

HR 720

Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Law

Introduced: Jan 30, 2017

Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Mar 13, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/720>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Smith, Lamar [R-TX-21]

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

Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Buck, Ken [R-CO-4]	R · CO		Jan 30, 2017
Rep. Chabot, Steve [R-OH-1]	R · OH		Jan 30, 2017
Rep. Chaffetz, Jason [R-UT-3]	R · UT		Jan 30, 2017
Rep. Farenthold, Blake [R-TX-27]	R · TX		Jan 30, 2017
Rep. Franks, Trent [R-AZ-8]	R · AZ		Jan 30, 2017
Rep. Goodlatte, Bob [R-VA-6]	R · VA		Jan 30, 2017
Rep. Sessions, Pete [R-TX-32]	R · TX		Feb 14, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Jan 31, 2017
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 13, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Law

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 237	Identical bill	Nov 8, 2017: Committee on the Judiciary. Hearings held.
115 HRES 180	Related bill	Mar 9, 2017: Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

(This measure has not been amended since it was introduced. The expanded summary of the House reported version is repeated here.)

Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2017

(Sec. 2) This bill amends the sanctions provisions in Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to require the court to impose an appropriate sanction on any attorney, law firm, or party that has violated, or is responsible for the violation of, the rule with regard to representations to the court. Any sanction must compensate parties injured by the conduct in question.

The bill removes a provision that prohibits filing a motion for sanctions if the challenged paper, claim, defense, contention, or denial is withdrawn or appropriately corrected within 21 days after service or within another time the court sets.

Courts may impose additional sanctions, including striking the pleadings, dismissing the suit, nonmonetary directives, or penalty payments if warranted for effective deterrence.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 13, 2017:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
- **Mar 10, 2017:** Considered under the provisions of rule H. Res. 180. (consideration: CR H2025-2041)
- **Mar 10, 2017:** Providing for consideration of the bills H.R. 720 and H.R. 985.
- **Mar 10, 2017:** House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union pursuant to H. Res. 180 and Rule XVIII.
- **Mar 10, 2017:** The Speaker designated the Honorable Evan H. Jenkins to act as Chairman of the Committee.
- **Mar 10, 2017:** GENERAL DEBATE - The Committee of the Whole proceeded with one hour of general debate on H.R. 720.
- **Mar 10, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H.Res. 180, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Soto Part A amendment No. 1.
- **Mar 10, 2017:** POSTPONED PROCEEDINGS - At the conclusion of debate on the Soto amendment, the Chair put the question on adoption of the amendment and by voice vote announced that the noes had prevailed. Mr. Soto demanded a recorded vote and the Chair postponed further proceedings on the question of adoption of the amendment until a time to be announced.
- **Mar 10, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H.Res. 180, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Jackson Lee Part A amendment No. 2.
- **Mar 10, 2017:** POSTPONED PROCEEDINGS - At the conclusion of debate on the Jackson Lee amendment, the Chair put the question on adoption of the amendment and by voice vote, announced that the noes had prevailed. Ms. Jackson Lee demanded a recorded vote and the Chair postponed further proceedings on the question of adoption of the amendment until a time to be announced.
- **Mar 10, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H.Res. 180, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Conyers Part A amendment No. 3.
- **Mar 10, 2017:** POSTPONED PROCEEDINGS - At the conclusion of debate on the Conyers amendment, the Chair put the question on adoption of the amendment and by voice vote, announced that the noes had prevailed. Mr. Conyers demanded a recorded vote and the Chair postponed further proceedings on the question of adoption of the amendment until a time to be announced.
- **Mar 10, 2017:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H.Res. 180, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Jeffries Part A amendment No. 4.
- **Mar 10, 2017:** POSTPONED PROCEEDINGS - At the conclusion of debate on the Jeffries amendment, the Chair put the question on adoption of the amendment and by voice vote, announced that the noes had prevailed. Mr. Jeffries demanded a recorded vote and the Chair postponed further proceedings on the question of adoption of the amendment until a time to be announced.
- **Mar 10, 2017:** UNFINISHED BUSINESS - The Chair announced that the unfinished business was on amendments which had been debated earlier and on which further proceedings had been postponed.
- **Mar 10, 2017:** The House rose from the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union to report H.R. 720.
- **Mar 10, 2017:** The previous question was ordered pursuant to the rule.
- **Mar 10, 2017:** Ms. Lofgren moved to recommit with instructions to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text: CR H2039)
- **Mar 10, 2017:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the motion to recommit with instructions. The instructions contained in the motion seek to require the bill to be reported back with an amendment to add a section at the end of the bill prohibiting language to be construed to apply to a civil action that implicates the foreign emoluments clause of the United States Constitution.
- **Mar 10, 2017:** The previous question on the motion to recommit with instructions was ordered without objection.
- **Mar 10, 2017:** On motion to recommit with instructions Failed by recorded vote: 186 - 232 (Roll no. 157).
- **Mar 10, 2017:** Passed/agreed to in House: On passage Passed by recorded vote: 230 - 188 (Roll no. 158).(text: CR H2030)
- **Mar 10, 2017:** On passage Passed by recorded vote: 230 - 188 (Roll no. 158). (text: CR H2030)
- **Mar 10, 2017:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Feb 24, 2017:** Reported by the Committee on Judiciary. H. Rept. 115-16.
- **Feb 24, 2017:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 4.
- **Jan 31, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.
- **Jan 30, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 30, 2017:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

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