



The Stop Coronavirus Scams Act (H.R. 7002)

Frequently Asked Questions

What does the Stop Coronavirus Scams Act do?

The Stop Coronavirus Scams Act doubles the maximum penalties that can be imposed on criminals who intentionally traffic in counterfeit goods and services related to a presidentially declared emergency or disaster, such as the current coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. Examples of counterfeit goods and services that could be covered by this act include counterfeit treatments, non-existent vaccines, and deceptively labeled protective equipment.

Why is this needed?

Unfortunately, times of crisis and confusion provide scammers with an opportunity to take advantage of consumers. Current law provides for enhanced penalties for criminals who perpetuate wire or mail fraud in connection with a declared emergency or disaster. Similar disaster-related penalty enhancements for trafficking in counterfeit goods and services do not currently exist.

What risks do counterfeit goods pose to consumers?

Consumers who purchase counterfeit goods or services may act based on the assumption that the products or services they purchased are as effective as advertised. This is especially dangerous in the case of counterfeit treatments and testing kits for COVID-19. As the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [recently warned](#):

The FDA is particularly concerned that these deceptive and misleading products might cause Americans to delay or stop appropriate medical treatment, leading to serious and life-threatening harm. It's likely that the products do not do what they claim, and the ingredients in them could cause adverse effects and could interact with, and potentially interfere with, essential medications.