

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1290

To require the Supreme Court of the United States to issue a code of conduct for the justices of the Supreme Court, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 26, 2023

Mr. KING (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To require the Supreme Court of the United States to issue a code of conduct for the justices of the Supreme Court, 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 “Supreme Court Code
5 of Conduct Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR JUSTICES OF THE SU-**
7 **PREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Supreme Court of the
10 United States shall, after appropriate public notice and

1 opportunity for comment in accordance with section 2071
2 of title 28, United States Code, issue a code of conduct
3 for the Chief Justice of the United States and justices of
4 the Supreme Court of the United States.

5 (b) PUBLICATION.—The Supreme Court of the
6 United States shall publish the code of conduct required
7 under subsection (a) on the website of the Supreme Court,
8 which shall be available to the public.

9 (c) DESIGNATED INDIVIDUAL.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Supreme Court of the
11 United States shall designate an individual, includ-
12 ing an employee, to process complaints containing
13 allegations that the Chief Justice of the United
14 States or a justice of the Supreme Court has en-
15 gaged in, or is engaging in, conduct that is—

16 (A) prejudicial to the administration of
17 justice; or

18 (B) in violation of Federal law or the code
19 of conduct established under subsection (a).

20 (2) OBLIGATIONS.—The Chief Justice of the
21 United States and the justices of the Supreme Court
22 of the United States may confer with the designee
23 described in paragraph (1) on the obligations of the
24 Chief Justice or justice, as applicable, under the

1 code of conduct required under subsection (a) and
2 section 455 of title 28, United States Code.

3 (3) REPORT.—The individual designated under
4 paragraph (1) shall publish on the website of the Su-
5 preme Court of the United States a report that de-
6 scribes—

7 (A) the complaints described in paragraph
8 (1), with the names of the complainants
9 anonymized; and

10 (B) any steps taken to remedy the alleged
11 conduct.

12 (4) INVESTIGATIONS.—The Marshal of the Su-
13 preme Court of the United States, after consultation
14 with the Chief Justice of the United States and the
15 designee described in paragraph (1), may commis-
16 sion, on a reimbursable basis, Federal agency per-
17 sonnel who serve in investigative roles, or businesses
18 that contract with the Federal Government to carry
19 out investigative work, to assist the Marshal in car-
20 rying out investigations to determine whether the
21 Chief Justice of the United States, a justice of the
22 Supreme Court, or an employee who reports to a
23 justice of the Supreme Court, as applicable, has en-

- 1 gaged in, or is engaging in, conduct described in
- 2 paragraph (1).

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