

HR 277

Matthew Lawrence Perna Act of 2025

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Jan 9, 2025

Current Status: Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Perman

Latest Action: Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), 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. (Jan 9, 2025)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/277>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Greene, Marjorie Taylor [R-GA-14]

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Massie, Thomas [R-KY-4]	R · KY		Jan 9, 2025

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Intelligence (Permanent Select) Committee	House	Referred To	Jan 9, 2025
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	Jan 9, 2025

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Matthew Lawrence Perna Act of 2025

This bill limits certain actions by the federal government related to the criminal prosecution and sentencing of individuals who are charged with a political protest offense. A *political protest offense* is a federal criminal offense that arises out of protest activities and is not a crime of violence. The bill also makes other changes that apply more broadly to curtail certain investigations and prosecutions of federal criminal offenses.

With respect to individuals who are charged with a political protest offense, the bill

- prohibits pretrial detention,
- generally requires the federal criminal trial to begin within 70 days of being charged or making an initial appearance before the court, and
- expresses the sense of Congress that the sentence imposed should be consistent with the minimum sentence provided by the guideline range applicable to the defendant.

With respect to investigations and prosecutions of federal criminal offenses more broadly, the bill

- makes the United States potentially liable for malicious overprosecution committed by federal investigative or law enforcement officers,
- limits the use of a national security authority (e.g., the Central Intelligence Agency) against a U.S. citizen,
- requires federal agencies to disclose whether the United States is or was investigating or surveilling a U.S. citizen when that information is requested under the Freedom of Information Act, and
- allows a defendant on trial for a criminal offense in the District of Columbia to change the venue of the trial to the U.S. district court that covers his or her primary residence.

