

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2222

To amend title 5, United States Code, to lower the standard for removing employees who disclose tax return information without authorization, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 24, 2021

Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend title 5, United States Code, to lower the standard for removing employees who disclose tax return information without authorization, 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 “Protect Taxpayers’
5 Privacy Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASE OF PENALTY FOR UNAUTHORIZED DIS-**
 2 **CLOSURE OF TAXPAYER INFORMATION.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 7213(a)
 4 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by strik-
 5 ing “\$5,000” and inserting “\$250,000”.

6 (b) DISCLOSURES BY TAX RETURN PREPARERS.—
 7 Subsection (a) of section 7216 of the Internal Revenue
 8 Code of 1986 is amended by striking “\$1,000 (\$100,000
 9 in the case of a disclosure or use to which section 6713(b)
 10 applies)” and inserting “\$250,000”.

11 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 12 this section shall apply to disclosures made on or after
 13 the date of the enactment of this Act.

14 **SEC. 3. REMOVAL.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7701(c)(1)(A) of title 5,
 16 United States Code, is amended by inserting “or in the
 17 case of an action involving a removal from the service for
 18 an alleged violation of section 7213(a)(1) of the Internal
 19 Revenue Code of 1986,” after “described in section
 20 4303,”.

21 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The amendments
 22 made by subsection (a) may not be construed to permit
 23 an officer or employee of the United States to submit an
 24 appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board if that indi-
 25 vidual is dismissed from office or discharged from employ-

- 1 ment upon conviction for a violation of section 7213(a)(1)
- 2 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

