

## HR 263

Contempt of the House of Representatives Subpoena Authority Act of 2009

**Congress:** 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Law

**Introduced:** Jan 7, 2009

**Current Status:** Referred to House Rules

**Latest Action:** Referred to House Rules (Jan 7, 2009)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/263>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Jackson-Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]

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

### Cosponsors

*No cosponsors are listed for this bill.*

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	Jan 7, 2009
Rules Committee	House	Referred To	Jan 7, 2009

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Law

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

Contempt of the House of Representatives Subpoena Authority Act of 2009 - Grants the U.S. district court for the District of Columbia original jurisdiction over any civil action brought by the House of Representatives (or any authorized committee or subcommittee) to enforce, to secure a declaratory judgment concerning the validity of, or to prevent a threatened refusal or failure to comply with, any subpoena or order issued by it to any entity acting or purporting to act under color or authority of state law, or to any natural person, to secure the production of: (1) documents or other materials of any kind, or the answering of any deposition or interrogatory; (2) testimony; or (3) any combination of such things.

Requires the district court, upon application by the House (or any authorized committee or subcommittee), to issue a mandatory compliance order to an entity or person refusing, or failing to comply with, or threatening to refuse or not to comply with, a subpoena or order. Authorizes the court to hold in contempt any refusal or failure to obey a lawful order.

Authorizes the General Counsel of the House of Representatives to bring a civil action under any statute conferring jurisdiction on any U.S. court to enforce, to secure a declaratory judgment concerning the validity of, or to prevent a threatened failure or refusal to comply with, any subpoena or order issued by the House (or a committee or a subcommittee).

Prescribes a procedure for consideration in the House of a resolution to direct the General Counsel to bring such an action.

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### **Actions Timeline**

- **Jan 7, 2009:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 7, 2009:** Referred to House Judiciary
- **Jan 7, 2009:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
- **Jan 7, 2009:** Referred to House Rules