

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9545

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for increased penalties for sex offenses committed by officers of the United States and Members of Congress, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 30, 2026

Mr. FULLER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for increased penalties for sex offenses committed by officers of the United States and Members of Congress, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Holding Officials to
5 Necessary Ethical Standards and Transparency Act of
6 2026” or the “HONEST Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASED PENALTIES FOR SEX OFFENSES COM-**
2 **MITTED BY OFFICERS OF THE UNITED**
3 **STATES AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.**

4 (a) FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION.—Section 116(a)
5 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting
6 before the period at the end the following: “, or if the
7 offender is an officer of the United States or a Member
8 of Congress, be fined under this title, and punished by
9 death or imprisoned for any term of years or for life”.

10 (b) PENALTIES FOR CIVIL RIGHTS OFFENSES IN-
11 VOLVING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT.—Section 250(b) of title
12 18, United States Code, is amended—

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

15 (2) in paragraph (6)(B), by striking the period
16 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

18 “(7) in the case of an offense with respect to
19 which the offender is an officer of the United States
20 or a Member of Congress, fined under this title, and
21 punished by death or imprisonment for any term of
22 years or for life.”.

23 (c) SEX TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN OR BY FORCE,
24 FRAUD, OR COERCION.—Section 1591(b) of title 18,
25 United States Code, is amended—

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

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

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

6 “(3) if the offense was carried out by an officer
7 of the United States or a Member of Congress, by
8 a fine under this title, and by death or imprisonment
9 for any term of years or for life.”.

10 (d) AGGRAVATED SEXUAL ABUSE.—Section 2241 of
11 title 18, United States Code, is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting before the pe-
13 riod at the end the following: “, or if the offender
14 is an officer of the United States or a Member of
15 Congress, be fined under this title, and punished by
16 death or imprisoned for any term of years or for
17 life”;

18 (2) in subsection (b), by inserting before the pe-
19 riod at the end the following: “, or if the offender
20 is an officer of the United States or a Member of
21 Congress, be fined under this title, and punished by
22 death or imprisoned for any term of years or for
23 life”; and

24 (3) in subsection (c), by inserting after “not
25 less than 30 years or for life” the following: “, or

1 if the offender is an officer of the United States or
2 a Member of Congress, be fined under this title, and
3 punished by death or imprisoned for any term of
4 years or for life”.

5 (e) SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR, A WARD, OR AN
6 INDIVIDUAL IN FEDERAL CUSTODY.—Section 2243 of
7 title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
8 end the following:

9 “(f) OFFENSES BY FEDERAL OFFICIALS OR MEM-
10 BERS OF CONGRESS.—Whoever, being an officer of the
11 United States or a Member of Congress, commits an of-
12 fense under this section shall be fined under this title, and
13 punished by death or imprisonment for any term of years
14 or for life.”.

15 (f) ABUSIVE SEXUAL CONTACT.—Section 2244 of
16 title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
17 end the following:

18 “(d) OFFENSES BY FEDERAL OFFICIALS OR MEM-
19 BERS OF CONGRESS.—Whoever, being an officer of the
20 United States or a Member of Congress, commits an of-
21 fense under this section shall be fined under this title, and
22 punished by death or imprisonment for any term of years
23 or for life.”.

24 (g) SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN.—Section
25 2251(e) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by

1 inserting after “not less than 35 years nor more than life”
2 the following: “, but if such person is an officer of the
3 United States or a Member of Congress, such person shall
4 be fined under this title, and punished by death or impris-
5 onment for any term of years or for life”.

6 (h) SELLING OR BUYING OF CHILDREN.—Section
7 2251A of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting after “and by
9 a fine under this title” the following: “, or if the of-
10 fender is an officer of the United States or a Mem-
11 ber of Congress, be fined under this title, and pun-
12 ished by death or imprisoned for any term of years
13 or for life”; and

14 (2) in subsection (b), by inserting after “and by
15 a fine under this title” the following: “, or if the of-
16 fender is an officer of the United States or a Mem-
17 ber of Congress, be fined under this title, and pun-
18 ished by death or imprisoned for any term of years
19 or for life”.

20 (i) CERTAIN ACTIVITIES RELATING TO MATERIAL
21 INVOLVING THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF MINORS.—
22 Section 2252(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amend-
23 ed by adding at the end the following:

24 “(3) Whoever, being an officer of the United
25 States or a Member of Congress, violates, or at-

1 tempts or conspires to violate, subsection (a), shall
2 be fined under this title, and punished by death or
3 imprisoned for any term of years or for life.”.

4 (j) CERTAIN ACTIVITIES RELATING TO MATERIAL
5 CONSTITUTING OR CONTAINING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY.—
6 Section 2252A(b) of title 18, United States Code, is
7 amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(4) Whoever, being an officer of the United
9 States or a Member of Congress, violates, or at-
10 tempts or conspires to violate, subsection (a), shall
11 be fined under this title, and punished by death or
12 imprisoned for any term of years or for life.”.

13 (k) SEXUAL ABUSE.—Section 2422 of title 18,
14 United States Code, is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting before the pe-
16 riod at the end the following: “, or if the offender
17 is an officer of the United States or a Member of
18 Congress, be fined under this title, and punished by
19 death or imprisoned for any term of years or for
20 life”.

21 (2) in subsection (b), by inserting before the pe-
22 riod at the end the following: “, or if the offender
23 is an officer of the United States or a Member of
24 Congress, be fined under this title, and punished by

1 death or imprisoned for any term of years or for
2 life”.

3 (l) TRANSPORTATION OF MINORS.—Section 2423 of
4 title 18, United States Code, is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating subsections (g) through (i)
6 as subsection (h) through (j), respectively; and

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

9 “(g) OFFENSES BY FEDERAL OFFICIALS.—Whoever,
10 being an officer of the United States or a Member of Con-
11 gress, commits an offense under this section shall be fined
12 under this title, and punished by death or imprisonment
13 for any term of years or for life.”.

14 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL ADULTERY OFFENSE FOR OFFICERS OF**
15 **THE UNITED STATES AND MEMBERS OF CON-**
16 **GRESS.**

17 (a) OFFENSE.—Chapter 93 of title 18, United States
18 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

19 **“§ 1925. Adultery by officers of the United States and**
20 **Members of Congress**

21 “Whoever, being an officer of the United States or
22 a Member of Congress, in or affecting interstate or foreign
23 commerce, knowingly engages in sexual intercourse (in-
24 cluding genital-genital, oral-genital, anal-genital, or oral-
25 anal, whether between persons of the same or opposite

1 sex) with a person, and at the time of such conduct, the
2 officer or Member or the person with whom the officer
3 or Member engaged in such conduct, was married to an-
4 other person, shall be fined under this title, and impris-
5 oned for not more than one year, or both.”.

6 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
7 for chapter 93 of title 18, United States Code, is amended
8 by adding at the end the following:

“1925. Adultery by officers of the United States and Members of Congress.”.

