

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3331

To protect civil rights.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 21, 1993

Mr. CONYERS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To protect civil rights.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Civil Rights Protection
5 Act of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYER LIABILITY.**

7 (a) **GENERALLY.**—Any State, county, municipality,
8 or other unit of State or local government shall be liable
9 to the party injured and to the United States, in accord-
10 ance with this Act, for the conduct of such unit’s em-
11 ployee, that subjects or causes to be subjected, under color
12 of law, any citizen of the United States or other person

1 to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities
2 secured by the Constitution and laws of the United States.

3 (b) EXTENT OF LIABILITY.—The liability created by
4 this section shall exist whether or not the employee is per-
5 sonally liable and whether or not the employee had an ob-
6 jectively reasonable good faith belief in the lawfulness of
7 the conduct.

8 (c) EXCEPTION.—Liability may not be imposed under
9 this section for any conduct for which the individual caus-
10 ing such conduct is entitled to absolute immunity.

11 **SEC. 3. SUIT BY UNITED STATES.**

12 (a) GENERALLY.—The United States may bring a
13 civil action to establish liability under section 2. The ac-
14 tion may be brought only against the unit of State or local
15 government that employed the person whose conduct
16 caused the liability. The action may be brought only with
17 the consent of the injured party and may be brought
18 whether or not the injured party has brought an action
19 to establish that liability. An action brought by the United
20 States under this section may be consolidated with an ac-
21 tion brought by the injured party.

22 (b) DAMAGES.—In an action under this section, com-
23 pensatory damages may be awarded to the injured party,
24 and punitive damages may be awarded either to the in-
25 jured party, or to the United States, or partly to each.

1 Duplicate compensatory damages may not be awarded
2 under this Act to the injured party.

3 **SEC. 4. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.**

4 The statute of limitations applicable to actions to en-
5 force the liability created by section 2 is the same as that
6 applicable to an action under section 1979 of the Revised
7 Statutes of the United States (42 U.S.C. 1983).

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