To amend the Truth in Lending Act to extend the consumer credit protections provided to members of the Armed Forces and their dependents under title 10, United States Code, to all consumers.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Merkley (for himself, Mr. Brown, Mr. Reed, and Mr. Van Hollen) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend the Truth in Lending Act to extend the consumer credit protections provided to members of the Armed Forces and their dependents under title 10, United States Code, to all consumers.

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 “Veterans and Con-
5 sumers Fair Credit Act”.
SEC. 2. LIMITATIONS ON CONSUMER CREDIT AND MAXIMUM RATES OF INTEREST.

(a) In General.—Chapter 2 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1631 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 140B. Limitations on consumer credit and maximum rates of interest

“(a) Application of the Military Lending Act.—

“(1) In General.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), section 987(b) of title 10, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ‘Military Lending Act’), shall apply to a creditor who extends consumer credit to a consumer to the same extent as such section applies to a creditor who extends consumer credit to a covered member or a dependent with respect to a covered member (as those terms are defined in such section 987).

“(2) Exceptions.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to—

“(A) a residential mortgage;

“(B) a loan procured in the course of purchasing a car or other personal property, when that loan is offered for the express purpose of financing the purchase and is secured by the car or personal property procured; or
“(C) a loan made by a Federal credit union, as that term is defined in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752), subject to the usury limit provided under section 107(5)(A) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1757(5)(A)), as implemented by the National Credit Union Administration Board.

“(b) No Exemptions Permitted.—The exemption authority of the Bureau under section 105(f) shall not apply with respect to this section.

“(c) Calculation of the Annual Percentage Rate for Open-end Credit.—

“(1) In general.—For purposes of this section, the annual percentage rate applicable to an open end credit plan shall be calculated under section 107(a)(2), subject to adjustments to the amount considered a finance charge, as provided in the rules issued by the Secretary of Defense on July 22, 2015, to carry out section 987 of title 10, United States Code.

“(2) Exception to finance charge calculation.—

“(A) In general.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), for consumer credit extended in a
credit card account under an open end (not
home-secured) consumer credit plan, a bona
fide fee other than a periodic rate is not a
charge required to be included within the fi-
nance charge for purposes of this section if the
fee is assessed in compliance with section
127(n).

“(B) LIMITATION.—Subparagraph (A)
shall not apply to—

“(i) any credit insurance premium or
fee, including any charge for single pre-
mium credit insurance, any fee for a debt
cancellation contract, or any fee for a debt
suspension agreement; or

“(ii) any fee for a credit-related ancil-
lary product sold in connection with the
credit card account under an open-end (not
home-secured) consumer credit plan.

“(d) RELATION TO STATE LAW.—Nothing in this
section may be construed to preempt any provision of
State law that provides greater protection to consumers
than is provided under this section.

“(e) PENALTIES AND REMEDIES.—Section 987(f) of
title 10, United States Code, shall apply to a creditor who
extends consumer credit to a consumer in violation of this
section to the same extent as such section 987(f) applies
to a creditor who extends consumer credit to a covered
member or a dependent with respect to a covered member
(as those terms are defined in such section 987).

“(f) PRESERVATION OF STATE ENFORCEMENT.—

“(1) STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.—Not later
than 3 years after the date on which a violation of
this section occurs, the attorney general of a State
(or an equivalent official) may bring a civil action in
the name of that State—

“(A) in any district court of the United
States that is located in that State or in a
State court that is located in that State and
that has jurisdiction over the defendant; and

“(B) to—

“(i) enforce provisions of this section
or rules issued under this section; and

“(ii) secure remedies under provisions
of this section or remedies otherwise pro-
vided under other law.

“(2) STATE REGULATORS.—Not later than 3
years after the date on which a violation of this sec-
tion occurs, a State regulator may bring a civil ac-
tion or initiate another appropriate proceeding to—
“(A) enforce the provisions of this section or regulations issued under this section with respect to any entity that is, or is required to be, State-chartered, incorporated, licensed, or otherwise authorized to do business under State law; and

“(B) secure remedies under provisions of this section or remedies otherwise provided under other provisions of law with respect to an entity described in subparagraph (A).

“(3) NOTICE REQUIREMENT; ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS.—Subsections (b), (c), and (d) of section 1042 of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5552), shall apply to a civil action or other appropriate proceeding brought or initiated under paragraph (1) or (2) to the same extent as those subsections apply to actions and other administrative and regulatory proceedings described in subsection (a) of such section 1042.

“(g) REGULATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 1027(o) of the Consumer Financial Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5517(o)), not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Bureau, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall—
“(A) issue rules carrying out this section;

and

“(B) notify Congress and the public, including on the website of the Bureau, regarding the issuance of the rules required under subparagraph (A).

“(2) CONSISTENCY.—The rules issued by the Bureau under paragraph (1)—

“(A) shall be consistent with rules issued by the Secretary of Defense to carry out section 987 of title 10, United States Code; and

“(B) may not provide lesser protection to consumers than the protection afforded covered members, as that term is defined in section 987 of title 10, United States Code, in applicable provisions in the rules issued by the Secretary of Defense on July 22, 2015, to carry out such section 987.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for chapter 2 of the Truth in Lending Act is amended by adding at the end the following:

“140B. Limitations on consumer credit and maximum rates of interest.”.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to an extension of credit made after the earlier of—
(1) the date on which the rules issued by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection under subsection (g) of section 140B of the Truth in Lending Act, as added by subsection (a) of this section, require compliance; and

(2) the date that is 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.