

## HR 4419

### District of Columbia Judicial Financial Transparency Act

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Government Operations and Politics

**Introduced:** Feb 1, 2016

**Current Status:** Became Public Law No: 114-257.

**Latest Action:** Became Public Law No: 114-257. (Dec 14, 2016)

**Law:** 114-257 (Enacted Dec 14, 2016)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/4419>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]

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

### Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Reported By	Sep 13, 2016

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 2966	Related bill	Sep 27, 2016: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 645.

(This measure has not been amended since it passed the House on September 22, 2016. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

### **District of Columbia Judicial Financial Transparency Act**

(Sec. 2) This bill amends the District of Columbia Code to revise the financial disclosure requirements for District of Columbia judges. The revisions establish new dollar thresholds and requirements for reporting to the District of Columbia Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure the financial interests of the judges and specified family members with respect to:

- income;
- dividends, rents, interest, and capital gains;
- liabilities;
- gifts;
- real and personal property;
- honoraria;
- expense accounts or reimbursements for expenses; and
- waivers or partial waivers of fees or charges.

The financial disclosure reports must be available for public inspection and copying, unless revealing personal and sensitive information could endanger the judge or a family member. A report may be redacted only: (1) to the extent necessary to protect the individual or family member, and (2) as long as the danger to the individual exists.

(Sec. 3) The Probate Divisions of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia may use magistrate judges.

(Sec. 4) DC courts may accept payment of fines, fees, escrow payments, restitution, bonds, and other payments by credit card or electronic funds transfer. The executive officer of the courts may contract with a bank or credit card vendor, or other third party provider, to accept such payments, making every effort to find the lowest cost vendor among them.

(Sec. 5) The maximum amount in controversy for cases under the Small Claims and Conciliation Branch of DC Superior Court shall increase from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

(Sec. 6) Each chief judge of the Superior Court or of the Court of Appeals, as appropriate, may delegate to an active or senior judge (in the court in which the chief judge sits) the authority to approve any compensation for court-appointed criminal defense or child abuse and neglect attorneys exceeding the usual maximum.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Dec 14, 2016:** Signed by President.
- **Dec 14, 2016:** Became Public Law No: 114-257.
- **Dec 2, 2016:** Presented to President.
- **Nov 30, 2016:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Nov 29, 2016:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent.(consideration: CR S6575)
- **Nov 29, 2016:** Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S6575)
- **Sep 26, 2016:** Received in the Senate, read twice.
- **Sep 22, 2016:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H5839-5840)
- **Sep 22, 2016:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 414 - 0 (Roll no. 551).(text: CR 09/20/2016 H5664-5665)
- **Sep 22, 2016:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 414 - 0 (Roll no. 551). (text: CR 09/20/2016 H5664-5665)
- **Sep 22, 2016:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Sep 22, 2016:** The title of the measure was amended. Agreed to without objection.
- **Sep 20, 2016:** Mr. Carter (GA) moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Sep 20, 2016:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5664-5665)
- **Sep 20, 2016:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 4419.
- **Sep 20, 2016:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Sep 13, 2016:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H. Rept. 114-745.
- **Sep 13, 2016:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 578.
- **Jul 12, 2016:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Jul 12, 2016:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Feb 1, 2016:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 1, 2016:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E83)
- **Feb 1, 2016:** Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.