

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5067

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2016

Mr. LEWIS (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RUSH, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RICHMOND, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Emmett Till Unsolved
5 Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. INVESTIGATION OF UNSOLVED CIVIL RIGHTS**
7 **CRIMES.**

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

1 (1) in section 2—

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

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

6 (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
7 following:

8 “(3) coordinate the sharing of information be-
9 tween the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the civil
10 rights community, and other entities;

11 “(4) hold accountable individuals who were per-
12 petrators of, or accomplices in, unsolved civil rights
13 murders;

14 “(5) express the condolences of the authority to
15 the communities affected by unsolved civil rights
16 murders, and to the families of the victims of such
17 murders; and

18 “(6) comply with requests for information re-
19 ceived pursuant to section 552 of title 5, United
20 States Code (commonly known as the ‘Freedom of
21 Information Act’).”;

22 (2) in section 3—

23 (A) in subsection (b)—

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

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

7 (iii) by adding after paragraph (2) the
8 following:

9 “(3) REVIEW OF CLOSED CASES.—The Deputy
10 Chief shall reopen and review any case involving a
11 violation described in paragraph (1) that was closed
12 prior to the date of the enactment of the Emmett
13 Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization
14 Act of 2016 without an in-person investigation con-
15 ducted by an officer or employee of the Criminal
16 Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Depart-
17 ment of Justice or by an agent of the Federal Bu-
18 reau of Investigation.

19 “(4) TASK FORCE.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Deputy Chief
21 shall establish a task force that includes rep-
22 resentatives from the Federal Bureau of Inves-
23 tigation, the Community Relations Service of
24 the Department of Justice, State and local law
25 enforcement agencies, and eligible entities to

1 conduct a thorough investigation of, and make
2 recommendations to the Deputy Chief regard-
3 ing, the cases involving violations described in
4 paragraph (1).

5 “(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
6 TIONS.—In addition to amounts made available
7 to carry out this Act under section 6, there is
8 authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney
9 General \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2016 and
10 each subsequent fiscal year to carry out this
11 paragraph.”; and

12 (B) in subsection (c)—

13 (i) in paragraph (1)—

14 (I) in subparagraph (A), by strik-
15 ing “that occurred not later than De-
16 cember 31, 1969”;

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

19 (III) in subparagraph (G), by
20 striking the period at the end and in-
21 serting “; and”; and

22 (IV) by inserting after subpara-
23 graph (G) the following:

24 “(H) the number of cases referred by an
25 eligible entity or a State or local law enforce-

1 ment agency or prosecutor to the Department
2 within the study period, the number of such
3 cases that resulted in Federal charges being
4 filed, the date the charges were filed, and if the
5 Department declines to prosecute or participate
6 in an investigation of a case so referred, the
7 fact that it did so.”; and

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

12 (3) in section 4(b)—

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

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

19 (4) in section 5—

20 (A) in subsection (a)—

21 (i) by inserting after “local law en-
22 forcement agencies” the following: “, or el-
23 igible entities,”; and

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

1 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “each of
2 the fiscal years 2008 through 2017” and insert-
3 ing “fiscal year 2016 and each subsequent fis-
4 cal year”;

5 (5) in section 6—

6 (A) in subsection (a)—

7 (i) by striking “each of the fiscal
8 years 2008 through 2017” and inserting
9 “fiscal year 2016 and each subsequent fis-
10 cal year”; and

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

13 (B) by amending subsection (b) to read as
14 follows:

15 “(b) COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE OF THE DE-
16 PARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—Subject to the availability of ap-
17 propriations, the Community Relations Service of the De-
18 partment of Justice shall provide technical assistance by
19 bringing together law enforcement agencies and commu-
20 nities in the investigation of violations described in section
21 4(b).”;

22 (6) in section 7—

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

1 (B) by striking “In this Act, the term”
2 and inserting: “In this Act:

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

5 (C) by inserting at the end the following:

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

11 (7) by striking section 8.

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