

S 3191

Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Introduced: Jul 10, 2018

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 115-426.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 115-426. (Jan 8, 2019)

Law: 115-426 (Enacted Jan 8, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/3191>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Jones, Doug [D-AL]

Party: Democratic • **State:** AL • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]	D · CA		Jul 10, 2018
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Jul 10, 2018
Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX]	R · TX		Jul 26, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Dec 10, 2018

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 1272	Related bill	Sep 27, 2018: Ordered to be Reported in the Nature of a Substitute (Amended) by Unanimous Consent.

Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018

This bill requires the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to: (1) establish a collection of civil rights cold case records; (2) prepare and publish the subject guidebook and index to the collection; and (3) establish criteria for transmitting copies of civil rights cold case records to NARA, to include required metadata.

All civil rights cold case records transmitted to NARA for disclosure to the public shall be included in the collection, available to the public for inspection and copying, and prioritized for digitization by NARA.

The bill requires redacted records or records for which public disclosure is postponed to be reviewed annually.

The bill enumerates grounds for which disclosure of records may be postponed, including causing damage to national security, invading personal privacy, or interfering with ongoing law enforcement proceedings.

The bill establishes the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board as an independent agency of impartial private citizens. The board shall consider and render decisions on determinations to seek postponement of disclosure of civil rights cold case records. With the exception of certain administrative records, records of the review board shall not be destroyed.

The review board may request the Department of Justice to petition any court in the United States or abroad to release information relevant to civil rights cold cases held under seal of court. A similar request may be made to a court in the United States for release of information held under an injunction of grand-jury secrecy.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 8, 2019:** Signed by President.
- **Jan 8, 2019:** Became Public Law No: 115-426.
- **Dec 27, 2018:** Presented to President.
- **Dec 21, 2018:** Mr. Walker moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Dec 21, 2018:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H10527-10531)
- **Dec 21, 2018:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 3191.
- **Dec 21, 2018:** 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.
- **Dec 21, 2018:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H10537-10538)
- **Dec 21, 2018:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 376 - 6 (Roll no. 482). (text: CR H10527-10531)
- **Dec 21, 2018:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 376 - 6 (Roll no. 482). (text: CR H10527-10531)
- **Dec 21, 2018:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Dec 19, 2018:** Received in the House.
- **Dec 19, 2018:** Held at the desk.
- **Dec 18, 2018:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 17, 2018:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S7727-7731)
- **Dec 17, 2018:** The committee substitute withdrawn by Unanimous Consent. (text: CR S7727-7731; text as reported in Senate: CR S7727-7734)
- **Dec 17, 2018:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Voice Vote.
- **Dec 17, 2018:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Voice Vote.
- **Dec 10, 2018:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Reported by Senator Johnson with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. With written report No. 115-424.
- **Dec 10, 2018:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 727.
- **Sep 26, 2018:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Jul 10, 2018:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 10, 2018:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S4877-4878)