

## S 4988

### Open Courts Act of 2020

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Law

**Introduced:** Dec 9, 2020

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Dec 9, 2020)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4988>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** OH • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Dec 9, 2020

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Dec 9, 2020

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Law

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 8235	Related bill	Dec 9, 2020: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
116 HR 6017	Related bill	Feb 28, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

## **Open Courts Act of 2020**

This bill requires the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts to establish a single electronic system for all public court records that is publicly accessible for free. Under the existing Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system, users are charged fees for accessing court documents.

To fund the development of the new consolidated system, the Judicial Conference must temporarily establish a schedule of additional fees for higher-volume nongovernmental users of PACER.

To fund the operations of the new system, the Judicial Conference shall collect an annual fee from each federal agency equal to that agency's PACER fees in 2018, adjusted for inflation. The Judicial Conference may also establish reasonable filing fees based on specified factors, including the extent of a person's use and the interests of justice.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Dec 9, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
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