

HR 968

Equal Justice Under Law Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Feb 7, 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. (Mar 9, 2017)

Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/968

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Maloney, Sean Patrick [D-NY-18]  
Party: Democratic • State: NY • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (9 total)

| Cosponsor                                   | Party / State | Role | Date Joined  |
|---|---------------|------|--------------|
| Rep. Cummings, Elijah E. [D-MD-7]           | D · MD        |      | Feb 7, 2017  |
| Rep. Jeffries, Hakeem S. [D-NY-8]           | D · NY        |      | Feb 7, 2017  |
| Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large] | D · DC        |      | Mar 2, 2017  |
| Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3]                 | D · OH        |      | Mar 2, 2017  |
| Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]           | D · FL        |      | Mar 2, 2017  |
| Rep. Kennedy, Joseph P., III [D-MA-4]       | D · MA        |      | Mar 2, 2017  |
| Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]         | D · IL        |      | Mar 10, 2017 |
| Rep. Smith, Adam [D-WA-9]                   | D · WA        |      | May 17, 2017 |
| Rep. Cárdenas, Tony [D-CA-29]               | D · CA        |      | Nov 1, 2017  |

Committee Activity

| Committee           | Chamber | Activity    | Date        |
|---------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|
| Judiciary Committee | House   | Referred to | Mar 9, 2017 |
| Judiciary Committee | House   | Referred to | Mar 9, 2017 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

| Bill      | Relationship | Last Action   |
|-----------|--------------|---|
| 115 S 328 | Related bill | Feb 7, 2017: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. |

## **Equal Justice Under Law Act of 2017**

This bill states that an indigent individual facing criminal prosecution or juvenile delinquency in a state court is entitled to the effective assistance of counsel, as guaranteed by the Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments, at the state's expense.

The bill authorizes a federal class action lawsuit against a state for its systemic failure to guarantee the right to effective assistance of counsel. The assistance of counsel is ineffective when a class of individuals demonstrates that counsel's performance was not reasonable under prevailing professional norms.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Mar 9, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.
- **Mar 9, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.
- **Feb 7, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 7, 2017:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.