

HR 8235

Open Courts Act of 2020

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Law

Introduced: Sep 14, 2020

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. (Dec 9, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/8235>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4]

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Collins, Doug [R-GA-9]	R · GA		Sep 14, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Markup By	Sep 15, 2020
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Dec 9, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Law

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 4988	Related bill	Dec 9, 2020: 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 progressive schedule of additional fees for persons, other than government agencies, that are higher-volume users of PACER.

To fund the operations of the new system, the Judicial Conference shall collect an annual fee from federal agencies based on the amount of PACER fees paid by the agencies in 2018.

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.

The bill specifies various reporting requirements related to the new system, including for the Government Accountability Office.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 9, 2020:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
- **Dec 8, 2020:** Mr. Johnson (GA) moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Dec 8, 2020:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H7015-7021)
- **Dec 8, 2020:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 8235.
- **Dec 8, 2020:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.
- **Dec 8, 2020:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H7015-7018)
- **Dec 8, 2020:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Sep 15, 2020:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Sep 14, 2020:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 14, 2020:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.