

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1709

To amend title 1, United States Code, to provide for a definition of the term “State” and to include territories therein, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 23, 2017

Ms. PLASKETT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend title 1, United States Code, to provide for a definition of the term “State” and to include territories therein, 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. THE TERM “STATE” TO INCLUDE TERRITORIES**  
4 **FOR PURPOSES OF FEDERAL LAW.**

5 (a) THE TERM “STATE” TO INCLUDE TERRI-  
6 TORIES.—Chapter 1 of title 1, United States Code, is  
7 amended by adding at the end the following:

8 **“§ 9. Rule of construction regarding the term ‘State’**

9 “In determining the meaning of any Act of Congress,  
10 or of any ruling, regulation, or interpretation of the var-

1 ious administrative bureaus and agencies of the United  
2 States, the term ‘State’ shall include any territory of the  
3 United States, unless the statute, rule, regulation, or in-  
4 terpretation explicitly excludes the territories from the def-  
5 inition of the term or otherwise precludes their inclusion.”.

6 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
7 for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
8 lowing:

“9. Rule of construction regarding the term ‘State’.”.

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