

HR 3407

National Center for the Right to Counsel Act

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Oct 30, 2013

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations. (Jan 9, 2014)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/3407>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Deutch, Theodore E. [D-FL-21]

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

Cosponsors (12 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Oct 30, 2013
Rep. Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [D-VA-3]	D · VA		Oct 30, 2013
Rep. Courtney, Joe [D-CT-2]	D · CT		Nov 19, 2013
Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [D-FL-24]	D · FL		Dec 3, 2013
Rep. Clay, Wm. Lacy [D-MO-1]	D · MO		Dec 4, 2013
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Dec 9, 2013
Rep. Quigley, Mike [D-IL-5]	D · IL		Jan 17, 2014
Rep. Lewis, John [D-GA-5]	D · GA		Jan 31, 2014
Rep. Yarmuth, John A. [D-KY-3]	D · KY		Apr 28, 2014
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]	D · FL		May 6, 2014
Rep. Castor, Kathy [D-FL-14]	D · FL		May 7, 2014
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		May 8, 2014

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Jan 9, 2014
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Jan 9, 2014
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred To	Oct 30, 2013

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Oct 30, 2013)

National Center for the Right to Counsel Act - Establishes in the District of Columbia a private, nonprofit corporation to be known as the National Center for the Right to Counsel to provide: (1) financial support to supplement, but not supplant, funding for public defense systems that provide legal assistance to indigent defendants in criminal cases, including systems run by state or local governments as well as private entities or individuals providing services under contract with such governments; and (2) financial and substantive support for training programs to improve delivery of legal services to indigent defendants.

Requires each state to have a state advisory council to: (1) monitor, receive, and investigate complaints regarding the compliance of public defense systems that receive funding with applicable laws and regulations; (2) notify the Center of any apparent violations; and (3) collect data on the delivery of public defense services and facilitate information sharing between the state's public defense systems.

Authorizes the Center to: (1) make grants and contracts; (2) undertake research, training, and technical assistance; and (3) serve as a clearinghouse for information.

Prohibits the Center from interfering with attorneys' professional responsibilities to their clients or from abrogating the authority of states or other jurisdictions to enforce such standards.

Requires the Center, to the extent feasible, to have services provided in an indigent defendant's principal language in areas where significant numbers of indigent defendants speak a language other than English.

Directs the Center to make available to the public an online database that includes the contact information for all public defense systems in every state.

Requires the Center to establish regional backup service centers to assist public defense systems with access to investigators, sentencing mitigation specialists, and information about available grants.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 9, 2014:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.
- **Jan 9, 2014:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.
- **Oct 30, 2013:** Introduced in House
- **Oct 30, 2013:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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.

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