

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 720

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 13, 2017

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

## AN ACT

To amend Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to improve attorney accountability, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Lawsuit Abuse Reduc-  
3 tion Act of 2017”.

4 **SEC. 2. ATTORNEY ACCOUNTABILITY.**

5 (a) SANCTIONS UNDER RULE 11.—Rule 11(c) of the  
6 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “may” and in-  
8 serting “shall”;

9 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “Rule 5” and  
10 all that follows through “motion.” and inserting  
11 “Rule 5.”; and

12 (3) in paragraph (4), by striking “situated”  
13 and all that follows through the end of the para-  
14 graph and inserting “situated, and to compensate  
15 the parties that were injured by such conduct. Sub-  
16 ject to the limitations in paragraph (5), the sanction  
17 shall consist of an order to pay to the party or par-  
18 ties the amount of the reasonable expenses incurred  
19 as a direct result of the violation, including reason-  
20 able attorneys’ fees and costs. The court may also  
21 impose additional appropriate sanctions, such as  
22 striking the pleadings, dismissing the suit, or other  
23 directives of a non-monetary nature, or, if warranted  
24 for effective deterrence, an order directing payment  
25 of a penalty into the court.”.

1       (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act  
2 or an amendment made by this Act shall be construed to  
3 bar or impede the assertion or development of new claims,  
4 defenses, or remedies under Federal, State, or local laws,  
5 including civil rights laws, or under the Constitution of  
6 the United States.

Passed the House of Representatives March 10,  
2017.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,  
*Clerk.*