

HR 2438

Justice in Forensic Algorithms Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Apr 8, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. (Oct 19, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2438>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Evans, Dwight [D-PA-3]	D · PA		Apr 8, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Oct 19, 2021
Science, Space, and Technology Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 8, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Justice in Forensic Algorithms Act of 2021

This bill establishes a federal framework to govern the use of computational forensic software. The term *computational forensic software* means software that relies on an automated computational process to assess evidence in a criminal investigation (e.g., facial recognition technology).

The framework contains various elements, including the following:

- requirements for the establishment of testing standards and a testing program for computational forensic software,
- requirements for the use of computational forensic software by federal law enforcement agencies and related entities (e.g., crime labs),
- a ban on the use of trade secret evidentiary privilege to prevent federal criminal defendants from accessing evidence collected using computational forensic software or information about the software (e.g., source code), and
- limits on the admissibility of evidence collected using computational forensic software.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 19, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
- **Apr 8, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 8, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Research and Technology.
- **Apr 8, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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.