

112TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 3781

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a criminal penalty for torture committed by law enforcement officers and others acting under color of law.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 18, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. GUTIERREZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a criminal penalty for torture committed by law enforcement officers and others acting under color of law.

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 “Law Enforcement Tor-
5 ture Prevention Act of 2011”.

1 **SEC. 2. TORTURE COMMITTED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OF-**
2 **FICERS AND OTHERS ACTING UNDER COLOR**
3 **OF LAW.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 13 of title 18, United
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 **“§ 250. Torture committed by law enforcement offi-**
8 **cers and others acting under color of law**

9 “(a) Whoever, acting under color of local, State, or
10 Federal law, commits or attempts or conspires to commit
11 torture shall be imprisoned for not more than 10 years,
12 but if death results to any person from the offense, the
13 offender shall be imprisoned for any term of years or for
14 life.

15 “(b) A person may be prosecuted, tried, or punished
16 for an offense under this section at any time without limi-
17 tation.

18 “(c) In this section—

19 “(1) the term ‘torture’ means intentionally in-
20 flicting severe pain or suffering, whether physical or
21 mental, on a person for such purposes as obtaining
22 from that person or another information or a confes-
23 sion, punishing that person, or intimidating or coerc-
24 ing that person or another, or for any reason based
25 on discrimination of any kind, but does not include

1 pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in, or
2 incidental to, lawful sanctions; and

3 “(2) the term ‘inflicting severe pain or suf-
4 fering’ means—

5 “(A) causing or threatening to inflict se-
6 vere pain or suffering;

7 “(B) the administration or application, or
8 threatened administration or application, of
9 mind-altering substances or other procedures
10 calculated to disrupt profoundly the senses or
11 the personality;

12 “(C) the threat of imminent death;

13 “(D) the threat that another person will
14 imminently be subjected to death, severe phys-
15 ical pain or suffering, or the administration or
16 application of mind-altering substances or other
17 procedures calculated to disrupt profoundly the
18 senses or personality; or

19 “(E) sexual assault or the threat of sexual
20 assault, including by third party; the denial of
21 necessary medical services.”.

22 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
23 at the beginning of chapter 13 of title 18, United States
24 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“250. Torture committed by law enforcement officers and others acting under color of law.”.

