

HR 1302

Federal Courts Improvement Act of 2003

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Law

Introduced: Mar 18, 2003

Current Status: Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Voice Vote.

Latest Action: Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Voice Vote. (Mar 20, 2003)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/house-bill/1302>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Smith, Lamar [R-TX-21]

Party: Republican • **State:** TX • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Berman, Howard L. [D-CA-28]	D · CA		Mar 18, 2003
Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [D-MI-14]	D · MI		Mar 18, 2003
Rep. Johnson, Sam [R-TX-3]	R · TX		Sep 25, 2003

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Reported by	Mar 20, 2003

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Law

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Mar 18, 2003)

Federal Courts Improvement Act of 2003 - Sets forth or modifies various provisions regarding judicial process, including provisions concerning: (1) bankruptcy administrator authority to appoint and serve as trustees; (2) the places of holding court in the Eastern District of Texas, Texarkana, and the Northern District of New York and the composition of divisions in the Western District of Tennessee; and (3) conditions of probation and supervised release. Modifies wiretap order reporting requirements. Eliminates: (1) the automatic excuse from jury service for members of the armed forces, members of fire and police departments, and public officers; and (2) public drawing requirements for the selection of juror wheels. Makes the supplemental attendance fee for petit jurors serving on lengthy trials applicable where the juror is required to attend more than five (currently, 30) days in hearing one case.

Sets forth or modifies various provisions regarding judicial personnel administration, benefits, and protections, including provisions concerning: (1) disability retirement and cost-of-living adjustments of annuities for territorial judges; (2) compensation for Federal Judicial Center employees; (3) the annual leave limit for judicial branch executives; (4) a supplemental benefits program for judicial branch employees; (5) inclusion of judicial branch personnel in the organ donor leave program; and (6) maximum compensation for attorneys and for services other than counsel.

Prohibits knowingly filing a false lien or encumbrance against the real or personal property of a Federal judge in any public record or any private record that is generally available to the public.

Authorizes the judicial council of each circuit (currently each court of appeals) to appoint a librarian.

Requires the Judicial Conference to take specified steps to safeguard the privacy of judicial branch officers and employees from the interception of electronic communications, with exceptions.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 20, 2003:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Mar 20, 2003:** Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Voice Vote.
- **Mar 19, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property.
- **Mar 18, 2003:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 18, 2003:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

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