

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7020

To provide for coverage of employees of the District of Columbia courts and the District of Columbia Public Defender Service under the District of Columbia Human Rights Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 12, 2026

Ms. NORTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To provide for coverage of employees of the District of Columbia courts and the District of Columbia Public Defender Service under the District of Columbia Human Rights Act, 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 “District of Columbia
5 Courts and Public Defender Service Employment Non-
6 Discrimination Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COVERAGE OF EMPLOYEES UNDER DISTRICT OF**
2 **COLUMBIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACT.**

3 (a) COVERAGE.—

4 (1) EMPLOYEES OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
5 COURTS.—Section 11–1726, District of Columbia
6 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following
7 new subsection:

8 “(e) For purposes of the Human Rights Act of 1977
9 (sec. 2–1401.01 et seq., D.C. Official Code), a nonjudicial
10 employee of the District of Columbia courts shall be con-
11 sidered to be an employee under such Act and the District
12 of Columbia courts shall be considered to be an employer
13 under such Act.”.

14 (2) EMPLOYEES OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
15 PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE.—Section 305 of the
16 District of Columbia Court Reform and Criminal
17 Procedure Act of 1970 (sec. 2–1605, D.C. Official
18 Code) is amended by adding at the end the following
19 new subsection:

20 “(e) For purposes of the Human Rights Act of 1977
21 (sec. 2–1401.01 et seq., D.C. Official Code), an employee
22 of the Service shall be considered to be an employee under
23 such Act and the Service shall be considered to be an em-
24 ployer under such Act.”.

25 (b) EXCLUSION FROM SEPARATE PROCEDURES ES-
26 TABLISHED FOR COMPLAINTS AGAINST AGENCIES OF

1 DISTRICT GOVERNMENT.—Section 303 of the Human
2 Rights Act of 1977 (sec. 2–1403.03, D.C. Official Code)
3 is amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
4 section:

5 “(c) This section does not apply with respect to com-
6 plaints filed against—

7 “(1) the District of Columbia courts or officials
8 and employees of the District of Columbia courts; or

9 “(2) the District of Columbia Public Defender
10 Service or officials and employees of the District of
11 Columbia Public Defender Service.”.

12 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
13 this Act shall apply with respect to complaints filed on
14 or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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