

HR 8979

Qualified Immunity Abolition Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Introduced: Dec 16, 2020

Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. (Dec 16, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/8979>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Hall, Kwanza [D-GA-5]

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

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	Dec 16, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 4142	Related bill	Jul 1, 2020: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
116 HR 7085	Related bill	Jun 4, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Qualified Immunity Abolition Act

This bill eliminates the defense of qualified immunity in civil actions for deprivation of rights. *Qualified immunity* is a judicially created doctrine that protects government employees or those acting with state authority from being held personally liable for constitutional violations.

The bill provides that under the statute allowing a civil action alleging deprivation of rights under color of law, it shall not be a defense or immunity to any such action that (1) the defendant was acting in good faith or believed that his or her conduct was lawful at the time it was committed; (2) the rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution or laws were not clearly established at the time of their deprivation; or (3) the state of the law was such that the defendant could not reasonably have been expected to know whether his or her conduct was lawful.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 16, 2020:** Introduced in House
- **Dec 16, 2020:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR H7225)
- **Dec 16, 2020:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.