

## HR 3811

National Center for the Right to Counsel Act

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Crime and Law Enforcement

**Introduced:** Sep 21, 2017

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice. (Sep 28, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3811>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Deutch, Theodore E. [D-FL-22]

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

### Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Sep 21, 2017
Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4]	D · GA		Oct 24, 2017
Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]	D · MD		Oct 25, 2017
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Oct 31, 2017
Rep. Jayapal, Pramila [D-WA-7]	D · WA		Oct 31, 2017
Rep. Smith, Adam [D-WA-9]	D · WA		Mar 26, 2018

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Sep 28, 2017
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Sep 28, 2017
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 21, 2017

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Crime and Law Enforcement

### Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

## National Center for the Right to Counsel Act

This bill 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 funding for public defense systems that provide legal assistance to indigent defendants, and (2) financial and substantive support for training programs to improve delivery of legal services to indigent defendants.

The bill 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 among the state's public defense systems.

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

The bill 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.

The Government Accountability Office must complete a study four years after this bill is enacted about the effects of the center on providing public defense services and on the cost of the criminal justice system.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Sep 28, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.
- **Sep 28, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.
- **Sep 21, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 21, 2017:** 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.