

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2077

To prohibit employers from compelling or coercing any person to authorize access to a protected computer, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HOLT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. POLIS, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ENYART, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. DOYLE, and Ms. HAHN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To prohibit employers from compelling or coercing any person to authorize access to a protected computer, 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 “Password Protection
5 Act of 2013”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITED ACTIVITY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1030(a) of title 18,
3 United States Code, is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (7)(C), by inserting “or” after
5 the semicolon; and

6 (2) by inserting after paragraph (7)(C) the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(8) acting as an employer, knowingly and in-
9 tentionally—

10 “(A) for the purposes of employing, pro-
11 moting, or terminating employment, compels or
12 coerces any person to authorize access, such as
13 by providing a password or similar information
14 through which a computer may be accessed, to
15 a protected computer that is not the employer’s
16 protected computer, and thereby obtains infor-
17 mation from such protected computer; or

18 “(B) discharges, disciplines, discriminates
19 against in any manner, or threatens to take any
20 such action against, any person—

21 “(I) for failing to authorize access de-
22 scribed in subparagraph (A) to a protected
23 computer that is not the employer’s pro-
24 tected computer; or

25 “(ii) who has filed any complaint or
26 instituted or caused to be instituted any

1 proceeding under or related to this para-
2 graph, or has testified or is about to testify
3 in any such proceeding;”.

4 (b) FINE.—Section 1030(c) of title 18, United States
5 Code, is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (4)(G)(ii), by striking the pe-
7 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

9 “(5) a fine under this title, in the case of an
10 offense under subsection (a)(8) or an attempt to
11 commit an offense punishable under this para-
12 graph.”.

13 (c) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1030(e) of title 18,
14 United States Code, is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (11), by striking “and” after
16 the semicolon;

17 (2) in paragraph (12), by striking the period
18 and inserting a semicolon; and

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

20 “(13) the term ‘employee’ means an employee,
21 as such term is defined in section 201(2) of the Ge-
22 netic Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C.
23 2000ff(2));

24 “(14) the term ‘employer’ means an employer,
25 as such term is defined in such section 201(2); and

1 “(15) the term ‘employer’s protected computer’
2 means a protected computer of the employer, includ-
3 ing any protected computer owned, operated, or oth-
4 erwise controlled by, for, or on behalf of that em-
5 ployer.”.

6 (d) EXCEPTIONS.—Section 1030(f) of title 18,
7 United States Code, is amended—

8 (1) by striking “(f) This” and inserting “(f)(1)
9 This”; and

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

11 “(2)(A) Nothing in subsection (a)(8) shall be con-
12 strued to limit the authority of a court of competent juris-
13 diction to grant equitable relief in a civil action, if the
14 court determines that there are specific and articulable
15 facts showing that there are reasonable grounds to believe
16 that the information sought to be obtained is relevant and
17 material to protecting the intellectual property, a trade se-
18 cret, or confidential business information of the party
19 seeking the relief.

20 “(B) Notwithstanding subsection (a)(8), the prohibi-
21 tion in such subsection shall not apply to an employer’s
22 actions if—

23 “(I) the employer discharges or otherwise dis-
24 ciplines an individual for good cause and an activity
25 protected under subsection (a)(8) is not a motivating

1 factor for the discharge or discipline of the indi-
2 vidual;

3 “(ii) the employer is complying with the re-
4 quirements of Federal or State law, rule or regula-
5 tion, or a rule of a self-regulatory organization, as
6 defined in section 3(a)(26) of the Securities and Ex-
7 change Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(26)), applica-
8 ble to brokers, dealers and investment advisers;

9 “(iii) a State enacts a law that specifically
10 waives subsection (a)(8) with respect to a particular
11 class of State government employees or employees
12 who work with individuals under 13 years of age,
13 and the employer’s action relates to an employee in
14 such class; or

15 “(iv) an Executive agency (as defined in section
16 105 of title 5), a military department (as defined in
17 section 102 of such title), or any other entity within
18 the executive branch that comes into the possession
19 of classified information, including the Defense In-
20 telligence Agency, National Security Agency, and
21 National Reconnaissance Office, specifically waives
22 subsection (a)(8) with respect to a particular class
23 of employees requiring eligibility for access to classi-
24 fied information under Executive Order 12968 (60
25 Fed. Reg. 40245), or any successor thereto, and the

1 employer's action relates to an employee in such
2 class.”.

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