

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2854

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 18, 2016

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

AN ACT

To reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime
Act of 2007.

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 Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016”.

4 **SEC. 2. INVESTIGATION OF UNSOLVED CIVIL RIGHTS**
5 **CRIMES.**

6 The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act
7 of 2007 (28 U.S.C. 509 note) is amended—

8 (1) in section 2—

9 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at
10 the end;

11 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-
12 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

13 (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
14 following:

15 “(3) coordinate the sharing of information be-
16 tween the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the civil
17 rights community, and other entities;

18 “(4) support the full accounting of all victims
19 whose deaths or disappearances were the result of
20 racially motivated crimes;

21 “(5) hold accountable under Federal and State
22 law all individuals who were perpetrators of, or ac-
23 complices in, unsolved civil rights murders and such
24 disappearances;

25 “(6) express the condolences of the authority to
26 the communities affected by unsolved civil rights

1 murders, and to the families of the victims of such
2 murders and such disappearances;

3 “(7) keep families regularly informed about the
4 status of the investigations of such murders and
5 such disappearances of their loved ones; and

6 “(8) expeditiously comply with requests for in-
7 formation received pursuant to section 552 of title
8 5, United States Code, (commonly known as the
9 ‘Freedom of Information Act’) and develop a sin-
10 gular, publicly accessible repository of these dis-
11 closed documents.”;

12 (2) in section 3—

13 (A) in subsection (b)—

14 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking “oc-
15 curred not later than December 31, 1969,
16 and”;

17 (ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting be-
18 fore the period at the end the following: “,
19 and eligible entities”; and

20 (iii) by adding after paragraph (2) the
21 following:

22 “(3) REVIEW OF CLOSED CASES.—The Deputy
23 Chief shall, to the extent practicable, reopen and re-
24 view any case involving a violation described in para-
25 graph (1) that was closed prior to the date of the

1 enactment of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights
2 Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016 without an in-
3 person investigation conducted by an officer or em-
4 ployee of the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights
5 Division of the Department of Justice or by an
6 agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

7 “(4) TASK FORCE.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Deputy Chief
9 shall establish a task force that includes rep-
10 resentatives from the Federal Bureau of Inves-
11 tigation, the Community Relations Service of
12 the Department of Justice, State and local law
13 enforcement agencies, and eligible entities to as-
14 sist, as appropriate, with conducting a thorough
15 investigation of, and to make recommendations
16 to the Deputy Chief regarding, the cases involv-
17 ing violations described in paragraph (1).

18 “(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
19 TIONS.—In addition to amounts made available
20 to carry out this Act under section 6, there is
21 authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney
22 General \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2017 and
23 each subsequent fiscal year to carry out this
24 paragraph.”; and

25 (B) in subsection (c)—

1 (i) in paragraph (1)—

2 (I) in subparagraph (A), by strik-
3 ing “that occurred not later than De-
4 cember 31, 1969”;

5 (II) in subparagraph (F), by
6 striking “and” at the end;

7 (III) in subparagraph (G), by
8 striking the period at the end and in-
9 serting “; and”; and

10 (IV) by inserting after subpara-
11 graph (G) the following:

12 “(H) the number of cases referred by an
13 eligible entity or a State or local law enforce-
14 ment agency or prosecutor to the Department
15 within the study period, the number of such
16 cases that resulted in Federal charges being
17 filed, the date the charges were filed, and if the
18 Department declines to prosecute or participate
19 in an investigation of a case so referred, the
20 fact that it did so, and the outreach, collabora-
21 tion, and support for investigations and pros-
22 ecutions of violations of criminal civil rights
23 statutes, including murders and including dis-
24 appearances described in section 2(4), within
25 Federal, State, and local jurisdictions.”; and

1 (ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting be-
 2 fore the period at the end the following:
 3 “and a description of the activities con-
 4 ducted under subsection (b)(3)”;

5 (3) in section 4(b)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “oc-
 7 curred not later than December 31, 1969,
 8 and”; and

9 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting before
 10 the period at the end the following: “, and eligi-
 11 ble entities”;

12 (4) in section 5—

13 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “occurred
 14 not later than December 31, 1969, and”; and

15 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “each of
 16 the fiscal years 2008 through 2017” and insert-
 17 ing “fiscal year 2017 and each subsequent fis-
 18 cal year”;

19 (5) in section 6—

20 (A) in subsection (a)—

21 (i) by striking “each of the fiscal
 22 years 2008 through 2017” and inserting
 23 “fiscal year 2017 and each subsequent fis-
 24 cal year”; and

1 (ii) by striking “occurred not later
2 than December 31, 1969, and”; and

3 (B) by amending subsection (b) to read as
4 follows:

5 “(b) COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE OF THE DE-
6 PARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—Using funds appropriated
7 under section 3(b)(4)(B), the Community Relations Serv-
8 ice of the Department of Justice shall provide technical
9 assistance by bringing together law enforcement agencies
10 and communities in the investigation of violations de-
11 scribed in section 4(b).”;

12 (6) in section 7—

13 (A) in the heading, by striking “**DEFINI-**
14 **TION OF ‘CRIMINAL CIVIL RIGHTS STAT-**
15 **UTES’**” and inserting “**DEFINITIONS**”;

16 (B) in paragraph (6), by redesignating
17 subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and
18 (ii), respectively, and indenting the clauses ac-
19 cordingly;

20 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
21 through (6) as subparagraphs (A) through (F),
22 respectively, and indenting the subparagraphs
23 accordingly;

24 (D) by striking “In this Act, the term”
25 and inserting: “In this Act:

1 “(1) CRIMINAL CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES.—The
2 term”; and

3 (E) by inserting at the end the following:

4 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
5 tity’ means an organization whose primary purpose
6 is to promote civil rights, an institution of higher
7 education, or another entity, determined by the At-
8 torney General to be appropriate.”; and

9 (7) by striking section 8.

Passed the Senate July 14, 2016.

Attest:

JULIE E. ADAMS,

Secretary.