

HR 1508

Sunshine in Litigation Act of 2009

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Law

Introduced: Mar 12, 2009

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy. (May 29, 2010)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/1508>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Wexler, Robert [D-FL-19]

Party: Democratic • **State:** FL • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-8]	D · NY		Mar 12, 2009
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-7]	D · AZ		May 12, 2009
Rep. Boucher, Rick [D-VA-9]	D · VA		Jun 9, 2009

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Hearings By (subcommittee)	Jun 4, 2009
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	May 29, 2010

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Law

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 HR 5419	Related bill	Jul 26, 2010: Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy.
111 S 537	Identical bill	Mar 5, 2009: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text of measure as introduced: CR S2835)

Sunshine in Litigation Act of 2009 - Amends the federal judicial code to prohibit a court from entering an order restricting the disclosure of information obtained through discovery, approving a settlement disagreement that would restrict such disclosure, or restricting access to court records in a civil case, unless the court has found that: (1) such order would not restrict the disclosure of information which is relevant to the protection of public health or safety; or (2) the public interest in the disclosure of potential health or safety hazards is outweighed by a specific and substantial interest in maintaining the confidentiality of the information, and the requested protective order is no broader than necessary to protect the privacy interest. Prohibits any party from requesting, as a condition for the production of discovery, that another party stipulate to an order that would violate this Act.

Prohibits a court from: (1) approving or enforcing an order prohibited under this Act, or any provision of an agreement between parties to a civil action, that restricts a party from disclosing information to any federal or state agency with authority to enforce laws regulating an activity relating to such information; or (2) enforcing any provision of a settlement agreement that prohibits a party from disclosing that a settlement was reached or the terms of the settlement, other than the amount paid, or from discussing a case or evidence that involves matters related to public health or safety, except where the court finds that the public interest in disclosure of potential health and safety hazards is outweighed by a confidentiality interest.

Creates a rebuttable presumption that the interest in protecting personally identifiable information relating to an individual's financial, health, or other similar information outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Declares that nothing in this Act shall be construed to permit, require, or authorize the disclosure of classified information, as defined under the Classified Information Procedures Act.

Actions Timeline

- **May 29, 2010:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy.
- **Jun 4, 2009:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **May 29, 2009:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law.
- **Mar 12, 2009:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 12, 2009:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

LegiList

CONGRESS, MADE CLEAR.

Search Every Federal Bill, Law, and Vote

LegiList is the fastest way to research Congress. Track any bill from introduction to enactment, see how every legislator voted, follow committee activity, and read the full text of every bill — all in one place, always up to date.

legiList.com

Free Course: Learn How Congress Actually Works

LegiList Learn is a free, self-paced course that walks through the entire legislative process — from drafting a bill to a presidential signature. Seven modules, plain language, no politics. Earn a certificate when you finish.

legiList.com/learn

Developer API: Build Apps on Legislative Data

The LegiList API gives developers direct access to bills, votes, legislators, committees, and more. Start free with 1,000 requests per day — no credit card required. Upgrade to Pro when you need to scale.

legiList.com/api

Public data belongs to the public. — legiList.com