act), a multilat-
7 eral clearing organization (as defined in the Federal
8 Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of
9 1991), a national securities exchange, a national se-
10 curities association, a securities clearing agency, a
11 contract market designated under the Commodity
12 Exchange Act, a derivatives transaction execution
13 facility registered under the Commodity Exchange
14 Act, or a board of trade (as defined in the Com-
15 modity Exchange Act) or in a resolution of the gov-
16 erning board thereof and a right.”.

17 (i) TERMINATION OR ACCELERATION OF REPUR-
18 CHASE AGREEMENTS.—Section 559 of title 11, United
19 States Code, is amended—

20 (1) by amending the section heading to read as
21 follows:



1 **“§ 559. Contractual right to liquidate, terminate, or**
2 **accelerate a repurchase agreement”;**

3 (2) in the first sentence, by striking “liquida-
4 tion” and inserting “liquidation, termination, or ac-
5 celeration”; and

6 (3) in the third sentence, by striking “As used”
7 and all that follows through “right,” and inserting
8 “As used in this section, the term ‘contractual right’
9 includes a right set forth in a rule or bylaw of a de-
10 rivatives clearing organization (as defined in the
11 Commodity Exchange Act), a multilateral clearing
12 organization (as defined in the Federal Deposit In-
13 surance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991), a
14 national securities exchange, a national securities as-
15 sociation, a securities clearing agency, a contract
16 market designated under the Commodity Exchange
17 Act, a derivatives transaction execution facility reg-
18 istered under the Commodity Exchange Act, or a
19 board of trade (as defined in the Commodity Ex-
20 change Act) or in a resolution of the governing
21 board thereof and a right,”.

22 (j) LIQUIDATION, TERMINATION, OR ACCELERATION
23 OF SWAP AGREEMENTS.—Section 560 of title 11, United
24 States Code, is amended—

25 (1) by amending the section heading to read as
26 follows:



1 **“§ 560. Contractual right to liquidate, terminate, or**
2 **accelerate a swap agreement”;**

3 (2) in the first sentence, by striking “termi-
4 nation of a swap agreement” and inserting “liquida-
5 tion, termination, or acceleration of one or more
6 swap agreements”;

7 (3) by striking “in connection with any swap
8 agreement” and inserting “in connection with the
9 termination, liquidation, or acceleration of one or
10 more swap agreements”; and

11 (4) in the second sentence, by striking “As
12 used” and all that follows through “right,” and in-
13 serting “As used in this section, the term ‘contract-
14 tual right’ includes a right set forth in a rule or
15 bylaw of a derivatives clearing organization (as de-
16 fined in the Commodity Exchange Act), a multilat-
17 eral clearing organization (as defined in the Federal
18 Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of
19 1991), a national securities exchange, a national se-
20 curities association, a securities clearing agency, a
21 contract market designated under the Commodity
22 Exchange Act, a derivatives transaction execution
23 facility registered under the Commodity Exchange
24 Act, or a board of trade (as defined in the Com-
25 modity Exchange Act) or in a resolution of the gov-
26 erning board thereof and a right,”.



1 (k) LIQUIDATION, TERMINATION, ACCELERATION, OR
2 OFFSET UNDER A MASTER NETTING AGREEMENT AND
3 ACROSS CONTRACTS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Title 11, United States
5 Code, is amended by inserting after section 560 the
6 following:

7 **“§ 561. Contractual right to terminate, liquidate, ac-**
8 **celerate, or offset under a master netting**
9 **agreement and across contracts; pro-**
10 **ceedings under chapter 15**

11 “(a) Subject to subsection (b), the exercise of any
12 contractual right, because of a condition of the kind speci-
13 fied in section 365(e)(1), to cause the termination, liquida-
14 tion, or acceleration of or to offset or net termination val-
15 ues, payment amounts, or other transfer obligations aris-
16 ing under or in connection with one or more (or the termi-
17 nation, liquidation, or acceleration of one or more)—

18 “(1) securities contracts, as defined in section
19 741(7);

20 “(2) commodity contracts, as defined in section
21 761(4);

22 “(3) forward contracts;

23 “(4) repurchase agreements;

24 “(5) swap agreements; or

25 “(6) master netting agreements,



1 shall not be stayed, avoided, or otherwise limited by oper-
2 ation of any provision of this title or by any order of a
3 court or administrative agency in any proceeding under
4 this title.

5 “(b)(1) A party may exercise a contractual right de-
6 scribed in subsection (a) to terminate, liquidate, or accel-
7 erate only to the extent that such party could exercise such
8 a right under section 555, 556, 559, or 560 for each indi-
9 vidual contract covered by the master netting agreement
10 in issue.

11 “(2) If a debtor is a commodity broker subject to sub-
12 chapter IV of chapter 7—

13 “(A) a party may not net or offset an obligation
14 to the debtor arising under, or in connection with,
15 a commodity contract traded on or subject to the
16 rules of a contract market designated under the
17 Commodity Exchange Act or a derivatives trans-
18 action execution facility registered under the Com-
19 modity Exchange Act against any claim arising
20 under, or in connection with, other instruments, con-
21 tracts, or agreements listed in subsection (a) except
22 to the extent that the party has positive net equity
23 in the commodity accounts at the debtor, as cal-
24 culated under such subchapter; and



1 “(B) another commodity broker may not net or
2 offset an obligation to the debtor arising under, or
3 in connection with, a commodity contract entered
4 into or held on behalf of a customer of the debtor
5 and traded on or subject to the rules of a contract
6 market designated under the Commodity Exchange
7 Act or a derivatives transaction execution facility
8 registered under the Commodity Exchange Act
9 against any claim arising under, or in connection
10 with, other instruments, contracts, or agreements
11 listed in subsection (a).

12 “(3) No provision of subparagraph (A) or (B) of
13 paragraph (2) shall prohibit the offset of claims and obli-
14 gations that arise under—

15 “(A) a cross-margining agreement or similar
16 arrangement that has been approved by the Com-
17 modity Futures Trading Commission or submitted
18 to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission
19 under paragraph (1) or (2) of section 5c(c) of the
20 Commodity Exchange Act and has not been abro-
21 gated or rendered ineffective by the Commodity Fu-
22 tures Trading Commission; or

23 “(B) any other netting agreement between a
24 clearing organization (as defined in section 761) and



1 another entity that has been approved by the Com-
2 modity Futures Trading Commission.

3 “(c) As used in this section, the term ‘contractual
4 right’ includes a right set forth in a rule or bylaw of a
5 derivatives clearing organization (as defined in the Com-
6 modity Exchange Act), a multilateral clearing organiza-
7 tion (as defined in the Federal Deposit Insurance Cor-
8 poration Improvement Act of 1991), a national securities
9 exchange, a national securities association, a securities
10 clearing agency, a contract market designated under the
11 Commodity Exchange Act, a derivatives transaction execu-
12 tion facility registered under the Commodity Exchange
13 Act, or a board of trade (as defined in the Commodity
14 Exchange Act) or in a resolution of the governing board
15 thereof, and a right, whether or not evidenced in writing,
16 arising under common law, under law merchant, or by rea-
17 son of normal business practice.

18 “(d) Any provisions of this title relating to securities
19 contracts, commodity contracts, forward contracts, repur-
20 chase agreements, swap agreements, or master netting
21 agreements shall apply in a case under chapter 15, so that
22 enforcement of contractual provisions of such contracts
23 and agreements in accordance with their terms will not
24 be stayed or otherwise limited by operation of any provi-
25 sion of this title or by order of a court in any case under



1 this title, and to limit avoidance powers to the same extent
2 as in a proceeding under chapter 7 or 11 of this title (such
3 enforcement not to be limited based on the presence or
4 absence of assets of the debtor in the United States).”.

5 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of
6 sections for chapter 5 of title 11, United States
7 Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating
8 to section 560 the following:

“561. Contractual right to terminate, liquidate, accelerate, or offset under a
master netting agreement and across contracts; proceedings
under chapter 15.”.

9 (1) COMMODITY BROKER LIQUIDATIONS.—Title 11,
10 United States Code, is amended by inserting after section
11 766 the following:

12 **“§ 767. Commodity broker liquidation and forward**
13 **contract merchants, commodity brokers,**
14 **stockbrokers, financial institutions, fi-**
15 **ancial participants, securities clearing**
16 **agencies, swap participants, repo partici-**
17 **pants, and master netting agreement par-**
18 **ticipants**

19 “Notwithstanding any other provision of this title,
20 the exercise of rights by a forward contract merchant,
21 commodity broker, stockbroker, financial institution, fi-
22 nancial participant, securities clearing agency, swap par-
23 ticipant, repo participant, or master netting agreement
24 participant under this title shall not affect the priority of



1 any unsecured claim it may have after the exercise of such
2 rights.”.

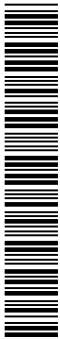
3 (m) STOCKBROKER LIQUIDATIONS.—Title 11,
4 United States Code, is amended by inserting after section
5 752 the following:

6 **“§ 753. Stockbroker liquidation and forward contract**
7 **merchants, commodity brokers, stock-**
8 **brokers, financial institutions, financial**
9 **participants, securities clearing agencies,**
10 **swap participants, repo participants, and**
11 **master netting agreement participants**

12 “Notwithstanding any other provision of this title,
13 the exercise of rights by a forward contract merchant,
14 commodity broker, stockbroker, financial institution, fi-
15 nancial participant, securities clearing agency, swap par-
16 ticipant, repo participant, or master netting agreement
17 participant under this title shall not affect the priority of
18 any unsecured claim it may have after the exercise of such
19 rights.”.

20 (n) SETOFF.—Section 553 of title 11, United States
21 Code, is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (a)(2)(B)(ii), by inserting be-
23 fore the semicolon the following: “(except for a
24 setoff of a kind described in section 362(b)(6),



1 362(b)(7), 362(b)(17), 362(b)(27), 555, 556, 559,
2 560, or 561”;

3 (2) in subsection (a)(3)(C), by inserting before
4 the period the following: “(except for a setoff of a
5 kind described in section 362(b)(6), 362(b)(7),
6 362(b)(17), 362(b)(27), 555, 556, 559, 560, or
7 561)”;

8 (3) in subsection (b)(1), by striking
9 “362(b)(14),” and inserting “362(b)(17),
10 362(b)(27), 555, 556, 559, 560, 561.”.

11 (o) SECURITIES CONTRACTS, COMMODITY CON-
12 TRACTS, AND FORWARD CONTRACTS.—Title 11, United
13 States Code, is amended—

14 (1) in section 362(b)(6), by striking “financial
15 institutions,” each place such term appears and in-
16 serting “financial institution, financial participant,”;

17 (2) in sections 362(b)(7) and 546(f), by insert-
18 ing “or financial participant” after “repo partici-
19 pant” each place such term appears;

20 (3) in section 546(e), by inserting “financial
21 participant,” after “financial institution,”;

22 (4) in section 548(d)(2)(B), by inserting “fi-
23 nancial participant,” after “financial institution,”;

24 (5) in section 548(d)(2)(C), by inserting “or fi-
25 nancial participant” after “repo participant”;



1 (6) in section 548(d)(2)(D), by inserting “or fi-
2 nancial participant” after “swap participant”;

3 (7) in section 555—

4 (A) by inserting “financial participant,”
5 after “financial institution,”; and

6 (B) by striking the second sentence and in-
7 serting the following: “As used in this section,
8 the term ‘contractual right’ includes a right set
9 forth in a rule or bylaw of a derivatives clearing
10 organization (as defined in the Commodity Ex-
11 change Act), a multilateral clearing organiza-
12 tion (as defined in the Federal Deposit Insur-
13 ance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991), a
14 national securities exchange, a national securi-
15 ties association, a securities clearing agency, a
16 contract market designated under the Com-
17modity Exchange Act, a derivatives transaction
18 execution facility registered under the Com-
19modity Exchange Act, or a board of trade (as
20 defined in the Commodity Exchange Act), or in
21 a resolution of the governing board thereof, and
22 a right, whether or not in writing, arising under
23 common law, under law merchant, or by reason
24 of normal business practice.”;



1 (8) in section 556, by inserting “, financial par-
2 ticipant,” after “commodity broker”;

3 (9) in section 559, by inserting “or financial
4 participant” after “repo participant” each place
5 such term appears; and

6 (10) in section 560, by inserting “or financial
7 participant” after “swap participant”.

8 (p) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title 11, United
9 States Code, is amended—

10 (1) in the table of sections for chapter 5—

11 (A) by amending the items relating to sec-
12 tions 555 and 556 to read as follows:

“555. Contractual right to liquidate, terminate, or accelerate a securities con-
tract.

“556. Contractual right to liquidate, terminate, or accelerate a commodities con-
tract or forward contract.”;

13 and

14 (B) by amending the items relating to sec-
15 tions 559 and 560 to read as follows:

“559. Contractual right to liquidate, terminate, or accelerate a repurchase
agreement.

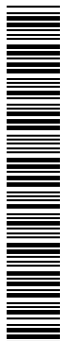
“560. Contractual right to liquidate, terminate, or accelerate a swap agree-
ment.”;

16 and

17 (2) in the table of sections for chapter 7—

18 (A) by inserting after the item relating to
19 section 766 the following:

“767. Commodity broker liquidation and forward contract merchants, com-
modity brokers, stockbrokers, financial institutions, financial
participants, securities clearing agencies, swap participants,
repo participants, and master netting agreement participants.”;



1 and

2 (B) by inserting after the item relating to

3 section 752 the following:

“753. Stockbroker liquidation and forward contract merchants, commodity brokers, stockbrokers, financial institutions, financial participants, securities clearing agencies, swap participants, repo participants, and master netting agreement participants.”.

4 **SEC. 908. RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS.**

5 Section 11(e)(8) of the Federal Deposit Insurance
6 Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(8)) is amended by adding at the
7 end the following new subparagraph:

8 “(H) RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS.—

9 The Corporation, in consultation with the appropriate Federal banking agencies, may prescribe regulations requiring more detailed recordkeeping by any insured depository institution with respect to qualified financial contracts (including market valuations) only if such insured depository institution is in a troubled condition (as such term is defined by the Corporation pursuant to section 32).”.

18 **SEC. 909. EXEMPTIONS FROM CONTEMPORANEOUS EXECUTION REQUIREMENT.**

20 Section 13(e)(2) of the Federal Deposit Insurance
21 Act (12 U.S.C. 1823(e)(2)) is amended to read as follows:



1 “(2) EXEMPTIONS FROM CONTEMPORANEOUS
2 EXECUTION REQUIREMENT.—An agreement to pro-
3 vide for the lawful collateralization of—

4 “(A) deposits of, or other credit extension
5 by, a Federal, State, or local governmental enti-
6 ty, or of any depositor referred to in section
7 11(a)(2), including an agreement to provide col-
8 lateral in lieu of a surety bond;

9 “(B) bankruptcy estate funds pursuant to
10 section 345(b)(2) of title 11, United States
11 Code;

12 “(C) extensions of credit, including any
13 overdraft, from a Federal reserve bank or Fed-
14 eral home loan bank; or

15 “(D) one or more qualified financial con-
16 tracts, as defined in section 11(e)(8)(D),

17 shall not be deemed invalid pursuant to paragraph
18 (1)(B) solely because such agreement was not exe-
19 cuted contemporaneously with the acquisition of the
20 collateral or because of pledges, delivery, or substi-
21 tution of the collateral made in accordance with such
22 agreement.”.

23 **SEC. 910. DAMAGE MEASURE.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title 11, United States Code, is
25 amended—



1 (1) by inserting after section 561, as added by
2 section 907, the following:

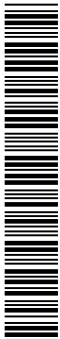
3 **“§ 562. Timing of damage measurement in connection**
4 **with swap agreements, securities con-**
5 **tracts, forward contracts, commodity con-**
6 **tracts, repurchase agreements, and mas-**
7 **ter netting agreements**

8 “(a) If the trustee rejects a swap agreement, securi-
9 ties contract (as defined in section 741), forward contract,
10 commodity contract (as defined in section 761), repur-
11 chase agreement, or master netting agreement pursuant
12 to section 365(a), or if a forward contract merchant,
13 stockbroker, financial institution, securities clearing agen-
14 cy, repo participant, financial participant, master netting
15 agreement participant, or swap participant liquidates, ter-
16 minates, or accelerates such contract or agreement, dam-
17 ages shall be measured as of the earlier of—

18 “(1) the date of such rejection; or

19 “(2) the date or dates of such liquidation, ter-
20 mination, or acceleration.

21 “(b) If there are not any commercially reasonable de-
22 terminants of value as of any date referred to in para-
23 graph (1) or (2) of subsection (a), damages shall be meas-
24 ured as of the earliest subsequent date or dates on which
25 there are commercially reasonable determinants of value.



1 “(c) For the purposes of subsection (b), if damages
2 are not measured as of the date or dates of rejection, liq-
3 uidation, termination, or acceleration, and the forward
4 contract merchant, stockbroker, financial institution, secu-
5 rities clearing agency, repo participant, financial partici-
6 pant, master netting agreement participant, or swap par-
7 ticipant or the trustee objects to the timing of the meas-
8 urement of damages—

9 “(1) the trustee, in the case of an objection by
10 a forward contract merchant, stockbroker, financial
11 institution, securities clearing agency, repo partici-
12 pant, financial participant, master netting agree-
13 ment participant, or swap participant; or

14 “(2) the forward contract merchant, stock-
15 broker, financial institution, securities clearing agen-
16 cy, repo participant, financial participant, master
17 netting agreement participant, or swap participant,
18 in the case of an objection by the trustee,

19 has the burden of proving that there were no commercially
20 reasonable determinants of value as of such date or
21 dates.”; and

22 (2) in the table of sections for chapter 5, by in-
23 serting after the item relating to section 561 (as
24 added by section 907) the following new item:

“562. Timing of damage measure in connection with swap agreements, securities contracts, forward contracts, commodity contracts, repurchase agreements, or master netting agreements.”.



1 (b) CLAIMS ARISING FROM REJECTION.—Section
2 502(g) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

3 (1) by inserting “(1)” after “(g)”; and

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

5 “(2) A claim for damages calculated in accordance
6 with section 562 shall be allowed under subsection (a), (b),
7 or (c), or disallowed under subsection (d) or (e), as if such
8 claim had arisen before the date of the filing of the peti-
9 tion.”.

10 **SEC. 911. SIPC STAY.**

11 Section 5(b)(2) of the Securities Investor Protection
12 Act of 1970 (15 U.S.C. 78eee(b)(2)) is amended by adding
13 at the end the following new subparagraph:

14 “(C) EXCEPTION FROM STAY.—

15 “(i) Notwithstanding section 362 of
16 title 11, United States Code, neither the
17 filing of an application under subsection
18 (a)(3) nor any order or decree obtained by
19 SIPC from the court shall operate as a
20 stay of any contractual rights of a creditor
21 to liquidate, terminate, or accelerate a se-
22 curities contract, commodity contract, for-
23 ward contract, repurchase agreement, swap
24 agreement, or master netting agreement,
25 as those terms are defined in sections 101,



1 741, and 761 of title 11, United States
2 Code, to offset or net termination values,
3 payment amounts, or other transfer obliga-
4 tions arising under or in connection with
5 one or more of such contracts or agree-
6 ments, or to foreclose on any cash collat-
7 eral pledged by the debtor, whether or not
8 with respect to one or more of such con-
9 tracts or agreements.

10 “(ii) Notwithstanding clause (i), such
11 application, order, or decree may operate
12 as a stay of the foreclosure on, or disposi-
13 tion of, securities collateral pledged by the
14 debtor, whether or not with respect to one
15 or more of such contracts or agreements,
16 securities sold by the debtor under a repur-
17 chase agreement, or securities lent under a
18 securities lending agreement.

19 “(iii) As used in this subparagraph,
20 the term ‘contractual right’ includes a
21 right set forth in a rule or bylaw of a na-
22 tional securities exchange, a national secu-
23 rities association, or a securities clearing
24 agency, a right set forth in a bylaw of a
25 clearing organization or contract market or



1 in a resolution of the governing board
2 thereof, and a right, whether or not in
3 writing, arising under common law, under
4 law merchant, or by reason of normal busi-
5 ness practice.”.

6 **TITLE X—PROTECTION OF FAM-**
7 **ILY FARMERS AND FAMILY**
8 **FISHERMEN**

9 **SEC. 1001. PERMANENT REENACTMENT OF CHAPTER 12.**

10 (a) REENACTMENT.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 12 of title 11,
12 United States Code, as reenacted by section 149 of
13 division C of the Omnibus Consolidated and Emer-
14 gency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999 (Pub-
15 lic Law 105–277), is hereby reenacted, and as here
16 reenacted is amended by this Act.

17 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall
18 take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 302 of the
20 Bankruptcy Judges, United States Trustees, and Family
21 Farmer Bankruptcy Act of 1986 (28 U.S.C. 581 note) is
22 amended by striking subsection (f).



1 **SEC. 1002. DEBT LIMIT INCREASE.**

2 Section 104(b) of title 11, United States Code, as
3 amended by section 226, is amended by inserting
4 “101(18),” after “101(3),” each place it appears.

5 **SEC. 1003. CERTAIN CLAIMS OWED TO GOVERNMENTAL**
6 **UNITS.**

7 (a) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—Section 1222(a)(2) of title
8 11, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:
9 “(2) provide for the full payment, in deferred
10 cash payments, of all claims entitled to priority
11 under section 507, unless—

12 “(A) the claim is a claim owed to a govern-
13 mental unit that arises as a result of the sale,
14 transfer, exchange, or other disposition of any
15 farm asset used in the debtor’s farming oper-
16 ation, in which case the claim shall be treated
17 as an unsecured claim that is not entitled to
18 priority under section 507, but the debt shall be
19 treated in such manner only if the debtor re-
20 ceives a discharge; or

21 “(B) the holder of a particular claim
22 agrees to a different treatment of that claim;”.

23 (b) SPECIAL NOTICE PROVISIONS.—Section 1231(b)
24 of title 11, United States Code, as so designated by section
25 719, is amended by striking “a State or local govern-
26 mental unit” and inserting “any governmental unit”.



1 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION OF AMEND-
2 MENTS.—This section and the amendments made by this
3 section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of
4 this Act and shall not apply with respect to cases com-
5 menced under title 11 of the United States Code before
6 such date.

7 **SEC. 1004. DEFINITION OF FAMILY FARMER.**

8 Section 101(18) of title 11, United States Code, is
9 amended—

10 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

11 (A) by striking “\$1,500,000” and inserting
12 “\$3,237,000”; and

13 (B) by striking “80” and inserting “50”;
14 and

15 (2) in subparagraph (B)(ii)—

16 (A) by striking “\$1,500,000” and inserting
17 “\$3,237,000”; and

18 (B) by striking “80” and inserting “50”.

19 **SEC. 1005. ELIMINATION OF REQUIREMENT THAT FAMILY**
20 **FARMER AND SPOUSE RECEIVE OVER 50 PER-**
21 **CENT OF INCOME FROM FARMING OPER-**
22 **ATION IN YEAR PRIOR TO BANKRUPTCY.**

23 Section 101(18)(A) of title 11, United States Code,
24 is amended by striking “for the taxable year preceding the
25 taxable year” and inserting the following:



1 “for—
2 “(i) the taxable year preceding; or
3 “(ii) each of the 2d and 3d taxable years
4 preceding;
5 the taxable year”.

6 **SEC. 1006. PROHIBITION OF RETROACTIVE ASSESSMENT OF**
7 **DISPOSABLE INCOME.**

8 (a) CONFIRMATION OF PLAN.—Section 1225(b)(1) of
9 title 11, United States Code, is amended—

10 (1) in subparagraph (A) by striking “or” at the
11 end;

12 (2) in subparagraph (B) by striking the period
13 at the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

15 “(C) the value of the property to be distributed
16 under the plan in the 3-year period, or such longer
17 period as the court may approve under section
18 1222(c), beginning on the date that the first dis-
19 tribution is due under the plan is not less than the
20 debtor’s projected disposable income for such pe-
21 riod.”.

22 (b) MODIFICATION OF PLAN.—Section 1229 of title
23 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
24 the following:

25 “(d) A plan may not be modified under this section—



1 “(1) to increase the amount of any payment
2 due before the plan as modified becomes the plan;

3 “(2) by anyone except the debtor, based on an
4 increase in the debtor’s disposable income, to in-
5 crease the amount of payments to unsecured credi-
6 tors required for a particular month so that the ag-
7 gregate of such payments exceeds the debtor’s dis-
8 posable income for such month; or

9 “(3) in the last year of the plan by anyone ex-
10 cept the debtor, to require payments that would
11 leave the debtor with insufficient funds to carry on
12 the farming operation after the plan is completed.”.

13 **SEC. 1007. FAMILY FISHERMEN.**

14 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 101 of title 11, United
15 States Code, is amended—

16 (1) by inserting after paragraph (7) the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(7A) ‘commercial fishing operation’ means—

19 “(A) the catching or harvesting of fish,
20 shrimp, lobsters, urchins, seaweed, shellfish, or
21 other aquatic species or products of such spe-
22 cies; or

23 “(B) for purposes of section 109 and chap-
24 ter 12, aquaculture activities consisting of rais-



1 ing for market any species or product described
2 in subparagraph (A);

3 “(7B) ‘commercial fishing vessel’ means a ves-
4 sel used by a family fisherman to carry out a com-
5 mercial fishing operation;”; and

6 (2) by inserting after paragraph (19) the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(19A) ‘family fisherman’ means—

9 “(A) an individual or individual and spouse
10 engaged in a commercial fishing operation—

11 “(i) whose aggregate debts do not ex-
12 ceed \$1,500,000 and not less than 80 per-
13 cent of whose aggregate noncontingent, liq-
14 uidated debts (excluding a debt for the
15 principal residence of such individual or
16 such individual and spouse, unless such
17 debt arises out of a commercial fishing op-
18 eration), on the date the case is filed, arise
19 out of a commercial fishing operation
20 owned or operated by such individual or
21 such individual and spouse; and

22 “(ii) who receive from such commer-
23 cial fishing operation more than 50 percent
24 of such individual’s or such individual’s
25 and spouse’s gross income for the taxable



1 year preceding the taxable year in which
2 the case concerning such individual or such
3 individual and spouse was filed; or
4 “(B) a corporation or partnership—
5 “(i) in which more than 50 percent of
6 the outstanding stock or equity is held
7 by—
8 “(I) 1 family that conducts the
9 commercial fishing operation; or
10 “(II) 1 family and the relatives
11 of the members of such family, and
12 such family or such relatives conduct
13 the commercial fishing operation; and
14 “(ii)(I) more than 80 percent of the
15 value of its assets consists of assets related
16 to the commercial fishing operation;
17 “(II) its aggregate debts do not ex-
18 ceed \$1,500,000 and not less than 80 per-
19 cent of its aggregate noncontingent, liq-
20 uidated debts (excluding a debt for 1
21 dwelling which is owned by such corpora-
22 tion or partnership and which a share-
23 holder or partner maintains as a principal
24 residence, unless such debt arises out of a
25 commercial fishing operation), on the date



1 the case is filed, arise out of a commercial
2 fishing operation owned or operated by
3 such corporation or such partnership; and
4 “(III) if such corporation issues stock,
5 such stock is not publicly traded;

6 “(19B) ‘family fisherman with regular annual
7 income’ means a family fisherman whose annual in-
8 come is sufficiently stable and regular to enable such
9 family fisherman to make payments under a plan
10 under chapter 12 of this title;”.

11 (b) WHO MAY BE A DEBTOR.—Section 109(f) of title
12 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting “or fam-
13 ily fisherman” after “family farmer”.

14 (c) CHAPTER 12.—Chapter 12 of title 11, United
15 States Code, is amended—

16 (1) in the chapter heading, by inserting “**OR**
17 **FISHERMAN**” after “**FAMILY FARMER**”;

18 (2) in section 1203, by inserting “or commer-
19 cial fishing operation” after “farm”; and

20 (3) in section 1206, by striking “if the property
21 is farmland or farm equipment” and inserting “if
22 the property is farmland, farm equipment, or prop-
23 erty used to carry out a commercial fishing oper-
24 ation (including a commercial fishing vessel)”.



1 (d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—In the table of chap-
2 ters for title 11, United States Code, the item relating to
3 chapter 12, is amended to read as follows:

**“12. Adjustments of Debts of a Family Farmer or Family
Fisherman with Regular Annual Income 1201”.**

4 (e) APPLICABILITY.—Nothing in this section shall
5 change, affect, or amend the Fishery Conservation and
6 Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1801, et seq.).

7 **TITLE XI—HEALTH CARE AND**
8 **EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

9 **SEC. 1101. DEFINITIONS.**

10 (a) HEALTH CARE BUSINESS DEFINED.—Section
11 101 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section
12 306, is amended—

13 (1) by redesignating paragraph (27A) as para-
14 graph (27B); and

15 (2) by inserting after paragraph (27) the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(27A) ‘health care business’—

18 “(A) means any public or private entity
19 (without regard to whether that entity is orga-
20 nized for profit or not for profit) that is pri-
21 marily engaged in offering to the general public
22 facilities and services for—

23 “(i) the diagnosis or treatment of in-
24 jury, deformity, or disease; and



1 “(ii) surgical, drug treatment, psy-
2 chiatric, or obstetric care; and
3 “(B) includes—
4 “(i) any—
5 “(I) general or specialized hos-
6 pital;
7 “(II) ancillary ambulatory, emer-
8 gency, or surgical treatment facility;
9 “(III) hospice;
10 “(IV) home health agency; and
11 “(V) other health care institution
12 that is similar to an entity referred to
13 in subclause (I), (II), (III), or (IV);
14 and
15 “(ii) any long-term care facility, in-
16 cluding any—
17 “(I) skilled nursing facility;
18 “(II) intermediate care facility;
19 “(III) assisted living facility;
20 “(IV) home for the aged;
21 “(V) domiciliary care facility; and
22 “(VI) health care institution that
23 is related to a facility referred to in
24 subclause (I), (II), (III), (IV), or (V),
25 if that institution is primarily engaged



1 in offering room, board, laundry, or
2 personal assistance with activities of
3 daily living and incidentals to activi-
4 ties of daily living;”.

5 (b) PATIENT AND PATIENT RECORDS DEFINED.—
6 Section 101 of title 11, United States Code, is amended
7 by inserting after paragraph (40) the following:

8 “(40A) ‘patient’ means any individual who ob-
9 tains or receives services from a health care busi-
10 ness;

11 “(40B) ‘patient records’ means any written doc-
12 ument relating to a patient or a record recorded in
13 a magnetic, optical, or other form of electronic me-
14 dium;”.

15 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The amendments
16 made by subsection (a) of this section shall not affect the
17 interpretation of section 109(b) of title 11, United States
18 Code.

19 **SEC. 1102. DISPOSAL OF PATIENT RECORDS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 3 of
21 title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
22 end the following:

23 **“§ 351. Disposal of patient records**

24 “If a health care business commences a case under
25 chapter 7, 9, or 11, and the trustee does not have a suffi-



1 cient amount of funds to pay for the storage of patient
2 records in the manner required under applicable Federal
3 or State law, the following requirements shall apply:

4 “(1) The trustee shall—

5 “(A) promptly publish notice, in 1 or more
6 appropriate newspapers, that if patient records
7 are not claimed by the patient or an insurance
8 provider (if applicable law permits the insur-
9 ance provider to make that claim) by the date
10 that is 365 days after the date of that notifica-
11 tion, the trustee will destroy the patient
12 records; and

13 “(B) during the first 180 days of the 365-
14 day period described in subparagraph (A),
15 promptly attempt to notify directly each patient
16 that is the subject of the patient records and
17 appropriate insurance carrier concerning the
18 patient records by mailing to the most recent
19 known address of that patient, or a family
20 member or contact person for that patient, and
21 to the appropriate insurance carrier an appro-
22 priate notice regarding the claiming or dis-
23 posing of patient records.

24 “(2) If, after providing the notification under
25 paragraph (1), patient records are not claimed dur-



1 ing the 365-day period described under that para-
2 graph, the trustee shall mail, by certified mail, at
3 the end of such 365-day period a written request to
4 each appropriate Federal agency to request permis-
5 sion from that agency to deposit the patient records
6 with that agency, except that no Federal agency is
7 required to accept patient records under this para-
8 graph.

9 “(3) If, following the 365-day period described
10 in paragraph (2) and after providing the notification
11 under paragraph (1), patient records are not claimed
12 by a patient or insurance provider, or request is not
13 granted by a Federal agency to deposit such records
14 with that agency, the trustee shall destroy those
15 records by—

16 “(A) if the records are written, shredding
17 or burning the records; or

18 “(B) if the records are magnetic, optical,
19 or other electronic records, by otherwise de-
20 stroying those records so that those records
21 cannot be retrieved.”.

22 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
23 for subchapter III of chapter 3 of title 11, United States
24 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“351. Disposal of patient records.”.



1 **SEC. 1103. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE CLAIM FOR COSTS**
2 **OF CLOSING A HEALTH CARE BUSINESS AND**
3 **OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**

4 Section 503(b) of title 11, United States Code, as
5 amended by section 445, is amended by adding at the end
6 the following:

7 “(8) the actual, necessary costs and expenses of
8 closing a health care business incurred by a trustee
9 or by a Federal agency (as defined in section 551(1)
10 of title 5) or a department or agency of a State or
11 political subdivision thereof, including any cost or
12 expense incurred—

13 “(A) in disposing of patient records in ac-
14 cordance with section 351; or

15 “(B) in connection with transferring pa-
16 tients from the health care business that is in
17 the process of being closed to another health
18 care business; and”.

19 **SEC. 1104. APPOINTMENT OF OMBUDSMAN TO ACT AS PA-**
20 **TIENT ADVOCATE.**

21 (a) OMBUDSMAN TO ACT AS PATIENT ADVOCATE.—

22 (1) APPOINTMENT OF OMBUDSMAN.—Title 11,
23 United States Code, as amended by section 232, is
24 amended by inserting after section 332 the fol-
25 lowing:



1 **“§ 333. Appointment of patient care ombudsman**

2 “(a)(1) If the debtor in a case under chapter 7, 9,
3 or 11 is a health care business, the court shall order, not
4 later than 30 days after the commencement of the case,
5 the appointment of an ombudsman to monitor the quality
6 of patient care and to represent the interests of the pa-
7 tients of the health care business unless the court finds
8 that the appointment of such ombudsman is not necessary
9 for the protection of patients under the specific facts of
10 the case.

11 “(2)(A) If the court orders the appointment of an
12 ombudsman under paragraph (1), the United States trust-
13 ee shall appoint 1 disinterested person (other than the
14 United States trustee) to serve as such ombudsman.

15 “(B) If the debtor is a health care business that pro-
16 vides long-term care, then the United States trustee may
17 appoint the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman appointed
18 under the Older Americans Act of 1965 for the State in
19 which the case is pending to serve as the ombudsman re-
20 quired by paragraph (1).

21 “(C) If the United States trustee does not appoint
22 a State Long-Term Care Ombudsman under subpara-
23 graph (B), the court shall notify the State Long-Term
24 Care Ombudsman appointed under the Older Americans
25 Act of 1965 for the State in which the case is pending,



1 of the name and address of the person who is appointed
2 under subparagraph (A).

3 “(b) An ombudsman appointed under subsection (a)
4 shall—

5 “(1) monitor the quality of patient care pro-
6 vided to patients of the debtor, to the extent nec-
7 essary under the circumstances, including inter-
8 viewing patients and physicians;

9 “(2) not later than 60 days after the date of
10 appointment, and not less frequently than at 60-day
11 intervals thereafter, report to the court after notice
12 to the parties in interest, at a hearing or in writing,
13 regarding the quality of patient care provided to pa-
14 tients of the debtor; and

15 “(3) if such ombudsman determines that the
16 quality of patient care provided to patients of the
17 debtor is declining significantly or is otherwise being
18 materially compromised, file with the court a motion
19 or a written report, with notice to the parties in in-
20 terest immediately upon making such determination.

21 “(c)(1) An ombudsman appointed under subsection
22 (a) shall maintain any information obtained by such om-
23 budsman under this section that relates to patients (in-
24 cluding information relating to patient records) as con-
25 fidential information. Such ombudsman may not review



1 confidential patient records unless the court approves such
2 review in advance and imposes restrictions on such om-
3 budsman to protect the confidentiality of such records.

4 “(2) An ombudsman appointed under subsection
5 (a)(2)(B) shall have access to patient records consistent
6 with authority of such ombudsman under the Older Amer-
7 icans Act of 1965 and under non-Federal laws governing
8 the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman program.”.

9 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
10 tions for subchapter II of chapter 3 of title 11,
11 United States Code, as amended by section 232, is
12 amended by adding at the end the following:

“333. Appointment of ombudsman.”.

13 (b) COMPENSATION OF OMBUDSMAN.—Section
14 330(a)(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

15 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
16 by inserting “an ombudsman appointed under sec-
17 tion 333, or” before “a professional person”; and

18 (2) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “ombuds-
19 man,” before “professional person”.

20 **SEC. 1105. DEBTOR IN POSSESSION; DUTY OF TRUSTEE TO**
21 **TRANSFER PATIENTS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 704(a) of title 11, United
23 States Code, as amended by sections 102, 219, and 446,
24 is amended by adding at the end the following:



1 “(12) use all reasonable and best efforts to
2 transfer patients from a health care business that is
3 in the process of being closed to an appropriate
4 health care business that—

5 “(A) is in the vicinity of the health care
6 business that is closing;

7 “(B) provides the patient with services
8 that are substantially similar to those provided
9 by the health care business that is in the pro-
10 cess of being closed; and

11 “(C) maintains a reasonable quality of
12 care.”.

13 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1106(a)(1)
14 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section
15 446, is amended by striking “and (11)” and inserting
16 “(11), and (12)”.

17 **SEC. 1106. EXCLUSION FROM PROGRAM PARTICIPATION**
18 **NOT SUBJECT TO AUTOMATIC STAY.**

19 Section 362(b) of title 11, United States Code, is
20 amended by inserting after paragraph (27), as amended
21 by sections 224, 303, 311, 401, 718, and 907, the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(28) under subsection (a), of the exclusion by
24 the Secretary of Health and Human Services of the
25 debtor from participation in the medicare program



1 or any other Federal health care program (as de-
2 fined in section 1128B(f) of the Social Security Act
3 pursuant to title XI or XVIII of such Act).”.

4 **TITLE XII—TECHNICAL**
5 **AMENDMENTS**

6 **SEC. 1201. DEFINITIONS.**

7 Section 101 of title 11, United States Code, as here-
8 inbefore amended by this Act, is amended—

9 (1) by striking “In this title—” and inserting
10 “In this title the following definitions shall apply:”;

11 (2) in each paragraph, by inserting “The term”
12 after the paragraph designation;

13 (3) in paragraph (35)(B), by striking “para-
14 graphs (21B) and (33)(A)” and inserting “para-
15 graphs (23) and (35)”;

16 (4) in each of paragraphs (35A), (38), and
17 (54A), by striking “; and” at the end and inserting
18 a period;

19 (5) in paragraph (51B)—

20 (A) by inserting “who is not a family farm-
21 er” after “debtor” the first place it appears;
22 and

23 (B) by striking “thereto having aggregate”
24 and all that follows through the end of the
25 paragraph and inserting a semicolon;



1 (6) by striking paragraph (54) and inserting
2 the following:

3 “(54) The term ‘transfer’ means—

4 “(A) the creation of a lien;

5 “(B) the retention of title as a security in-
6 terest;

7 “(C) the foreclosure of a debtor’s equity of
8 redemption; or

9 “(D) each mode, direct or indirect, abso-
10 lute or conditional, voluntary or involuntary, of
11 disposing of or parting with—

12 “(i) property; or

13 “(ii) an interest in property;”;

14 (7) by indenting the left margin of paragraph
15 (54A) 2 ems to the right; and

16 (8) in each of paragraphs (1) through (35), in
17 each of paragraphs (36), (37), (38A), (38B) and
18 (39A), and in each of paragraphs (40) through (55),
19 by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a
20 period.

21 **SEC. 1202. ADJUSTMENT OF DOLLAR AMOUNTS.**

22 Section 104 of title 11, United States Code, is
23 amended by inserting “522(f)(3),” after “522(d),” each
24 place it appears.



1 **SEC. 1203. EXTENSION OF TIME.**

2 Section 108(c)(2) of title 11, United States Code, is
3 amended by striking “922” and all that follows through
4 “or”, and inserting “922, 1201, or”.

5 **SEC. 1204. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

6 Title 11, United States Code, is amended—

7 (1) in section 109(b)(2), by striking “subsection
8 (c) or (d) of”; and

9 (2) in section 552(b)(1), by striking “product”
10 each place it appears and inserting “products”.

11 **SEC. 1205. PENALTY FOR PERSONS WHO NEGLIGENTLY OR**
12 **FRAUDULENTLY PREPARE BANKRUPTCY PE-**
13 **TITIONS.**

14 Section 110(j)(4) of title 11, United States Code, as
15 so redesignated by section 221, is amended by striking
16 “attorney’s” and inserting “attorneys”.

17 **SEC. 1206. LIMITATION ON COMPENSATION OF PROFES-**
18 **SIONAL PERSONS.**

19 Section 328(a) of title 11, United States Code, is
20 amended by inserting “on a fixed or percentage fee basis,”
21 after “hourly basis,”.

22 **SEC. 1207. EFFECT OF CONVERSION.**

23 Section 348(f)(2) of title 11, United States Code, is
24 amended by inserting “of the estate” after “property” the
25 first place it appears.



1 **SEC. 1208. ALLOWANCE OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**

2 Section 503(b)(4) of title 11, United States Code, is
3 amended by inserting “subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (D),
4 or (E) of” before “paragraph (3)”.

5 **SEC. 1209. EXCEPTIONS TO DISCHARGE.**

6 Section 523 of title 11, United States Code, as
7 amended by sections 215 and 314, is amended—

8 (1) by transferring paragraph (15), as added by
9 section 304(e) of Public Law 103–394 (108 Stat.
10 4133), so as to insert such paragraph after sub-
11 section (a)(14A);

12 (2) in subsection (a)(9), by striking “motor ve-
13 hicle” and inserting “motor vehicle, vessel, or air-
14 craft”; and

15 (3) in subsection (e), by striking “a insured”
16 and inserting “an insured”.

17 **SEC. 1210. EFFECT OF DISCHARGE.**

18 Section 524(a)(3) of title 11, United States Code, is
19 amended by striking “section 523” and all that follows
20 through “or that” and inserting “section 523, 1228(a)(1),
21 or 1328(a)(1), or that”.

22 **SEC. 1211. PROTECTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATORY TREAT-**
23 **MENT.**

24 Section 525(e) of title 11, United States Code, is
25 amended—



1 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “student” be-
2 fore “grant” the second place it appears; and

3 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “the program
4 operated under part B, D, or E of” and inserting
5 “any program operated under”.

6 **SEC. 1212. PROPERTY OF THE ESTATE.**

7 Section 541(b)(4)(B)(ii) of title 11, United States
8 Code, is amended by inserting “365 or” before “542”.

9 **SEC. 1213. PREFERENCES.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 547 of title 11, United
11 States Code, as amended by section 201, is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (b), by striking “subsection
13 (c)” and inserting “subsections (c) and (i)”; and

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

15 “(i) If the trustee avoids under subsection (b) a
16 transfer made between 90 days and 1 year before the date
17 of the filing of the petition, by the debtor to an entity
18 that is not an insider for the benefit of a creditor that
19 is an insider, such transfer shall be considered to be avoid-
20 ed under this section only with respect to the creditor that
21 is an insider.”.

22 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this
23 section shall apply to any case that is pending or com-
24 menced on or after the date of enactment of this Act.



1 **SEC. 1214. POSTPETITION TRANSACTIONS.**

2 Section 549(c) of title 11, United States Code, is
3 amended—

4 (1) by inserting “an interest in” after “transfer
5 of” each place it appears;

6 (2) by striking “such property” and inserting
7 “such real property”; and

8 (3) by striking “the interest” and inserting
9 “such interest”.

10 **SEC. 1215. DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY OF THE ESTATE.**

11 Section 726(b) of title 11, United States Code, is
12 amended by striking “1009,”.

13 **SEC. 1216. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

14 Section 901(a) of title 11, United States Code, is
15 amended by inserting “1123(d),” after “1123(b),”.

16 **SEC. 1217. ABANDONMENT OF RAILROAD LINE.**

17 Section 1170(e)(1) of title 11, United States Code,
18 is amended by striking “section 11347” and inserting
19 “section 11326(a)”.

20 **SEC. 1218. CONTENTS OF PLAN.**

21 Section 1172(c)(1) of title 11, United States Code,
22 is amended by striking “section 11347” and inserting
23 “section 11326(a)”.

24 **SEC. 1219. BANKRUPTCY CASES AND PROCEEDINGS.**

25 Section 1334(d) of title 28, United States Code, is
26 amended—



1 (1) by striking “made under this subsection”
2 and inserting “made under subsection (c)”; and
3 (2) by striking “This subsection” and inserting
4 “Subsection (c) and this subsection”.

5 **SEC. 1220. KNOWING DISREGARD OF BANKRUPTCY LAW OR**
6 **RULE.**

7 Section 156(a) of title 18, United States Code, is
8 amended—

9 (1) in the first undesignated paragraph—

10 (A) by inserting “(1) the term” before
11 “bankruptcy”; and

12 (B) by striking the period at the end and
13 inserting “; and”; and

14 (2) in the second undesignated paragraph—

15 (A) by inserting “(2) the term” before
16 “document”; and

17 (B) by striking “this title” and inserting
18 “title 11”.

19 **SEC. 1221. TRANSFERS MADE BY NONPROFIT CHARITABLE**
20 **CORPORATIONS.**

21 (a) SALE OF PROPERTY OF ESTATE.—Section 363(d)
22 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking
23 “only” and all that follows through the end of the sub-
24 section and inserting “only—



1 “(1) in accordance with applicable nonbank-
2 ruptcy law that governs the transfer of property by
3 a corporation or trust that is not a moneyed, busi-
4 ness, or commercial corporation or trust; and

5 “(2) to the extent not inconsistent with any re-
6 lief granted under subsection (c), (d), (e), or (f) of
7 section 362.”.

8 (b) CONFIRMATION OF PLAN OF REORGANIZA-
9 TION.—Section 1129(a) of title 11, United States Code,
10 as amended by sections 213 and 321, is amended by add-
11 ing at the end the following:

12 “(16) All transfers of property of the plan shall
13 be made in accordance with any applicable provi-
14 sions of nonbankruptcy law that govern the transfer
15 of property by a corporation or trust that is not a
16 moneyed, business, or commercial corporation or
17 trust.”.

18 (c) TRANSFER OF PROPERTY.—Section 541 of title
19 11, United States Code, as amended by section 225, is
20 amended by adding at the end the following:

21 “(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title,
22 property that is held by a debtor that is a corporation de-
23 scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
24 of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such
25 Code may be transferred to an entity that is not such a



1 corporation, but only under the same conditions as would
2 apply if the debtor had not filed a case under this title.”.

3 (d) **APPLICABILITY.**—The amendments made by this
4 section shall apply to a case pending under title 11, United
5 States Code, on the date of enactment of this Act, or filed
6 under that title on or after that date of enactment, except
7 that the court shall not confirm a plan under chapter 11
8 of title 11, United States Code, without considering
9 whether this section would substantially affect the rights
10 of a party in interest who first acquired rights with respect
11 to the debtor after the date of the filing of the petition.
12 The parties who may appear and be heard in a proceeding
13 under this section include the attorney general of the State
14 in which the debtor is incorporated, was formed, or does
15 business.

16 (e) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this sec-
17 tion shall be construed to require the court in which a
18 case under chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code, is
19 pending to remand or refer any proceeding, issue, or con-
20 troversy to any other court or to require the approval of
21 any other court for the transfer of property.

22 **SEC. 1222. PROTECTION OF VALID PURCHASE MONEY SE-**
23 **CURITY INTERESTS.**

24 Section 547(c)(3)(B) of title 11, United States Code,
25 is amended by striking “20” and inserting “30”.



1 **SEC. 1223. BANKRUPTCY JUDGESHIPS.**

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the
3 “Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 2003”.

4 (b) **TEMPORARY JUDGESHIPS.**—

5 (1) **APPOINTMENTS.**—The following bankruptcy
6 judges shall be appointed in the manner prescribed
7 in section 152(a)(1) of title 28, United States Code,
8 for the appointment of bankruptcy judges provided
9 for in section 152(a)(2) of such title:

10 (A) One additional bankruptcy judge for
11 the eastern district of California.

12 (B) Three additional bankruptcy judges for
13 the central district of California.

14 (C) Four additional bankruptcy judges for
15 the district of Delaware.

16 (D) Two additional bankruptcy judges for
17 the southern district of Florida.

18 (E) One additional bankruptcy judge for
19 the southern district of Georgia.

20 (F) Three additional bankruptcy judges for
21 the district of Maryland.

22 (G) One additional bankruptcy judge for
23 the eastern district of Michigan.

24 (H) One additional bankruptcy judge for
25 the southern district of Mississippi.



1 (I) One additional bankruptcy judge for
2 the district of New Jersey.

3 (J) One additional bankruptcy judge for
4 the eastern district of New York.

5 (K) One additional bankruptcy judge for
6 the northern district of New York.

7 (L) One additional bankruptcy judge for
8 the southern district of New York.

9 (M) One additional bankruptcy judge for
10 the eastern district of North Carolina.

11 (N) One additional bankruptcy judge for
12 the eastern district of Pennsylvania.

13 (O) One additional bankruptcy judge for
14 the middle district of Pennsylvania.

15 (P) One additional bankruptcy judge for
16 the district of Puerto Rico.

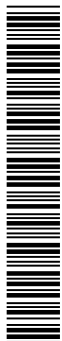
17 (Q) One additional bankruptcy judge for
18 the western district of Tennessee.

19 (R) One additional bankruptcy judge for
20 the eastern district of Virginia.

21 (S) One additional bankruptcy judge for
22 the district of South Carolina.

23 (T) One additional bankruptcy judge for
24 the district of Nevada.

25 (2) VACANCIES.—



1 (A) DISTRICTS WITH SINGLE APPOINT-
 2 MENTS.—Except as provided in subparagraphs
 3 (B), (C), (D), and (E), the first vacancy occur-
 4 ring in the office of bankruptcy judge in each
 5 of the judicial districts set forth in paragraph
 6 (1)—

7 (i) occurring 5 years or more after the
 8 appointment date of the bankruptcy judge
 9 appointed under paragraph (1) to such of-
 10 fice; and

11 (ii) resulting from the death, retire-
 12 ment, resignation, or removal of a bank-
 13 ruptcy judge;
 14 shall not be filled.

15 (B) CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.—
 16 The 1st, 2d, and 3d vacancies in the office of
 17 bankruptcy judge in the central district of
 18 California—

19 (i) occurring 5 years or more after the
 20 respective 1st, 2d, and 3d appointment
 21 dates of the bankruptcy judges appointed
 22 under paragraph (1)(B); and

23 (ii) resulting from the death, retire-
 24 ment, resignation, or removal of a bank-
 25 ruptcy judge;



1 shall not be filled.

2 (C) DISTRICT OF DELAWARE.—The 1st,
3 2d, 3d, and 4th vacancies in the office of bank-
4 ruptcy judge in the district of Delaware—

5 (i) occurring 5 years or more after the
6 respective 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th appoint-
7 ment dates of the bankruptcy judges ap-
8 pointed under paragraph (1)(F); and

9 (ii) resulting from the death, retire-
10 ment, resignation, or removal of a bank-
11 ruptcy judge;

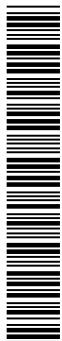
12 shall not be filled.

13 (D) SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.—
14 The 1st and 2d vacancies in the office of bank-
15 ruptcy judge in the southern district of
16 Florida—

17 (i) occurring 5 years or more after the
18 respective 1st and 2d appointment dates of
19 the bankruptcy judges appointed under
20 paragraph (1)(D); and

21 (ii) resulting from the death, retire-
22 ment, resignation, or removal of a bank-
23 ruptcy judge;

24 shall not be filled.



1 (E) DISTRICT OF MARYLAND.—The 1st,
2 2d, and 3d vacancies in the office of bankruptcy
3 judge in the district of Maryland—

4 (i) occurring 5 years or more after the
5 respective 1st, 2d, and 3d appointment
6 dates of the bankruptcy judges appointed
7 under paragraph (1)(F); and

8 (ii) resulting from the death, retire-
9 ment, resignation, or removal of a bank-
10 ruptcy judge;

11 shall not be filled.

12 (c) EXTENSIONS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The temporary office of
14 bankruptcy judges authorized for the northern dis-
15 trict of Alabama, the district of Delaware, the dis-
16 trict of Puerto Rico, and the eastern district of Ten-
17 nessee under paragraphs (1), (3), (7), and (9) of
18 section 3(a) of the Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of
19 1992 (28 U.S.C. 152 note) are extended until the
20 first vacancy occurring in the office of a bankruptcy
21 judge in the applicable district resulting from the
22 death, retirement, resignation, or removal of a bank-
23 ruptcy judge and occurring 5 years after the date of
24 the enactment of this Act.



1 (2) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER PROVISIONS.—

2 All other provisions of section 3 of the Bankruptcy
3 Judgeship Act of 1992 (28 U.S.C. 152 note) remain
4 applicable to the temporary office of bankruptcy
5 judges referred to in this subsection.

6 (d) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 152(a) of
7 title 28, United States Code, is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking the first sen-
9 tence and inserting the following: “Each bankruptcy
10 judge to be appointed for a judicial district, as pro-
11 vided in paragraph (2), shall be appointed by the
12 court of appeals of the United States for the circuit
13 in which such district is located.”; and

14 (2) in paragraph (2)—

15 (A) in the item relating to the middle dis-
16 trict of Georgia, by striking “2” and inserting
17 “3”; and

18 (B) in the collective item relating to the
19 middle and southern districts of Georgia, by
20 striking “Middle and Southern 1”.

21 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
22 this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment
23 of this Act.



1 **SEC. 1224. COMPENSATING TRUSTEES.**

2 Section 1326 of title 11, United States Code, is
3 amended—

4 (1) in subsection (b)—

5 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and”;

6 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-
7 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

8 (C) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(3) if a chapter 7 trustee has been allowed
10 compensation due to the conversion or dismissal of
11 the debtor’s prior case pursuant to section 707(b),
12 and some portion of that compensation remains un-
13 paid in a case converted to this chapter or in the
14 case dismissed under section 707(b) and refiled
15 under this chapter, the amount of any such unpaid
16 compensation, which shall be paid monthly—

17 “(A) by prorating such amount over the
18 remaining duration of the plan; and

19 “(B) by monthly payments not to exceed
20 the greater of—

21 “(i) \$25; or

22 “(ii) the amount payable to unsecured
23 nonpriority creditors, as provided by the
24 plan, multiplied by 5 percent, and the re-
25 sult divided by the number of months in
26 the plan.”; and



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

2 “(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
3 title—

4 “(1) compensation referred to in subsection
5 (b)(3) is payable and may be collected by the trustee
6 under that paragraph, even if such amount has been
7 discharged in a prior case under this title; and

8 “(2) such compensation is payable in a case
9 under this chapter only to the extent permitted by
10 subsection (b)(3).”.

11 **SEC. 1225. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 362 OF TITLE 11,**
12 **UNITED STATES CODE.**

13 Section 362(b)(18) of title 11, United States Code,
14 is amended to read as follows:

15 “(18) under subsection (a) of the creation or
16 perfection of a statutory lien for an ad valorem
17 property tax, or a special tax or special assessment
18 on real property whether or not ad valorem, imposed
19 by a governmental unit, if such tax or assessment
20 comes due after the date of the filing of the peti-
21 tion;”.

22 **SEC. 1226. JUDICIAL EDUCATION.**

23 The Director of the Federal Judicial Center, in con-
24 sultation with the Director of the Executive Office for
25 United States Trustees, shall develop materials and con-



1 duct such training as may be useful to courts in imple-
2 menting this Act and the amendments made by this Act,
3 including the requirements relating to the means test
4 under section 707(b), and reaffirmation agreements under
5 section 524, of title 11 of the United States Code, as
6 amended by this Act.

7 **SEC. 1227. RECLAMATION.**

8 (a) RIGHTS AND POWERS OF THE TRUSTEE.—Sec-
9 tion 546(c) of title 11, United States Code, is amended
10 to read as follows:

11 “(c)(1) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this
12 section and in section 507(c), and subject to the prior
13 rights of a holder of a security interest in such goods or
14 the proceeds thereof, the rights and powers of the trustee
15 under sections 544(a), 545, 547, and 549 are subject to
16 the right of a seller of goods that has sold goods to the
17 debtor, in the ordinary course of such seller’s business,
18 to reclaim such goods if the debtor has received such goods
19 while insolvent, within 45 days before the date of the com-
20 mencement of a case under this title, but such seller may
21 not reclaim such goods unless such seller demands in writ-
22 ing reclamation of such goods—

23 “(A) not later than 45 days after the date of
24 receipt of such goods by the debtor; or



1 “(B) not later than 20 days after the date of
2 commencement of the case, if the 45-day period ex-
3 pires after the commencement of the case.

4 “(2) If a seller of goods fails to provide notice in the
5 manner described in paragraph (1), the seller still may
6 assert the rights contained in section 503(b)(9).”.

7 (b) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Section 503(b) of
8 title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 445
9 and 1103, is amended by adding at the end the following:

10 “(9) the value of any goods received by the
11 debtor within 20 days before the date of commence-
12 ment of a case under this title in which the goods
13 have been sold to the debtor in the ordinary course
14 of such debtor’s business.”.

15 **SEC. 1228. PROVIDING REQUESTED TAX DOCUMENTS TO**
16 **THE COURT.**

17 (a) CHAPTER 7 CASES.—The court shall not grant
18 a discharge in the case of an individual who is a debtor
19 in a case under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code,
20 unless requested tax documents have been provided to the
21 court.

22 (b) CHAPTER 11 AND CHAPTER 13 CASES.—The
23 court shall not confirm a plan of reorganization in the case
24 of an individual under chapter 11 or 13 of title 11, United



1 States Code, unless requested tax documents have been
2 filed with the court.

3 (c) DOCUMENT RETENTION.—The court shall de-
4 stroy documents submitted in support of a bankruptcy
5 claim not sooner than 3 years after the date of the conclu-
6 sion of a case filed by an individual under chapter 7, 11,
7 or 13 of title 11, United States Code. In the event of a
8 pending audit or enforcement action, the court may extend
9 the time for destruction of such requested tax documents.

10 **SEC. 1229. ENCOURAGING CREDITWORTHINESS.**

11 (a) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the
12 Congress that—

13 (1) certain lenders may sometimes offer credit
14 to consumers indiscriminately, without taking steps
15 to ensure that consumers are capable of repaying
16 the resulting debt, and in a manner which may en-
17 courage certain consumers to accumulate additional
18 debt; and

19 (2) resulting consumer debt may increasingly be
20 a major contributing factor to consumer insolvency.

21 (b) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Board of Governors of
22 the Federal Reserve System (hereafter in this section re-
23 ferred to as the “Board”) shall conduct a study of—

24 (1) consumer credit industry practices of solici-
25 iting and extending credit—



1 (A) indiscriminately;

2 (B) without taking steps to ensure that
3 consumers are capable of repaying the resulting
4 debt; and

5 (C) in a manner that encourages con-
6 sumers to accumulate additional debt; and

7 (2) the effects of such practices on consumer
8 debt and insolvency.

9 (c) REPORT AND REGULATIONS.—Not later than 12
10 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the
11 Board—

12 (1) shall make public a report on its findings
13 with respect to the indiscriminate solicitation and
14 extension of credit by the credit industry;

15 (2) may issue regulations that would require
16 additional disclosures to consumers; and

17 (3) may take any other actions, consistent with
18 its existing statutory authority, that the Board finds
19 necessary to ensure responsible industrywide prac-
20 tices and to prevent resulting consumer debt and in-
21 solvency.



1 **SEC. 1230. PROPERTY NO LONGER SUBJECT TO REDEMP-**
2 **TION.**

3 Section 541(b) of title 11, United States Code, as
4 amended by sections 225 and 323, is amended by adding
5 at the end the following:

6 “(8) subject to subchapter III of chapter 5, any
7 interest of the debtor in property where the debtor
8 pledged or sold tangible personal property (other
9 than securities or written or printed evidences of in-
10 debtedness or title) as collateral for a loan or ad-
11 vance of money given by a person licensed under law
12 to make such loans or advances, where—

13 “(A) the tangible personal property is in
14 the possession of the pledgee or transferee;

15 “(B) the debtor has no obligation to repay
16 the money, redeem the collateral, or buy back
17 the property at a stipulated price; and

18 “(C) neither the debtor nor the trustee
19 have exercised any right to redeem provided
20 under the contract or State law, in a timely
21 manner as provided under State law and sec-
22 tion 108(b); or”.

23 **SEC. 1231. TRUSTEES.**

24 (a) **SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION OF PANEL**
25 **TRUSTEES AND STANDING TRUSTEES.**—Section 586(d) of
26 title 28, United States Code, is amended—



1 (1) by inserting “(1)” after “(d)”; and

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

3 “(2) A trustee whose appointment under subsection
4 (a)(1) or under subsection (b) is terminated or who ceases
5 to be assigned to cases filed under title 11, United States
6 Code, may obtain judicial review of the final agency deci-
7 sion by commencing an action in the district court of the
8 United States for the district for which the panel to which
9 the trustee is appointed under subsection (a)(1), or in the
10 district court of the United States for the district in which
11 the trustee is appointed under subsection (b) resides, after
12 first exhausting all available administrative remedies,
13 which if the trustee so elects, shall also include an admin-
14 istrative hearing on the record. Unless the trustee elects
15 to have an administrative hearing on the record, the trust-
16 ee shall be deemed to have exhausted all administrative
17 remedies for purposes of this paragraph if the agency fails
18 to make a final agency decision within 90 days after the
19 trustee requests administrative remedies. The Attorney
20 General shall prescribe procedures to implement this para-
21 graph. The decision of the agency shall be affirmed by
22 the district court unless it is unreasonable and without
23 cause based on the administrative record before the agen-
24 cy.”.



1 (b) EXPENSES OF STANDING TRUSTEES.—Section
2 586(e) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by add-
3 ing at the end the following:

4 “(3) After first exhausting all available administra-
5 tive remedies, an individual appointed under subsection
6 (b) may obtain judicial review of final agency action to
7 deny a claim of actual, necessary expenses under this sub-
8 section by commencing an action in the district court of
9 the United States for the district where the individual re-
10 sides. The decision of the agency shall be affirmed by the
11 district court unless it is unreasonable and without cause
12 based upon the administrative record before the agency.

13 “(4) The Attorney General shall prescribe procedures
14 to implement this subsection.”.

15 **SEC. 1232. BANKRUPTCY FORMS.**

16 Section 2075 of title 28, United States Code, is
17 amended by adding at the end the following:

18 “The bankruptcy rules promulgated under this sec-
19 tion shall prescribe a form for the statement required
20 under section 707(b)(2)(C) of title 11 and may provide
21 general rules on the content of such statement.”.

22 **SEC. 1233. DIRECT APPEALS OF BANKRUPTCY MATTERS TO**
23 **COURTS OF APPEALS.**

24 (a) APPEALS.—Section 158 of title 28, United States
25 Code, is amended—



1 (1) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “Subject to
2 subsection (b),” and inserting “Subject to sub-
3 sections (b) and (d)(2),”; and

4 (2) in subsection (d)—

5 (A) by inserting “(1)” after “(d)”; and

6 (B) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(2)(A) The appropriate court of appeals shall have
8 jurisdiction of appeals described in the first sentence of
9 subsection (a) if the bankruptcy court, the district court,
10 or the bankruptcy appellate panel involved, acting on its
11 own motion or on the request of a party to the judgment,
12 order, or decree described in such first sentence, or all the
13 appellants and appellees (if any) acting jointly, certify
14 that—

15 “(i) the judgment, order, or decree involves a
16 question of law as to which there is no controlling
17 decision of the court of appeals for the circuit or of
18 the Supreme Court of the United States, or involves
19 a matter of public importance;

20 “(ii) the judgment, order, or decree involves a
21 question of law requiring resolution of conflicting de-
22 cisions; or

23 “(iii) an immediate appeal from the judgment,
24 order, or decree may materially advance the progress



1 of the case or proceeding in which the appeal is
2 taken;
3 and if the court of appeals authorizes the direct appeal
4 of the judgment, order, or decree.

5 “(B) If the bankruptcy court, the district court, or
6 the bankruptcy appellate panel—

7 “(i) on its own motion or on the request of a
8 party, determines that a circumstance specified in
9 clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of subparagraph (A) exists; or

10 “(ii) receives a request made by a majority of
11 the appellants and a majority of appellees (if any)
12 to make the certification described in subparagraph
13 (A);

14 then the bankruptcy court, the district court, or the bank-
15 ruptcy appellate panel shall make the certification de-
16 scribed in subparagraph (A).

17 “(C) The parties may supplement the certification
18 with a short statement of the basis for the certification.

19 “(D) An appeal under this paragraph does not stay
20 any proceeding of the bankruptcy court, the district court,
21 or the bankruptcy appellate panel from which the appeal
22 is taken, unless the respective bankruptcy court, district
23 court, or bankruptcy appellate panel, or the court of ap-
24 peals in which the appeal is pending, issues a stay of such
25 proceeding pending the appeal.



1 “(E) Any request under subparagraph (B) for certifi-
2 cation shall be made not later than 60 days after the entry
3 of the judgment, order, or decree.”.

4 (b) PROCEDURAL RULES.—

5 (1) TEMPORARY APPLICATION.—A provision of
6 this subsection shall apply to appeals under section
7 158(d)(2) of title 28, United States Code, until a
8 rule of practice and procedure relating to such provi-
9 sion and such appeals is promulgated or amended
10 under chapter 131 of such title.

11 (2) CERTIFICATION.—A district court, a bank-
12 ruptcy court, or a bankruptcy appellate panel may
13 make a certification under section 158(d)(2) of title
14 28, United States Code, only with respect to matters
15 pending in the respective bankruptcy court, district
16 court, or bankruptcy appellate panel.

17 (3) PROCEDURE.—Subject to any other provi-
18 sion of this subsection, an appeal authorized by the
19 court of appeals under section 158(d)(2)(A) of title
20 28, United States Code, shall be taken in the man-
21 ner prescribed in subdivisions (a)(1), (b), (c), and
22 (d) of rule 5 of the Federal Rules of Appellate Pro-
23 cedure. For purposes of subdivision (a)(1) of rule
24 5—



1 (A) a reference in such subdivision to a
2 district court shall be deemed to include a ref-
3 erence to a bankruptcy court and a bankruptcy
4 appellate panel, as appropriate;

5 (B) a reference in such subdivision to the
6 parties requesting permission to appeal to be
7 served with the petition shall be deemed to in-
8 clude a reference to the parties to the judg-
9 ment, order, or decree from which the appeal is
10 taken.

11 (4) FILING OF PETITION WITH ATTACHMENT.—

12 A petition requesting permission to appeal, that is
13 based on a certification made under subparagraph
14 (A) or (B) of section 158(d)(2) shall—

15 (A) be filed with the circuit clerk not later
16 than 10 days after the certification is entered
17 on the docket of the bankruptcy court, the dis-
18 trict court, or the bankruptcy appellate panel
19 from which the appeal is taken; and

20 (B) have attached a copy of such certifi-
21 cation.

22 (5) REFERENCES IN RULE 5.—For purposes of
23 rule 5 of the Federal Rules of Appellate
24 Procedure—



1 (A) a reference in such rule to a district
2 court shall be deemed to include a reference to
3 a bankruptcy court and to a bankruptcy appel-
4 late panel; and

5 (B) a reference in such rule to a district
6 clerk shall be deemed to include a reference to
7 a clerk of a bankruptcy court and to a clerk of
8 a bankruptcy appellate panel.

9 (6) APPLICATION OF RULES.—The Federal
10 Rules of Appellate Procedure shall apply in the
11 courts of appeals with respect to appeals authorized
12 under section 158(d)(2)(A), to the extent relevant
13 and as if such appeals were taken from final judg-
14 ments, orders, or decrees of the district courts or
15 bankruptcy appellate panels exercising appellate ju-
16 risdiction under subsection (a) or (b) of section 158
17 of title 28, United States Code.

18 **SEC. 1234. INVOLUNTARY CASES.**

19 (a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 303 of title 11, United
20 States Code, is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (b)(1), by—

22 (A) inserting “as to liability or amount”
23 after “bona fide dispute”; and



1 (B) striking “if such claims” and inserting
2 “if such noncontingent, undisputed claims”;
3 and

4 (2) in subsection (h)(1), by inserting “as to li-
5 ability or amount” before the semicolon at the end.

6 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION OF AMEND-
7 MENTS.—This section and the amendments made by this
8 section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of
9 this Act and shall not apply with respect to cases com-
10 menced under title 11 of the United States Code before
11 such date.

12 **SEC. 1235. FEDERAL ELECTION LAW FINES AND PENALTIES**

13 **AS NONDISCHARGEABLE DEBT.**

14 Section 523(a) of title 11, United States Code, as
15 amended by section 314, is amended by inserting after
16 paragraph (14A) the following:

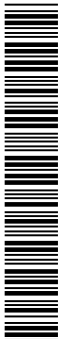
17 “(14B) incurred to pay fines or penalties im-
18 posed under Federal election law;”.

19 **TITLE XIII—CONSUMER CREDIT**
20 **DISCLOSURE**

21 **SEC. 1301. ENHANCED DISCLOSURES UNDER AN OPEN END**

22 **CREDIT PLAN.**

23 (a) MINIMUM PAYMENT DISCLOSURES.—Section
24 127(b) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1637(b))
25 is amended by adding at the end the following:



1 “(11)(A) In the case of an open end credit plan
2 that requires a minimum monthly payment of not
3 more than 4 percent of the balance on which finance
4 charges are accruing, the following statement, lo-
5 cated on the front of the billing statement, disclosed
6 clearly and conspicuously: ‘Minimum Payment
7 Warning: Making only the minimum payment will
8 increase the interest you pay and the time it takes
9 to repay your balance. For example, making only the
10 typical 2% minimum monthly payment on a balance
11 of \$1,000 at an interest rate of 17% would take 88
12 months to repay the balance in full. For an estimate
13 of the time it would take to repay your balance,
14 making only minimum payments, call this toll-free
15 number: _____.’ (the blank space to be
16 filled in by the creditor).

17 “(B) In the case of an open end credit plan
18 that requires a minimum monthly payment of more
19 than 4 percent of the balance on which finance
20 charges are accruing, the following statement, in a
21 prominent location on the front of the billing state-
22 ment, disclosed clearly and conspicuously: ‘Minimum
23 Payment Warning: Making only the required min-
24 imum payment will increase the interest you pay and
25 the time it takes to repay your balance. Making a



1 typical 5% minimum monthly payment on a balance
2 of \$300 at an interest rate of 17% would take 24
3 months to repay the balance in full. For an estimate
4 of the time it would take to repay your balance,
5 making only minimum monthly payments, call this
6 toll-free number: _____.' (the blank space to
7 be filled in by the creditor).

8 “(C) Notwithstanding subparagraphs (A) and
9 (B), in the case of a creditor with respect to which
10 compliance with this title is enforced by the Federal
11 Trade Commission, the following statement, in a
12 prominent location on the front of the billing state-
13 ment, disclosed clearly and conspicuously: ‘Minimum
14 Payment Warning: Making only the required min-
15 imum payment will increase the interest you pay and
16 the time it takes to repay your balance. For exam-
17 ple, making only the typical 5% minimum monthly
18 payment on a balance of \$300 at an interest rate of
19 17% would take 24 months to repay the balance in
20 full. For an estimate of the time it would take to
21 repay your balance, making only minimum monthly
22 payments, call the Federal Trade Commission at
23 this toll-free number: _____.’ (the blank
24 space to be filled in by the creditor). A creditor who



1 is subject to this subparagraph shall not be subject
2 to subparagraph (A) or (B).

3 “(D) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), (B),
4 or (C), in complying with any such subparagraph, a
5 creditor may substitute an example based on an in-
6 terest rate that is greater than 17 percent. Any
7 creditor that is subject to subparagraph (B) may
8 elect to provide the disclosure required under sub-
9 paragraph (A) in lieu of the disclosure required
10 under subparagraph (B).

11 “(E) The Board shall, by rule, periodically re-
12 calculate, as necessary, the interest rate and repay-
13 ment period under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C).

14 “(F)(i) The toll-free telephone number disclosed
15 by a creditor or the Federal Trade Commission
16 under subparagraph (A), (B), or (G), as appro-
17 priate, may be a toll-free telephone number estab-
18 lished and maintained by the creditor or the Federal
19 Trade Commission, as appropriate, or may be a toll-
20 free telephone number established and maintained
21 by a third party for use by the creditor or multiple
22 creditors or the Federal Trade Commission, as ap-
23 propriate. The toll-free telephone number may con-
24 nect consumers to an automated device through
25 which consumers may obtain information described



1 in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C), by inputting infor-
2 mation using a touch-tone telephone or similar de-
3 vice, if consumers whose telephones are not equipped
4 to use such automated device are provided the op-
5 portunity to be connected to an individual from
6 whom the information described in subparagraph
7 (A), (B), or (C), as applicable, may be obtained. A
8 person that receives a request for information de-
9 scribed in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) from an ob-
10 ligor through the toll-free telephone number dis-
11 closed under subparagraph (A), (B), or (C), as ap-
12 plicable, shall disclose in response to such request
13 only the information set forth in the table promul-
14 gated by the Board under subparagraph (H)(i).

15 “(ii)(I) The Board shall establish and maintain
16 for a period not to exceed 24 months following the
17 effective date of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention
18 and Consumer Protection Act of 2003, a toll-free
19 telephone number, or provide a toll-free telephone
20 number established and maintained by a third party,
21 for use by creditors that are depository institutions
22 (as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit In-
23 surance Act), including a Federal credit union or
24 State credit union (as defined in section 101 of the
25 Federal Credit Union Act), with total assets not ex-



1 ceeding \$250,000,000. The toll-free telephone num-
2 ber may connect consumers to an automated device
3 through which consumers may obtain information
4 described in subparagraph (A) or (B), as applicable,
5 by inputting information using a touch-tone tele-
6 phone or similar device, if consumers whose tele-
7 phones are not equipped to use such automated de-
8 vice are provided the opportunity to be connected to
9 an individual from whom the information described
10 in subparagraph (A) or (B), as applicable, may be
11 obtained. A person that receives a request for infor-
12 mation described in subparagraph (A) or (B) from
13 an obligor through the toll-free telephone number
14 disclosed under subparagraph (A) or (B), as applica-
15 ble, shall disclose in response to such request only
16 the information set forth in the table promulgated
17 by the Board under subparagraph (H)(i). The dollar
18 amount contained in this subclause shall be adjusted
19 according to an indexing mechanism established by
20 the Board.

21 “(II) Not later than 6 months prior to the expi-
22 ration of the 24-month period referenced in sub-
23 clause (I), the Board shall submit to the Committee
24 on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Sen-
25 ate and the Committee on Financial Services of the



1 House of Representatives a report on the program
2 described in subclause (I).

3 “(G) The Federal Trade Commission shall es-
4 tablish and maintain a toll-free number for the pur-
5 pose of providing to consumers the information re-
6 quired to be disclosed under subparagraph (C).

7 “(H) The Board shall—

8 “(i) establish a detailed table illustrating
9 the approximate number of months that it
10 would take to repay an outstanding balance if
11 a consumer pays only the required minimum
12 monthly payments and if no other advances are
13 made, which table shall clearly present stand-
14 ardized information to be used to disclose the
15 information required to be disclosed under sub-
16 paragraph (A), (B), or (C), as applicable;

17 “(ii) establish the table required under
18 clause (i) by assuming—

19 “(I) a significant number of different
20 annual percentage rates;

21 “(II) a significant number of different
22 account balances;

23 “(III) a significant number of dif-
24 ferent minimum payment amounts; and



1 “(IV) that only minimum monthly
2 payments are made and no additional ex-
3 tensions of credit are obtained; and

4 “(iii) promulgate regulations that provide
5 instructional guidance regarding the manner in
6 which the information contained in the table es-
7 tablished under clause (i) should be used in re-
8 sponding to the request of an obligor for any
9 information required to be disclosed under sub-
10 paragraph (A), (B), or (C).

11 “(I) The disclosure requirements of this para-
12 graph do not apply to any charge card account, the
13 primary purpose of which is to require payment of
14 charges in full each month.

15 “(J) A creditor that maintains a toll-free tele-
16 phone number for the purpose of providing cus-
17 tomers with the actual number of months that it will
18 take to repay the customer’s outstanding balance is
19 not subject to the requirements of subparagraph (A)
20 or (B).

21 “(K) A creditor that maintains a toll-free tele-
22 phone number for the purpose of providing cus-
23 tomers with the actual number of months that it will
24 take to repay an outstanding balance shall include
25 the following statement on each billing statement:



1 ‘Making only the minimum payment will increase
2 the interest you pay and the time it takes to repay
3 your balance. For more information, call this toll-
4 free number: _____.’ (the blank space to be filled
5 in by the creditor).”.

6 (b) REGULATORY IMPLEMENTATION.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Board of Governors of
8 the Federal Reserve System (hereafter in this title
9 referred to as the “Board”) shall promulgate regula-
10 tions implementing the requirements of section
11 127(b)(11) of the Truth in Lending Act, as added
12 by subsection (a) of this section.

13 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 127(b)(11) of
14 the Truth in Lending Act, as added by subsection
15 (a) of this section, and the regulations issued under
16 paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not take effect
17 until the later of—

18 (A) 18 months after the date of enactment
19 of this Act; or

20 (B) 12 months after the publication of
21 such final regulations by the Board.

22 (c) STUDY OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Board may conduct a
24 study to determine the types of information available
25 to potential borrowers from consumer credit lending



1 institutions regarding factors qualifying potential
2 borrowers for credit, repayment requirements, and
3 the consequences of default.

4 (2) FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION.—In con-
5 ducting a study under paragraph (1), the Board
6 should, in consultation with the other Federal bank-
7 ing agencies (as defined in section 3 of the Federal
8 Deposit Insurance Act), the National Credit Union
9 Administration, and the Federal Trade Commission,
10 consider the extent to which—

11 (A) consumers, in establishing new credit
12 arrangements, are aware of their existing pay-
13 ment obligations, the need to consider those ob-
14 ligations in deciding to take on new credit, and
15 how taking on excessive credit can result in fi-
16 nancial difficulty;

17 (B) minimum periodic payment features
18 offered in connection with open end credit plans
19 impact consumer default rates;

20 (C) consumers make only the required
21 minimum payment under open end credit plans;

22 (D) consumers are aware that making only
23 required minimum payments will increase the
24 cost and repayment period of an open end cred-
25 it obligation; and



1 (E) the availability of low minimum pay-
2 ment options is a cause of consumers experi-
3 encing financial difficulty.

4 (3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Findings of the
5 Board in connection with any study conducted under
6 this subsection shall be submitted to Congress. Such
7 report shall also include recommendations for legis-
8 lative initiatives, if any, of the Board, based on its
9 findings.

10 **SEC. 1302. ENHANCED DISCLOSURE FOR CREDIT EXTEN-**
11 **SIONS SECURED BY A DWELLING.**

12 (a) OPEN END CREDIT EXTENSIONS.—

13 (1) CREDIT APPLICATIONS.—Section
14 127A(a)(13) of the Truth in Lending Act (15
15 U.S.C. 1637a(a)(13)) is amended—

16 (A) by striking “CONSULTATION OF TAX
17 ADVISER.—A statement that the” and inserting
18 the following: “TAX DEDUCTIBILITY.—A state-
19 ment that—

20 “(A) the”; and

21 (B) by striking the period at the end and
22 inserting the following: “; and

23 “(B) in any case in which the extension of
24 credit exceeds the fair market value (as defined
25 under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) of



1 the dwelling, the interest on the portion of the
2 credit extension that is greater than the fair
3 market value of the dwelling is not tax deduct-
4 ible for Federal income tax purposes.”.

5 (2) CREDIT ADVERTISEMENTS.—Section 147(b)
6 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1665b(b))
7 is amended—

8 (A) by striking “If any” and inserting the
9 following:

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If any”; and

11 (B) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(2) CREDIT IN EXCESS OF FAIR MARKET
13 VALUE.—Each advertisement described in subsection
14 (a) that relates to an extension of credit that may
15 exceed the fair market value of the dwelling, and
16 which advertisement is disseminated in paper form
17 to the public or through the Internet, as opposed to
18 by radio or television, shall include a clear and con-
19 spicuous statement that—

20 “(A) the interest on the portion of the
21 credit extension that is greater than the fair
22 market value of the dwelling is not tax deduct-
23 ible for Federal income tax purposes; and



1 “(B) the consumer should consult a tax
2 adviser for further information regarding the
3 deductibility of interest and charges.”.

4 (b) NON-OPEN END CREDIT EXTENSIONS.—

5 (1) CREDIT APPLICATIONS.—Section 128 of the
6 Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638) is
7 amended—

8 (A) in subsection (a), by adding at the end
9 the following:

10 “(15) In the case of a consumer credit trans-
11 action that is secured by the principal dwelling of
12 the consumer, in which the extension of credit may
13 exceed the fair market value of the dwelling, a clear
14 and conspicuous statement that—

15 “(A) the interest on the portion of the
16 credit extension that is greater than the fair
17 market value of the dwelling is not tax deduct-
18 ible for Federal income tax purposes; and

19 “(B) the consumer should consult a tax
20 adviser for further information regarding the
21 deductibility of interest and charges.”; and

22 (B) in subsection (b), by adding at the end
23 the following:

24 “(3) In the case of a credit transaction described in
25 paragraph (15) of subsection (a), disclosures required by



1 that paragraph shall be made to the consumer at the time
2 of application for such extension of credit.”.

3 (2) CREDIT ADVERTISEMENTS.—Section 144 of
4 the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1664) is
5 amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(e) Each advertisement to which this section applies
7 that relates to a consumer credit transaction that is se-
8 cured by the principal dwelling of a consumer in which
9 the extension of credit may exceed the fair market value
10 of the dwelling, and which advertisement is disseminated
11 in paper form to the public or through the Internet, as
12 opposed to by radio or television, shall clearly and con-
13 spicuously state that—

14 “(1) the interest on the portion of the credit ex-
15 tension that is greater than the fair market value of
16 the dwelling is not tax deductible for Federal income
17 tax purposes; and

18 “(2) the consumer should consult a tax adviser
19 for further information regarding the deductibility of
20 interest and charges.”.

21 (c) REGULATORY IMPLEMENTATION.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall promulgate
23 regulations implementing the amendments made by
24 this section.



1 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Regulations issued
2 under paragraph (1) shall not take effect until the
3 later of—

4 (A) 12 months after the date of enactment
5 of this Act; or

6 (B) 12 months after the date of publica-
7 tion of such final regulations by the Board.

8 **SEC. 1303. DISCLOSURES RELATED TO “INTRODUCTORY**
9 **RATES”.**

10 (a) INTRODUCTORY RATE DISCLOSURES.—Section
11 127(e) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1637(e))
12 is amended by adding at the end the following:

13 “(6) ADDITIONAL NOTICE CONCERNING ‘INTRO-
14 DUCTORY RATES’.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
16 subparagraph (B), an application or solicitation
17 to open a credit card account and all pro-
18 motional materials accompanying such applica-
19 tion or solicitation for which a disclosure is re-
20 quired under paragraph (1), and that offers a
21 temporary annual percentage rate of interest,
22 shall—

23 “(i) use the term ‘introductory’ in im-
24 mediate proximity to each listing of the
25 temporary annual percentage rate applica-



1 ble to such account, which term shall ap-
2 pear clearly and conspicuously;

3 “(ii) if the annual percentage rate of
4 interest that will apply after the end of the
5 temporary rate period will be a fixed rate,
6 state in a clear and conspicuous manner in
7 a prominent location closely proximate to
8 the first listing of the temporary annual
9 percentage rate (other than a listing of the
10 temporary annual percentage rate in the
11 tabular format described in section
12 122(c)), the time period in which the intro-
13 ductory period will end and the annual
14 percentage rate that will apply after the
15 end of the introductory period; and

16 “(iii) if the annual percentage rate
17 that will apply after the end of the tem-
18 porary rate period will vary in accordance
19 with an index, state in a clear and con-
20 spicuous manner in a prominent location
21 closely proximate to the first listing of the
22 temporary annual percentage rate (other
23 than a listing in the tabular format pre-
24 scribed by section 122(c)), the time period
25 in which the introductory period will end



1 and the rate that will apply after that,
2 based on an annual percentage rate that
3 was in effect within 60 days before the
4 date of mailing the application or solicita-
5 tion.

6 “(B) EXCEPTION.—Clauses (ii) and (iii) of
7 subparagraph (A) do not apply with respect to
8 any listing of a temporary annual percentage
9 rate on an envelope or other enclosure in which
10 an application or solicitation to open a credit
11 card account is mailed.

12 “(C) CONDITIONS FOR INTRODUCTORY
13 RATES.—An application or solicitation to open
14 a credit card account for which a disclosure is
15 required under paragraph (1), and that offers a
16 temporary annual percentage rate of interest
17 shall, if that rate of interest is revocable under
18 any circumstance or upon any event, clearly
19 and conspicuously disclose, in a prominent man-
20 ner on or with such application or solicitation—

21 “(i) a general description of the cir-
22 cumstances that may result in the revoca-
23 tion of the temporary annual percentage
24 rate; and



1 “(ii) if the annual percentage rate
2 that will apply upon the revocation of the
3 temporary annual percentage rate—

4 “(I) will be a fixed rate, the an-
5 nual percentage rate that will apply
6 upon the revocation of the temporary
7 annual percentage rate; or

8 “(II) will vary in accordance with
9 an index, the rate that will apply after
10 the temporary rate, based on an an-
11 nual percentage rate that was in ef-
12 fect within 60 days before the date of
13 mailing the application or solicitation.

14 “(D) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

15 “(i) the terms ‘temporary annual per-
16 centage rate of interest’ and ‘temporary
17 annual percentage rate’ mean any rate of
18 interest applicable to a credit card account
19 for an introductory period of less than 1
20 year, if that rate is less than an annual
21 percentage rate that was in effect within
22 60 days before the date of mailing the ap-
23 plication or solicitation; and

24 “(ii) the term ‘introductory period’
25 means the maximum time period for which



1 the temporary annual percentage rate may
2 be applicable.

3 “(E) RELATION TO OTHER DISCLOSURE
4 REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in this paragraph
5 may be construed to supersede subsection (a) of
6 section 122, or any disclosure required by para-
7 graph (1) or any other provision of this sub-
8 section.”.

9 (b) REGULATORY IMPLEMENTATION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall promulgate
11 regulations implementing the requirements of section
12 127(c)(6) of the Truth in Lending Act, as added by
13 this section.

14 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 127(c)(6) of
15 the Truth in Lending Act, as added by this section,
16 and regulations issued under paragraph (1) of this
17 subsection shall not take effect until the later of—

18 (A) 12 months after the date of enactment
19 of this Act; or

20 (B) 12 months after the date of publica-
21 tion of such final regulations by the Board.

22 **SEC. 1304. INTERNET-BASED CREDIT CARD SOLICITATIONS.**

23 (a) INTERNET-BASED SOLICITATIONS.—Section
24 127(c) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1637(c))
25 is amended by adding at the end the following:



1 “(7) INTERNET-BASED SOLICITATIONS.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In any solicitation to
3 open a credit card account for any person under
4 an open end consumer credit plan using the
5 Internet or other interactive computer service,
6 the person making the solicitation shall clearly
7 and conspicuously disclose—

8 “(i) the information described in sub-
9 paragraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1);
10 and

11 “(ii) the information described in
12 paragraph (6).

13 “(B) FORM OF DISCLOSURE.—The disclo-
14 sures required by subparagraph (A) shall be—

15 “(i) readily accessible to consumers in
16 close proximity to the solicitation to open
17 a credit card account; and

18 “(ii) updated regularly to reflect the
19 current policies, terms, and fee amounts
20 applicable to the credit card account.

21 “(C) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this
22 paragraph—

23 “(i) the term ‘Internet’ means the
24 international computer network of both



1 Federal and non-Federal interoperable
2 packet switched data networks; and

3 “(ii) the term ‘interactive computer
4 service’ means any information service,
5 system, or access software provider that
6 provides or enables computer access by
7 multiple users to a computer server, in-
8 cluding specifically a service or system that
9 provides access to the Internet and such
10 systems operated or services offered by li-
11 braries or educational institutions.”.

12 (b) REGULATORY IMPLEMENTATION.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall promulgate
14 regulations implementing the requirements of section
15 127(c)(7) of the Truth in Lending Act, as added by
16 this section.

17 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
18 by subsection (a) and the regulations issued under
19 paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not take effect
20 until the later of—

21 (A) 12 months after the date of enactment
22 of this Act; or

23 (B) 12 months after the date of publica-
24 tion of such final regulations by the Board.



1 **SEC. 1305. DISCLOSURES RELATED TO LATE PAYMENT**
2 **DEADLINES AND PENALTIES.**

3 (a) DISCLOSURES RELATED TO LATE PAYMENT
4 DEADLINES AND PENALTIES.—Section 127(b) of the
5 Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1637(b)) is amended
6 by adding at the end the following:

7 “(12) If a late payment fee is to be imposed
8 due to the failure of the obligor to make payment on
9 or before a required payment due date, the following
10 shall be stated clearly and conspicuously on the bill-
11 ing statement:

12 “(A) The date on which that payment is
13 due or, if different, the earliest date on which
14 a late payment fee may be charged.

15 “(B) The amount of the late payment fee
16 to be imposed if payment is made after such
17 date.”.

18 (b) REGULATORY IMPLEMENTATION.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall promulgate
20 regulations implementing the requirements of section
21 127(b)(12) of the Truth in Lending Act, as added
22 by this section.

23 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
24 by subsection (a) and regulations issued under para-
25 graph (1) of this subsection shall not take effect
26 until the later of—



1 (A) 12 months after the date of enactment
2 of this Act; or

3 (B) 12 months after the date of publica-
4 tion of such final regulations by the Board.

5 **SEC. 1306. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN ACTIONS FOR FAIL-**
6 **URE TO INCUR FINANCE CHARGES.**

7 (a) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN ACTIONS FOR FAIL-
8 URE TO INCUR FINANCE CHARGES.—Section 127 of the
9 Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1637) is amended by
10 adding at the end the following:

11 “(h) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN ACTIONS FOR FAIL-
12 URE TO INCUR FINANCE CHARGES.—A creditor of an ac-
13 count under an open end consumer credit plan may not
14 terminate an account prior to its expiration date solely be-
15 cause the consumer has not incurred finance charges on
16 the account. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit a
17 creditor from terminating an account for inactivity in 3
18 or more consecutive months.”.

19 (b) REGULATORY IMPLEMENTATION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall promulgate
21 regulations implementing the requirements of section
22 127(h) of the Truth in Lending Act, as added by
23 this section.

24 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
25 by subsection (a) and regulations issued under para-



1 graph (1) of this subsection shall not take effect
2 until the later of—

3 (A) 12 months after the date of enactment
4 of this Act; or

5 (B) 12 months after the date of publica-
6 tion of such final regulations by the Board.

7 **SEC. 1307. DUAL USE DEBIT CARD.**

8 (a) REPORT.—The Board may conduct a study of,
9 and present to Congress a report containing its analysis
10 of, consumer protections under existing law to limit the
11 liability of consumers for unauthorized use of a debit card
12 or similar access device. Such report, if submitted, shall
13 include recommendations for legislative initiatives, if any,
14 of the Board, based on its findings.

15 (b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In preparing a report under
16 subsection (a), the Board may include—

17 (1) the extent to which section 909 of the Elec-
18 tronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693g), as in
19 effect at the time of the report, and the imple-
20 menting regulations promulgated by the Board to
21 carry out that section provide adequate unauthorized
22 use liability protection for consumers;

23 (2) the extent to which any voluntary industry
24 rules have enhanced or may enhance the level of pro-



1 tection afforded consumers in connection with such
2 unauthorized use liability; and

3 (3) whether amendments to the Electronic
4 Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693 et seq.), or re-
5 visions to regulations promulgated by the Board to
6 carry out that Act, are necessary to further address
7 adequate protection for consumers concerning unau-
8 thorized use liability.

9 **SEC. 1308. STUDY OF BANKRUPTCY IMPACT OF CREDIT EX-**
10 **TENDED TO DEPENDENT STUDENTS.**

11 (a) STUDY.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall conduct a
13 study regarding the impact that the extension of
14 credit described in paragraph (2) has on the rate of
15 cases filed under title 11 of the United States Code.

16 (2) EXTENSION OF CREDIT.—The extension of
17 credit described in this paragraph is the extension of
18 credit to individuals who are—

19 (A) claimed as dependents for purposes of
20 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

21 (B) enrolled within 1 year of successfully
22 completing all required secondary education re-
23 quirements and on a full-time basis, in postsec-
24 ondary educational institutions.



1 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
2 of enactment of this Act, the Board shall submit to the
3 Senate and the House of Representatives a report summa-
4 rizing the results of the study conducted under subsection
5 (a).

6 **SEC. 1309. CLARIFICATION OF CLEAR AND CONSPICUOUS.**

7 (a) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 6 months after
8 the date of enactment of this Act, the Board, in consulta-
9 tion with the other Federal banking agencies (as defined
10 in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act), the
11 National Credit Union Administration Board, and the
12 Federal Trade Commission, shall promulgate regulations
13 to provide guidance regarding the meaning of the term
14 “clear and conspicuous”, as used in subparagraphs (A),
15 (B), and (C) of section 127(b)(11) and clauses (ii) and
16 (iii) of section 127(c)(6)(A) of the Truth in Lending Act.

17 (b) EXAMPLES.—Regulations promulgated under
18 subsection (a) shall include examples of clear and con-
19 spicuous model disclosures for the purposes of disclosures
20 required by the provisions of the Truth in Lending Act
21 referred to in subsection (a).

22 (c) STANDARDS.—In promulgating regulations under
23 this section, the Board shall ensure that the clear and con-
24 spicuous standard required for disclosures made under the
25 provisions of the Truth in Lending Act referred to in sub-



1 section (a) can be implemented in a manner which results
2 in disclosures which are reasonably understandable and
3 designed to call attention to the nature and significance
4 of the information in the notice.

5 **TITLE XIV—GENERAL EFFEC-**
6 **TIVE DATE; APPLICATION OF**
7 **AMENDMENTS**

8 **SEC. 1401. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION OF AMEND-**
9 **MENTS.**

10 (a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as otherwise provided
11 in this Act, this Act and the amendments made by this
12 Act shall take effect 180 days after the date of enactment
13 of this Act.

14 (b) APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise pro-
16 vided in this Act and paragraph (2), the amend-
17 ments made by this Act shall not apply with respect
18 to cases commenced under title 11, United States
19 Code, before the effective date of this Act.

20 (2) CERTAIN LIMITATIONS APPLICABLE TO
21 DEBTORS.—The amendments made by sections 308,
22 322, and 330 shall apply with respect to cases com-
23 menced under title 11, United States Code, on or
24 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

