

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 923

AN ACT

To provide for the investigation of certain unsolved civil
rights crimes, and for other purposes.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Emmett Till Unsolved
3 Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007”.

4 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

5 It is the sense of Congress that all authorities with
6 jurisdiction, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation
7 and other entities within the Department of Justice,
8 should—

9 (1) expeditiously investigate unsolved civil
10 rights murders, due to the amount of time that has
11 passed since the murders and the age of potential
12 witnesses; and

13 (2) provide all the resources necessary to ensure
14 timely and thorough investigations in the cases in-
15 volved.

16 **SEC. 3. DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE CRIMINAL SECTION OF THE**
17 **CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall des-
19 ignate a Deputy Chief in the Criminal Section of the Civil
20 Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

21 (b) RESPONSIBILITY.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Deputy Chief shall be
23 responsible for coordinating the investigation and
24 prosecution of violations of criminal civil rights stat-
25 utes that occurred not later than December 31,
26 1969, and resulted in a death.

1 (2) COORDINATION.—In investigating a com-
2 plaint under paragraph (1), the Deputy Chief may
3 coordinate investigative activities with State and
4 local law enforcement officials.

5 (c) STUDY AND REPORT.—

6 (1) STUDY.—The Attorney General shall annu-
7 ally conduct a study of the cases under the jurisdic-
8 tion of the Deputy Chief or under the jurisdiction of
9 the Supervisory Special Agent and, in conducting
10 the study, shall determine—

11 (A) the number of open investigations
12 within the Department for violations of criminal
13 civil rights statutes that occurred not later than
14 December 31, 1969;

15 (B) the number of new cases opened pur-
16 suant to this Act since the previous year's
17 study;

18 (C) the number of unsealed Federal cases
19 charged within the study period, including the
20 case names, the jurisdiction in which the
21 charges were brought, and the date the charges
22 were filed;

23 (D) the number of cases referred by the
24 Department to a State or local law enforcement
25 agency or prosecutor within the study period,

1 the number of such cases that resulted in State
2 charges being filed, the jurisdiction in which
3 such charges were filed, the date the charges
4 were filed, and if a jurisdiction declines to pros-
5 ecute or participate in an investigation of a case
6 so referred, the fact it did so;

7 (E) the number of cases within the study
8 period that were closed without Federal pros-
9 ecution, the case names of unsealed Federal
10 cases, the dates the cases were closed, and the
11 relevant federal statutes;

12 (F) the number of attorneys who worked,
13 in whole or in part, on any case described in
14 subsection (b)(1); and

15 (G) the applications submitted for grants
16 under section 5, the award of such grants, and
17 the purposes for which the grant amount were
18 expended.

19 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after
20 the date of enactment of this Act, and each year
21 thereafter, the Attorney General shall prepare and
22 submit to Congress a report containing the results
23 of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

1 **SEC. 4. SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT IN THE CIVIL**
2 **RIGHTS UNIT OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF**
3 **INVESTIGATION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall des-
5 ignate a Supervisory Special Agent in the Civil Rights
6 Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Depart-
7 ment of Justice.

8 (b) RESPONSIBILITY.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Supervisory Special
10 Agent shall be responsible for investigating viola-
11 tions of criminal civil rights statutes that occurred
12 not later than December 31, 1969, and resulted in
13 a death.

14 (2) COORDINATION.—In investigating a com-
15 plaint under paragraph (1), the Supervisory Special
16 Agent may coordinate the investigative activities
17 with State and local law enforcement officials.

18 **SEC. 5. GRANTS TO STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may award
20 grants to State or local law enforcement agencies for ex-
21 penses associated with the investigation and prosecution
22 by them of criminal offenses, involving civil rights, that
23 occurred not later than December 31, 1969, and resulted
24 in a death.

25 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
26 are authorized to be appropriated \$2,000,000 for each of

1 the fiscal years 2008 through 2017 to carry out this sec-
2 tion.

3 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
5 priated, in addition to any other amounts otherwise au-
6 thorized to be appropriated for this purpose, to the Attor-
7 ney General \$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008
8 through 2017 for the purpose of investigating and pros-
9 ecuting violations of criminal civil rights statutes that oc-
10 curred not later than December 31, 1969, and resulted
11 in a death. These funds shall be allocated by the Attorney
12 General to the Deputy Chief of the Criminal Section of
13 the Civil Rights Division and the Supervisory Special
14 Agent of the Civil Rights Unit of the Federal Bureau of
15 Investigation in order to advance the purposes set forth
16 in this Act.

17 (b) COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE OF THE DE-
18 PARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—In addition to any amounts au-
19 thorized to be appropriated under title XI of the Civil
20 Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000h et seq.), there are
21 authorized to be appropriated to the Community Relations
22 Service of the Department of Justice \$1,500,000 for fiscal
23 year 2008 and each subsequent fiscal year, to enable the
24 Service (in carrying out the functions described in title
25 X of such Act (42 U.S.C. 2000g et seq.)) to provide tech-

1 nical assistance by bringing together law enforcement
2 agencies and communities in the investigation of violations
3 of criminal civil rights statutes, in cases described in sec-
4 tion 4(b).

5 **SEC. 7. DEFINITION OF “CRIMINAL CIVIL RIGHTS STAT-**
6 **UTES”.**

7 In this Act, the term “criminal civil rights statutes”
8 means—

9 (1) section 241 of title 18, United States Code
10 (relating to conspiracy against rights);

11 (2) section 242 of title 18, United States Code
12 (relating to deprivation of rights under color of law);

13 (3) section 245 of title 18, United States Code
14 (relating to federally protected activities);

15 (4) sections 1581 and 1584 of title 18, United
16 States Code (relating to involuntary servitude and
17 peonage);

18 (5) section 901 of the Fair Housing Act (42
19 U.S.C. 3631); and

20 (6) any other Federal law that—

21 (A) was in effect on or before December
22 31, 1969; and

23 (B) the Criminal Section of the Civil
24 Rights Division of the Department of Justice

1 enforced, before the date of enactment of this
2 Act.

3 **SEC. 8. SUNSET.**

4 Sections 2 through 6 of this Act shall cease to have
5 effect at the end of fiscal year 2017.

6 **SEC. 9. AUTHORITY OF INSPECTORS GENERAL.**

7 Title XXXVII of the Crime Control Act of 1990 (42
8 U.S.C. 5779 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
9 the following:

10 **“SEC. 3703. AUTHORITY OF INSPECTORS GENERAL.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—An Inspector General appointed
12 under section 3 or 8G of the Inspector General Act of
13 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) may authorize staff to assist the
14 National Center for Missing and Exploited Children—

15 “(1) by conducting reviews of inactive case files
16 to develop recommendations for further investiga-
17 tions; and

18 “(2) by engaging in similar activities.

19 “(b) LIMITATIONS.—

20 “(1) PRIORITY.—An Inspector General may not
21 permit staff to engage in activities described in sub-
22 section (a) if such activities will interfere with the
23 duties of the Inspector General under the Inspector
24 General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

1 “(2) FUNDING.—No additional funds are au-
2 thorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-
3 tion.”.

Passed the House of Representatives June 20, 2007.

Attest:

Clerk.

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