H. Rept. 119-531 - BANK-FINTECH PARTNERSHIP ENHANCEMENT ACT

119th Congress (2025-2026)

Report Type: House Report
Accompanies: H.R.6552
Committees: House Financial Services Committee

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119th Congress } { Report
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2d Session } { 119-531

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BANK-FINTECH PARTNERSHIP ENHANCEMENT ACT

February 25, 2026.--Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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Mr. Hill of Arkansas, from the Committee on Financial Services, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 6552]

The Committee on Financial Services, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 6552) to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Comptroller of the Currency, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to study how partnerships between fintechs and banking organizations can support new banking organization formation and community bank health, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

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The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ``Bank-Fintech Partnership Enhancement Act''.

SEC. 2. STUDY ON BANK-FINTECH PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) Study.--The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Comptroller of the Currency, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation shall carry out a study of--

(1) the impact of partnerships between banking organizations, on the one hand, and financial technology companies, on the other hand, on the banking sector, competition, innovation, consumer protection, and the availability of financial products and services, including the extent to which these partnerships support the formation of new banking organizations, reduce time to market for products and services, lower compliance burdens, boost customer acquisition, improve technological capabilities, and provide access to more diverse funding sources; and

(2) what changes to Federal laws governing banking organizations, or to rules or guidance adopted by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Comptroller of the Currency, or the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, may help promote effective partnerships between banking organizations, on the one hand, and financial technology companies, on the other hand.

(b) Report.--Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Comptroller of the Currency, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation shall issue a report to Congress containing all findings and determinations made in carrying out the study required under subsection (a).

(c) Banking Organization Defined.--In this section, the term ``banking organization'' means a depository institution holding company or an insured depository institution, as such terms are defined, respectively, under section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813).

SEC. 3. STUDY ON CREDIT UNION-FINTECH PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) Study.--The National Credit Union Administration shall carry out a study of--

(1) the impact of partnerships between credit unions, on the one hand, and financial technology companies, on the other hand, on the credit union sector, competition, innovation, consumer protection, and the availability of financial products and services, including the extent to which these partnerships support the formation of new credit unions, reduce time to market for products and services, lower compliance burdens, boost customer acquisition, improve technological capabilities, and provide access to more diverse funding sources; and

(2) what changes to Federal laws governing credit unions, or to rules or guidance adopted by the National Credit Union Administration, may help promote effective partnerships between credit unions, on the one hand, and financial technology companies, on the other hand.

(b) Report.--Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Credit Union Administration shall issue a report to Congress containing all findings and determinations made in carrying out the study required under subsection (a).

PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H.R. 6552, the Bank-Fintech Partnership Enhancement Act, was introduced on December 10, 2025, by Republican Representative Andy Barr (KY-06). This bill would direct the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve (FRB), the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) to conduct a study on the impact of bank-fintech partnerships on the banking sector, competition, innovation, consumer protection, and the availability of financial products and services, including to the extent these partnerships support new bank formation, reduce time to market for products and services, lower compliance burdens, boost customer acquisition, improve technological capabilities, and expand access to diverse funding sources. The study also must identify regulatory and legal uncertainties that may be hindering these partnerships. The National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) is also required to conduct a similar report for partnerships between fintech companies and credit unions. A report to Congress is required within one year of enactment.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Historically, new banks--like other private enterprises--emerged in response to favorable market conditions, unmet community financial needs, and opportunities for innovation. However, regulatory attitudes have shifted in recent years, particularly under the previous administration, toward a more restrictive posture that has contributed to a chilling effect on new bank formation. Instead of encouraging competition, the current system reinforces incumbency and consolidation by making it prohibitively difficult for new entrants to navigate the process and achieve profitability.

H.R. 6552 reverses this trend by requiring the FRB, FDIC, and OCC to study how bank-fintech partnerships can encourage new bank formation by reducing the time to market for new bank products and services, lower compliance burdens, improve technological competency, and enhance access to diverse sources of funding.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

119TH CONGRESS

On December 10, 2025, Representative Barr introduced H.R. 6552, the Bank-Fintech Partnership Enhancement Act. Representatives Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ), Pete Sessions (R-TX), Warren Davidson (R-OH), Jared Moskowitz (D-FL), Tim Moore (R-NC), and Mike Lawler (R-NY) were added subsequently as cosponsors.

The bill was referred solely to the Committee on Financial Services. A discussion draft version of H.R. 6552 was attached to the May 14, 2025, hearing titled ``Enhancing Competition: Shaping the Future of Bank Mergers and De Novo Formation.''

On December 16, 2025, the Committee on Financial Services met in open session to consider, among others, H.R. 6552. The Committee ordered H.R. 6552, as amended, to be favorably reported to the House of Representatives.

RELATED HEARINGS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(6) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following hearing was used to develop H.R. 6552:

On May 14, 2025, the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions held a hearing titled, ``Enhancing Competition: Shaping the Future of Bank Mergers and De Novo Formation.'' The Subcommittee heard testimony from: Mr. Keith Costello, President and CEO, Locality Bank; Ms. Mary Usategui, President and CEO, BankMiami; Ms. Amanda Allexon, Partner, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP; Mr. John Berlau, Senior Fellow and Director of Finance Policy, Competitive Enterprise Institute; and Mrs. ReShonda Young, Founder, Jabez Inc.

COMMITTEE VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires the Committee Report to include record votes on the motion to report legislation and amendments thereto.

On December 16, 2025, the Committee ordered H.R. 6552, as amended, to be reported favorably to the House by a recorded vote of 53 yeas and 0 nays, a quorum being present. (Record Vote No. FC-222).

The Committee considered the following amendments to H.R. 6552:

> Representative Barr offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute, designated BARR_122, which made minor edits and technical changes. This amendment was adopted by a voice vote.
>
> Ranking Member Maxine Waters (D-CA) offered an amendment (No. 3), designated HR6552_01. This amendment requires the Federal banking agencies and the NCUA to include in their reports to Congress information on how partnerships between depository organizations and financial technology companies affect community development financial institutions, minority depository institutions, or rural depository institutions, and the communities they serve. This amendment was defeated by a recorded vote of 23 yeas and 30 nays, a quorum being present. (Record Vote No. FC-221).
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> [GRAPHIC(S) NOT AVAILABLE IN TIFF FORMAT]

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

Pursuant to clause 3(c) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives are incorporated in the descriptive portions of this report.

PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the goal of H.R. 6552 is to direct the Federal banking agencies to study the impact of bank-fintech partnerships on banking sector, competition, innovation, consumer protection, and the availability of financial products and services.

COMMITTEE COST ESTIMATE

Clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison of the costs that would be incurred in carrying out H.R. 6552. The Committee has requested but not received a cost estimate from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office. However, pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee will adopt as its own the cost estimate by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office once it has been prepared.

NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY AND CBO COST ESTIMATE

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and with respect to requirements of clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee will adopt as its own the cost estimate for the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office. However, a cost estimate was not made available to the Committee in time for the filing of this report. The Chairman of the Committee shall cause such estimate to be printed in the Congressional Record upon its receipt by the Committee.

UNFUNDED MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee has requested but not received from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office an estimate of the Federal mandates pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. The Chairman of the Committee shall cause such estimate to be printed in the Congressional Record upon its receipt by the Committee.

EARMARK STATEMENT

In compliance with clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, this bill, as reported, contains no congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(e), 9(f), or 9(g) of rule XXI.

FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act were created by this legislation.

APPLICABILITY TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee states that no provision of the bill establishes or reauthorizes a program of the Federal Government known to be duplicative of another Federal program, including any program that was included in a report to Congress pursuant to section 21 of the Public Law 111-139 or the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION

Section 1. Short title

Section 1 provides the short title is the ``Bank-Fintech Partnership Enhancement Act''.

Section 2. Study on Bank-Fintech Partnerships

Section 2 directs the FRB, OCC, and FDIC to conduct a study of the impact of partnerships between banking organizations and financial technology companies on the banking sector, competition, innovation, consumer protection, and the availability of financial products and services, including how such partnerships support new bank formation, reduce time to market for products and services, lower compliance burdens, boost customer acquisition, improve technological capabilities, and provide access to more diverse funding sources. The study must also include what changes to Federal banking laws, or rules or guidance issued by the Federal banking agencies, may help promote effective bank-fintech partnerships.

Section 2 directs the agencies to submit a report to Congress containing all findings and determinations made in carrying out the study within one year after enactment of this Act.

Section 3. Study on Credit Union-Fintech Partnerships

Section 3 directs the NCUA to conduct a study of the impact of partnerships between credit unions and financial technology companies on the credit union sector, competition, innovation, consumer protection, and the availability of financial products and services, including how such partnerships support new credit union formation, reduce time to market for products and services, lower compliance burdens, boos customer acquisition, improve technological capabilities, and provide access to more diverse funding sources. The study must also include what changes to Federal credit union laws, or rules or guidance issued by the NCUA, may help promote effective credit union-fintech partnerships.

Section 3 directs the NCUA to submit a report to Congress containing all findings and determinations made in carrying out the study within one year after enactment of this Act.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

H.R. 6552 does not repeal or amend any section of a statute. Therefore, the Office of Legislative Counsel did not prepare the report required under clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the House of Representatives.

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