

HR 7941

District of Columbia Courts Improvement Act of 2020

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Law

Introduced: Aug 4, 2020

Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. (Aug 4, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/7941>

Sponsor

Name: Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]

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

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred To	Aug 4, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Law

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 5925	Related bill	Feb 18, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.
116 HR 4683	Related bill	Oct 15, 2019: Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.

District of Columbia Courts Improvement Act of 2020

This bill revises provisions related to jurors, magistrates, and other judicial officers, and otherwise makes changes to provisions related to the District of Columbia courts.

The bill expands authority for magistrate judges of the District's courts to perform certain judicial functions, including to issue arrest and search warrants, and punish an individual for contempt.

The bill (1) provides that grand and petit jurors serving in the Superior Court of the District must receive fees and expenses equivalent to those provided to jurors serving in the U.S. district courts, (2) allows service of prospective jurors to be made by electronic communication, and (3) permits individuals 70 years of age or older to opt-out of jury service.

The Joint Committee on Judicial Administration in the District and the District's Public Defender Service may each establish a voluntary separation incentive payments program for its employees substantially similar to that for certain federal employees and members of the uniformed services, except that the maximum payment amount to any individual may not exceed \$25,000.

The bill removes provisions for fixed hourly rates for legal representation of indigent defendants and criminal investigative and expert services for such defendants.

The bill revises appointment and removal authority for the Executive Officer of the District's courts to include the Register of Wills.

The District's courts may give retroactive pay increases to employees on board at the time an increase is ordered, and to those that have retired (not resigned) or died between the date the increase becomes effective and the date it is ordered.

Actions Timeline

- **Aug 4, 2020:** Introduced in House
- **Aug 4, 2020:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E723-724)
- **Aug 4, 2020:** Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.