

HR 1238

PROKID Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Feb 23, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship. (Apr 28, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1238>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Jayapal, Pramila [D-WA-7]

Party: Democratic • State: WA • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (8 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|---|---------------|------|--------------|
| Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large] | D · DC | | Mar 26, 2021 |
| Del. San Nicolas, Michael F. Q. [D-GU-At Large] | D · GU | | Mar 26, 2021 |
| Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7] | D · IN | | May 14, 2021 |
| Rep. Hayes, Jahana [D-CT-5] | D · CT | | May 14, 2021 |
| Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2] | D · MA | | May 14, 2021 |
| Rep. Suozzi, Thomas R. [D-NY-3] | D · NY | | Jun 8, 2021 |
| Rep. Barragan, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44] | D · CA | | Feb 2, 2022 |
| Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [D-NJ-10] | D · NJ | | Mar 30, 2022 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|-----------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Homeland Security Committee | House | Referred to | Feb 24, 2021 |
| Judiciary Committee | House | Referred to | Apr 28, 2021 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-----------|----------------|--|
| 117 S 382 | Identical bill | Feb 23, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. |

Protection of Kids in Immigrant Detention Act or PROKID Act

This bill establishes the Office of the Ombudsperson for Immigrant Children in Government Custody within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The office shall ensure that if government detention of an immigrant child is necessary, that child is held in the least restrictive setting. The office shall also advocate for (1) the quick and safe release of such a detained child, and (2) a child who was detained with family to be released concurrently with a parent or legal guardian.

The office's duties shall include (1) monitoring facilities with immigrant children held in government custody to ensure compliance with applicable laws and standards, (2) investigating claims of mistreatment and complaints against foster care providers, (3) reviewing contested decisions about the placement of an immigrant child, and (4) reviewing data from HHS and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) relating to such children.

The office may also offer individual case assistance to such a detained child who requires expedited processing or elevated attention. The office may also issue subpoenas with HHS approval.

DHS and HHS must ensure that the office has the ability to conduct investigative and monitoring activities, including by providing unobstructed access to any detention facility with immigrant children.

The office and DHS shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to coordinate oversight between DHS and HHS.

The bill also establishes an expert advisory committee to assist the office and an interagency working group to identify and discuss concerns related to detained immigrant children.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 28, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
- **Feb 24, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations.
- **Feb 23, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 23, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.