HLS 25RS-3475 ORIGINAL

2025 Regular Session

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 316

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILDER

BANKS/BANKING: Memorializes the United States Congress to stop debanking policies

A RESOLUTION

2	To memorialize the United States Congress and the Trump administration to stop
3	government from weaponizing financial institutions.
4	WHEREAS, President Donald Trump; United States Senator Tim Scott, Chairman
5	of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; and United States
6	Representative French Hill, Chairman of the House Committee on Financial Services; are
7	working to stop federal regulators from leveraging their authority to pressure banks to
8	debank individuals and businesses; and
9	WHEREAS, the complexity of federal laws and regulations and the broad discretion
10	of regulators have allowed federal regulators to weaponize banks for far too long; and
11	WHEREAS, banks are required by their regulators to manage risk, to know their
12	customers, and to help detect and deter financial crimes, including money laundering, drug
13	trafficking, human trafficking, and terrorism financing; and
14	WHEREAS, regulators require banks to file suspicious activity reports if banks
15	suspect suspicious activity involving specific transactions, and banks are prohibited from
16	communicating this to customers; and
17	WHEREAS, if a regulator decides a bank is not adequately managing risk, does not
18	have a good enough system in place to detect and deter financial crimes, or is closing
19	accounts too slowly, the bank can face significant monetary penalties and costly lawsuits,
20	and potentially criminal charges; and

1	WHEREAS, this regulatory environment allows regulators to put intense pressure
2	on banks that can result in financial institutions managing risk by reevaluating or even
3	severing their relationships with businesses and individuals to minimize regulatory risks and
4	costs; and
5	WHEREAS, examples of regulators taking advantage of this leverage include:
6	(1) Operation Choke Point in 2013, where several high-ranking bureaucrats
7	attempted to pressure banks to stop doing business with ammunition and gun sellers, payday
8	lenders, and other industries.
9	(2) Operation Choke Point 2.0 in 2022, where the Federal Deposit Insurance
10	Corporation sent letters to banks that called for a pause on cryptocurrency-related banking
11	activity.
12	(3) Issuance of "guidance" by the Consumer Protection Financial Bureau that evades
13	the rulemaking process.
14	(4) Issuance of "guidance" by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal
15	Reserve System, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, forcing financial
16	institutions to dedicate significant resources to climate change; and
17	WHEREAS, when federal regulatory agencies pressure banks to stop doing business
18	with certain industries, it has a chilling effect that is ultimately a direct assault on free market
19	capitalism, which has created the most prosperous nation in history.
20	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
21	memorialize the United States Congress and President Trump to modernize anti-money
22	laundering laws to better focus banks and law enforcement on potential financial criminal
23	activity rather than the innocent banking activity of law-abiding customers.
24	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all regulatory agencies with supervisory or
25	regulatory authority over financial institutions should narrowly focus on their respective
26	missions to protect the safety, soundness, and integrity of the United States financial system
27	and refrain from using that authority to advance unrelated policy priorities.
28	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all regulatory agencies with supervisory or
29	regulatory authority over financial institutions should refrain from abusing that authority by
30	threats implicit in the issuance of allegedly non-binding "guidance".

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there be increased transparency and 2 accountability for regulators and bank examiners to better balance legitimate concerns 3 relating to money laundering and financial soundness while mitigating impacts to 4 law-abiding citizens' access to financial services. 5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 6 chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the acting comptroller 7 of the currency of the United States Department of the Treasury, the acting chairman of the 8 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the presiding officers of the Senate and the House 9 of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America, and each member of the 10 Louisiana congressional delegation.

## DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Wilder

Memorializes the United States Congress and the Trump administration to take necessary actions to stop banks and federal regulatory agencies from being weaponized against lawabiding citizens.