

HR 788

Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Law

Introduced: Feb 2, 2023

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. (Jan 16, 2024)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/788>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Gooden, Lance [R-TX-5]

Party: Republican • **State:** TX • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (16 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Biggs, Andy [R-AZ-5]	R · AZ		Feb 2, 2023
Rep. Cline, Ben [R-VA-6]	R · VA		Feb 2, 2023
Rep. DesJarlais, Scott [R-TN-4]	R · TN		Feb 2, 2023
Rep. Ellzey, Jake [R-TX-6]	R · TX		Feb 2, 2023
Rep. Issa, Darrell E. [R-CA-48]	R · CA		Feb 2, 2023
Rep. Luetkemeyer, Blaine [R-MO-3]	R · MO		Feb 2, 2023
Rep. Moolenaar, John R. [R-MI-2]	R · MI		Feb 2, 2023
Rep. Norman, Ralph [R-SC-5]	R · SC		Feb 2, 2023
Rep. Palmer, Gary J. [R-AL-6]	R · AL		Feb 2, 2023
Rep. Perry, Scott [R-PA-10]	R · PA		Feb 2, 2023
Rep. Tenney, Claudia [R-NY-24]	R · NY		Feb 2, 2023
Rep. Tiffany, Thomas P. [R-WI-7]	R · WI		Feb 2, 2023
Rep. Weber, Randy K., Sr. [R-TX-14]	R · TX		Feb 2, 2023
Rep. Rouzer, David [R-NC-7]	R · NC		Jul 18, 2023
Rep. Bishop, Dan [R-NC-8]	R · NC		Jan 9, 2024
Rep. Fry, Russell [R-SC-7]	R · SC		Jan 9, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Unknown	Jan 11, 2024
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 16, 2024

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Law

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HRES 947	Related bill	Jan 11, 2024: On agreeing to the resolution Agreed to by recorded vote: 211 - 202, 1 Present (Roll no. 5). (text: 01/10/2024 CR H25)
118 S 225	Identical bill	Feb 2, 2023: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Summary (as of Feb 2, 2023)

Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2023

This bill prohibits the federal government from entering into or enforcing a settlement agreement on behalf of the United States that provides for a payment to any person or entity other than the United States. The bill provides exceptions to allow payments that (1) remedy actual harm (including to the environment) caused by the party making the payment, or (2) constitute a payment for services rendered in connection with the case.

Government officials or agents who violate this prohibition may be removed from office or required to forfeit to the government any money they hold for such purposes to which they may otherwise be entitled.

Agencies must report annually for seven years to the Congressional Budget Office about the parties, funding sources, and distribution of funds for their settlement agreements permitted by the exceptions in this bill. The Office of Inspector General for each agency must also report annually on any settlement agreements that violate the bill's requirements.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 16, 2024:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
- **Jan 11, 2024:** Considered under the provisions of rule H. Res. 947. (consideration: CR H71-77; text of amendment in the nature of a substitute: CR H71)
- **Jan 11, 2024:** Rule provides for consideration of H.R. 788, H.J. Res. 98 and S.J. Res. 38. The resolution provides for consideration of H.R. 788 under a structured rule, with one hour of general debate. The resolution provides for consideration of H.J. Res. 98 and S.J. Res. 38 under a closed rule, with one hour of general debate on each joint resolution. Also, the resolution provides for a motion to recommit on H.R. 788 and H.J. Res. 98. A motion to commit on S.J. Res. 38.
- **Jan 11, 2024:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with one hour of debate on H.R. 788.
- **Jan 11, 2024:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 947, the House proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the McCormick amendment No. 1.
- **Jan 11, 2024:** Mrs. Foushee moved to recommit to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text: CR H77)
- **Jan 11, 2024:** The previous question on the motion to recommit was ordered pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX.
- **Jan 11, 2024:** POSTPONED PROCEEDINGS - At the conclusion of debate on H.R. 788, the Chair put the question on the motion to recommit and announced that the yeas had prevailed. Mrs. Foushee demanded the yeas and nays and the Chair postponed further proceedings until a time to be announced.
- **Jan 11, 2024:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H83-84)
- **Jan 11, 2024:** On motion to recommit Failed by the Yeas and Nays: 189 - 205 (Roll no. 6).
- **Jan 11, 2024:** Passed/agreed to in House: On passage Passed by the Yeas and Nays: 211 - 197 (Roll no. 7).
- **Jan 11, 2024:** On passage Passed by the Yeas and Nays: 211 - 197 (Roll no. 7).
- **Jan 11, 2024:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jan 9, 2024:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Judiciary. H. Rept. 118-339.
- **Jan 9, 2024:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 278.
- **Jan 9, 2024:** Rules Committee Resolution H. Res. 947 Reported to House. Rule provides for consideration of H.R. 788, H.J. Res. 98 and S.J. Res. 38. The resolution provides for consideration of H.R. 788 under a structured rule, with one hour of general debate. The resolution provides for consideration of H.J. Res. 98 and S.J. Res. 38 under a closed rule, with one hour of general debate on each joint resolution. Also, the resolution provides for a motion to recommit on H.R. 788 and H.J. Res. 98. A motion to commit on S.J. Res. 38.
- **Jun 14, 2023:** Ordered to be Reported in the Nature of a Substitute (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 15 - 10.
- **Jun 14, 2023:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held
- **Feb 2, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 2, 2023:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.