

HR 5844

Open Courts Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Law

Introduced: Nov 3, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet. (Nov 1, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5844>

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. Issa, Darrell E. [R-CA-50]	R · CA		Nov 3, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 1, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Law

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 2614	Identical bill	Mar 15, 2022: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 307.

Open Courts Act of 2021

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 schedule of additional fees for higher-volume nongovernmental users of PACER.

To fund the operations of the new system, the Judicial Conference shall collect an annual fee from each federal agency equal to that agency's PACER fees in 2018, adjusted for inflation. 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.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 1, 2022:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet.
- **Nov 3, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Nov 3, 2021:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.