

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6714

To direct the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts to consolidate the Case Management/Electronic Case Files system, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 6, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To direct the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts to consolidate the Case Management/Electronic Case Files system, 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 “Electronic Court  
5 Records Reform Act of 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONSOLIDATION OF THE CASE MANAGEMENT/ELEC-**  
2 **TRONIC CASE FILES SYSTEM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the  
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Ad-  
5 ministrative Office of the United States Courts shall con-  
6 solidate the Case Management/Electronic Case Files sys-  
7 tem, and shall develop one system for all filings with  
8 courts of the United States, which shall be administered  
9 by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

10 (b) USE OF TECHNOLOGY.—In developing the system  
11 under subsection (a), the Director shall use modern tech-  
12 nology in order—

13 (1) to improve security, data accessibility, af-  
14 fordability, and performance; and

15 (2) to minimize the burden on pro se litigants.

16 (c) AVAILABILITY TO STATES.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State may choose to par-  
18 ticipate in the system developed under this section.

19 (2) FEE.—The Director shall charge a fee to a  
20 State that chooses to participate in the system,  
21 which is set at a level to recover the cost of pro-  
22 viding the services associated with the administra-  
23 tion and maintenance of the system to the State.

1 **SEC. 3. PUBLIC ACCESS TO COURT ELECTRONIC RECORDS**  
2 **SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Public Access to Court Elec-  
4 tronic Records system shall be subject to the following re-  
5 quirements:

6 (1) As soon as practicable, and not later than  
7 5 days, after a document is filed with a court, the  
8 document shall be publicly accessible, except as or-  
9 dered by a court or the Director.

10 (2) All documents on the system shall be avail-  
11 able to the public and to parties before the court  
12 free of charge.

13 (3) Any information that is prohibited from  
14 public disclosure by law or court order shall be re-  
15 dacted.

16 (4) All documents shall be text-searchable and  
17 machine-readable.

18 (5) To the extent practicable, external websites  
19 shall be able to link to documents on the system.

20 (6) The system shall include digital audio and  
21 visual files of court recordings, when such files are  
22 available.

23 (7) The system shall provide search functions  
24 for public use.

25 (b) MINIMIZING THE BURDEN ON PRO SE LITI-  
26 GANTS.—In developing the system to comply with the re-

1 requirements under subsection (a), the Director shall, to the  
2 extent practicable, not impose a disproportionate impact  
3 on pro se litigants.

4 (c) USE OF TECHNOLOGY.—In developing the system  
5 under subsection (a), the Director shall use modern tech-  
6 nology in order—

7 (1) to improve security, data accessibility, af-  
8 fordability, and performance; and

9 (2) to minimize the burden on pro se litigants.

10 (d) AUTHORITY TO EXEMPT CERTAIN DOCU-  
11 MENTS.—The Director may identify categories of docu-  
12 ments which are not made publicly accessible under sub-  
13 section (a)(1), and categories of court proceedings, the re-  
14 cordings of which are not made available under subsection  
15 (a)(6).

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