Uniform Law Commission
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF COMMISSIONERS ON UNIFORM STATE LAWS

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A Few Facts about

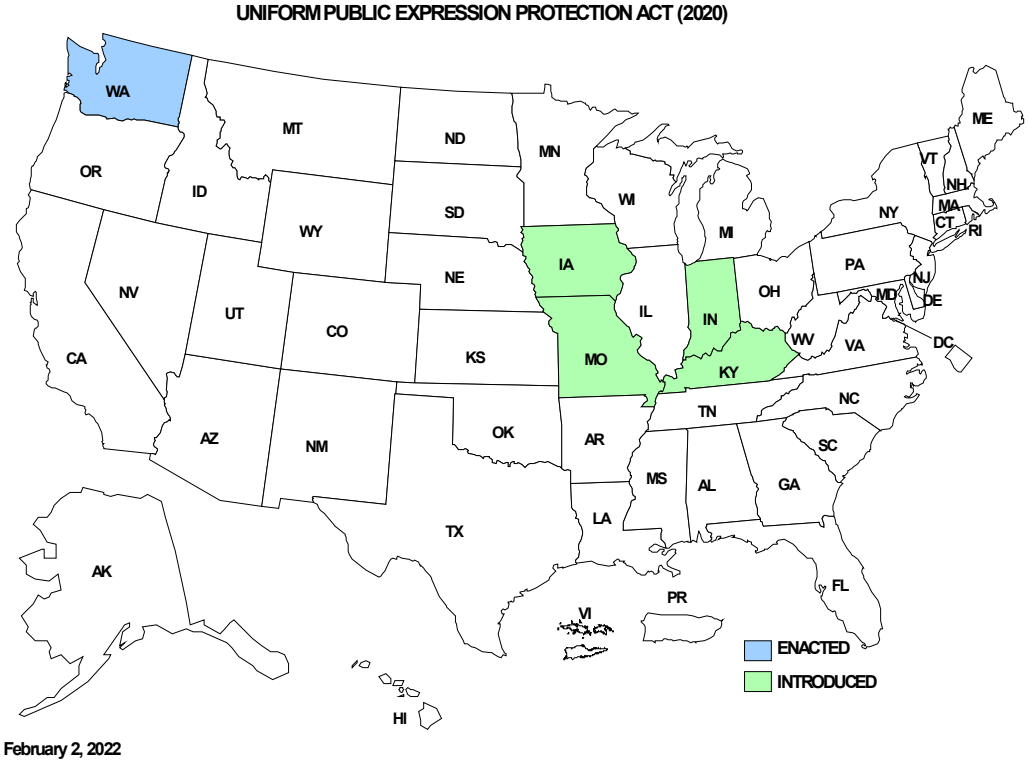
THE UNIFORM PUBLIC EXPRESSION PROTECTION ACT (2020)

PURPOSE: The Uniform Public Expression Protection Act (UPEPA) is a uniform act designed to combat the issue of strategic lawsuits against public participation, also called "SLAPPs." SLAPPs are abusive lawsuits that aim to entangle their targets in expensive litigation that chills the defendant from engaging in constitutionally protected activity, such as freely speaking and petitioning the government. The UPEPA creates a clear process by which SLAPPs can be challenged and their merits fairly assessed in an efficient manner.

ORIGIN: Completed by the Uniform Law Commission in 2020.

APPROVED BY: American Bar Association

ENACTED BY: Washington



For further information about UPEPA, please contact ULC Legislative Program Director Kaitlin Wolff at (312) 450-6615 or kwolff@uniformlaws.org.

The ULC is a nonprofit formed in 1892 to create nonpartisan state legislation. Over 350 volunteer commissioners—lawyers, judges, law professors, legislative staff, and others—work together to draft laws ranging from the Uniform Commercial Code to acts on property, trusts and estates, family law, criminal law and other areas where uniformity of state law is desirable.