

Calendar No. 237

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**H. R. 923**

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 21, 2007

Received

JUNE 26, 2007

Read twice and placed on the calendar

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

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

1 (1) expeditiously investigate unsolved civil
2 rights murders, due to the amount of time that has
3 passed since the murders and the age of potential
4 witnesses; and

5 (2) provide all the resources necessary to ensure
6 timely and thorough investigations in the cases in-
7 volved.

8 **SEC. 3. DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE CRIMINAL SECTION OF THE**
9 **CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION.**

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

13 (b) RESPONSIBILITY.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Deputy Chief shall be
15 responsible for coordinating the investigation and
16 prosecution of violations of criminal civil rights stat-
17 utes that occurred not later than December 31,
18 1969, and resulted in a death.

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

23 (c) STUDY AND REPORT.—

24 (1) STUDY.—The Attorney General shall annu-
25 ally conduct a study of the cases under the jurisdic-

1 tion of the Deputy Chief or under the jurisdiction of
2 the Supervisory Special Agent and, in conducting
3 the study, shall determine—

4 (A) the number of open investigations
5 within the Department for violations of criminal
6 civil rights statutes that occurred not later than
7 December 31, 1969;

8 (B) the number of new cases opened pur-
9 suant to this Act since the previous year's
10 study;

11 (C) the number of unsealed Federal cases
12 charged within the study period, including the
13 case names, the jurisdiction in which the
14 charges were brought, and the date the charges
15 were filed;

16 (D) the number of cases referred by the
17 Department to a State or local law enforcement
18 agency or prosecutor within the study period,
19 the number of such cases that resulted in State
20 charges being filed, the jurisdiction in which
21 such charges were filed, the date the charges
22 were filed, and if a jurisdiction declines to pros-
23 ecute or participate in an investigation of a case
24 so referred, the fact it did so;

1 (E) the number of cases within the study
2 period that were closed without Federal pros-
3 ecution, the case names of unsealed Federal
4 cases, the dates the cases were closed, and the
5 relevant federal statutes;

6 (F) the number of attorneys who worked,
7 in whole or in part, on any case described in
8 subsection (b)(1); and

9 (G) the applications submitted for grants
10 under section 5, the award of such grants, and
11 the purposes for which the grant amount were
12 expended.

13 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after
14 the date of enactment of this Act, and each year
15 thereafter, the Attorney General shall prepare and
16 submit to Congress a report containing the results
17 of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

18 **SEC. 4. SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT IN THE CIVIL**
19 **RIGHTS UNIT OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF**
20 **INVESTIGATION.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall des-
22 ignate a Supervisory Special Agent in the Civil Rights
23 Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Depart-
24 ment of Justice.

25 (b) RESPONSIBILITY.—

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

6 (2) COORDINATION.—In investigating a com-
7 plaint under paragraph (1), the Supervisory Special
8 Agent may coordinate the investigative activities
9 with State and local law enforcement officials.

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

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

17 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
18 are authorized to be appropriated \$2,000,000 for each of
19 the fiscal years 2008 through 2017 to carry out this sec-
20 tion.

21 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
23 priated, in addition to any other amounts otherwise au-
24 thorized to be appropriated for this purpose, to the Attor-
25 ney General \$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008

1 through 2017 for the purpose of investigating and pros-
2 ecuting violations of criminal civil rights statutes that oc-
3 curred not later than December 31, 1969, and resulted
4 in a death. These funds shall be allocated by the Attorney
5 General to the Deputy Chief of the Criminal Section of
6 the Civil Rights Division and the Supervisory Special
7 Agent of the Civil Rights Unit of the Federal Bureau of
8 Investigation in order to advance the purposes set forth
9 in this Act.

10 (b) COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE OF THE DE-
11 PARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—In addition to any amounts au-
12 thorized to be appropriated under title XI of the Civil
13 Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000h et seq.), there are
14 authorized to be appropriated to the Community Relations
15 Service of the Department of Justice \$1,500,000 for fiscal
16 year 2008 and each subsequent fiscal year, to enable the
17 Service (in carrying out the functions described in title
18 X of such Act (42 U.S.C. 2000g et seq.)) to provide tech-
19 nical assistance by bringing together law enforcement
20 agencies and communities in the investigation of violations
21 of criminal civil rights statutes, in cases described in sec-
22 tion 4(b).

1 **SEC. 7. DEFINITION OF “CRIMINAL CIVIL RIGHTS STAT-**
2 **UTES”.**

3 In this Act, the term “criminal civil rights statutes”
4 means—

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

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

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

11 (4) sections 1581 and 1584 of title 18, United
12 States Code (relating to involuntary servitude and
13 peonage);

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

16 (6) any other Federal law that—

17 (A) was in effect on or before December
18 31, 1969; and

19 (B) the Criminal Section of the Civil
20 Rights Division of the Department of Justice
21 enforced, before the date of enactment of this
22 Act.

23 **SEC. 8. SUNSET.**

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

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

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

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

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

10 “(1) by conducting reviews of inactive case files
11 to develop recommendations for further investiga-
12 tions; and

13 “(2) by engaging in similar activities.

14 “(b) LIMITATIONS.—

15 “(1) PRIORITY.—An Inspector General may not
16 permit staff to engage in activities described in sub-
17 section (a) if such activities will interfere with the
18 duties of the Inspector General under the Inspector
19 General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

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

Passed the House of Representatives June 20, 2007.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.

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