

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9694

To amend the Epstein Files Transparency Act with respect to enforcement by an attorney general of a State, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 15, 2026

Mr. MASSIE (for himself, Mr. KHANNA, and Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Epstein Files Transparency Act with respect to enforcement by an attorney general of a State, 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 “Epstein Files Trans-
5 parency Act II”.

6 **SEC. 2. ENFORCEMENT THE EPSTEIN FILES TRANS-**
7 **PARENCY ACT.**

8 (a) ENFORCEMENT TO THE EPSTEIN FILES TRANS-
9 PARENCY ACT.—The Epstein Files Transparency Act

1 (Public Law 119–38; 139 Stat. 656) is amended by add-
2 ing at the end the following:

3 **“SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL OF A**
4 **STATE AND BY VICTIMS.**

5 “(a) ACTION AUTHORIZED.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The attorney general of a
7 State, a district attorney, or other authorized State
8 officer may bring an action on behalf of such State
9 or the residents thereof, and a victim may bring ac-
10 tion on behalf of such victim, against the Attorney
11 General of the United States alleging an unlawful
12 withholding, redaction, delay, removal, concealment,
13 failure to publish, failure to produce, or failure to
14 justify a withholding or redaction of a record, docu-
15 ment, communication, or investigative material de-
16 scribed in section 2(a), in the United States District
17 Court for the District of Columbia, in any United
18 States district court located in the State on behalf
19 of which the action is brought by an attorney gen-
20 eral of a State, district attorney, or other authorized
21 state officer, or, in the case of an action brought by
22 a victim, in any district court located in the State
23 in which the victim resides, to obtain declaratory re-
24 lief, injunctive relief, monetary relief, costs, reason-

1 able attorney’s fees, and any other appropriate equi-
2 table relief.

3 “(2) CONSIDERATION.—The court shall advance
4 on the docket and expedite the disposition of a civil
5 action filed under this subsection to the greatest ex-
6 tent practicable.

7 “(3) HARM.—For purposes of this subsection, a
8 State, a resident of a State, or a State or local law
9 enforcement agency shall be considered to have been
10 harmed if the State, the residents of a State, or a
11 State or local law enforcement agency have experi-
12 enced harm, including investigative harm, harass-
13 ment, inability to corroborate reports to law enforce-
14 ment, inability to obtain a victim statement, infor-
15 mational injury, financial harm in excess of \$100, or
16 any other harm as a result of the noncompliance of
17 the Attorney General of the United States with this
18 Act.

19 “(4) EFFECT ON TOUHY REGULATIONS.—The
20 requirements of 28 CFR §§ 16.21–16.29 shall not
21 apply to any request for, or production of, records
22 pursuant to this Act. An attorney general of a State,
23 district attorney, or other authorized State officer
24 shall not be required to comply with any provision
25 of such regulations as a condition of obtaining, re-

1 taining, using, or disclosing records produced under
2 this Act, and no Federal agency may invoke such
3 regulations as grounds to withhold, redact, delay, or
4 condition the production of any record required to be
5 disclosed under this Act. The statutory rights and
6 enforcement mechanisms established by this Act
7 shall constitute the exclusive procedural framework
8 governing State law enforcement access to records
9 covered by this Act.

10 “(5) NO PRECLUSION OF ALTERNATIVE CAUSES
11 OF ACTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed
12 to limit, displace, or preclude any other cause of ac-
13 tion, claim, or remedy available to an attorney gen-
14 eral of a State, district attorney, or other authorized
15 State officer arising from the USDOJ’s withholding,
16 redaction, delay, removal, concealment, failure to
17 publish, failure to produce, or failure to justify a
18 withholding or redaction of any record, document,
19 communication, or investigative material described
20 in section 2(a), and the enforcement avenues pro-
21 vided under this Act shall be deemed cumulative of,
22 and in addition to, any such cause of action, claim,
23 or remedy otherwise available at law or in equity.

24 “(6) APPLICABILITY TO EXISTING INVESTIGA-
25 TIONS.—The provisions of this Act shall apply to all

1 investigations currently pending before an attorney
2 general of a State, district attorney, or other author-
3 ized State officer at the time of enactment, without
4 regard to whether such investigation was initiated
5 prior to the date of enactment. No provision of this
6 Act shall be construed to limit its application solely
7 to investigations commenced after the date of enact-
8 ment, and any attorney general of a State, district
9 attorney, or other authorized State officer with an
10 active investigation into matters described in section
11 2(a) shall be entitled to the full benefit of the rights,
12 procedures, and enforcement mechanisms established
13 herein as of the date of enactment.

14 “(b) VICTIM ACCESS TO UNREDACTED RECORDS.—

15 “(1) RIGHT OF ACCESS.—Upon request by a
16 victim, the Attorney General of the United States
17 shall provide the victim with the full, unredacted
18 records, documents, communications, or investigative
19 materials described in section 2(a), including FD–
20 302 files, that identify, describe, reference, quote,
21 summarize, document, or otherwise relate to such
22 victim, the parents, siblings, or legal guardians of
23 such victim, or the harm suffered by the victim.

24 “(2) PROTECTIONS OF OTHER VICTIMS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In complying with a
2 request of a victim under paragraph (1), the
3 Attorney General of the United States may re-
4 dact segregable portions of the records de-
5 scribed in paragraph (1) that contain personally
6 identifiable information of any other victim or
7 the personal and medical files and similar files
8 of any other victim the disclosure of which
9 would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion
10 of personal privacy.

11 “(B) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in para-
12 graph (1) shall be construed to entitle a re-
13 questing victim to obtain any record, or seg-
14 regable portion of a record, that relates to an-
15 other victim. A requesting victim shall be enti-
16 tled only to records, or portions of records, that
17 identify, describe, reference, quote, summarize,
18 document, or otherwise relate to the requesting
19 victim.

20 “(3) ACTION AUTHORIZED.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A victim alleging an
22 unlawful withholding, redaction, delay, removal,
23 concealment, failure to produce, failure to re-
24 spond, or failure to justify a withholding or re-
25 daction of a record required to be provided

1 under this subsection shall have standing to
2 bring an action against the Attorney General of
3 the United States in the United States District
4 Court for the District of Columbia or in any
5 United States district court located in the State
6 in which the victim resides to obtain declaratory
7 relief, injunctive relief, monetary relief, costs,
8 reasonable attorney's fees, and any other appro-
9 priate equitable relief.

10 “(B) CONSIDERATION.—The court shall
11 advance on the docket and expedite the disposi-
12 tion of a civil action filed under this paragraph
13 to the greatest extent practicable.

14 “(c) PRODUCTION OF RECORDS REDACTED FROM
15 PUBLIC VIEW.—

16 “(1) PRODUCTION REQUIRED.—For the pur-
17 poses of any investigation or judicial proceeding con-
18 ducted or brought by the attorney general of a
19 State, a district attorney, or other authorized State
20 officer that requests access to information permitted
21 to be withheld or redacted under section 2(c)(1), the
22 Attorney General of the United States shall make
23 available for full, unredacted access to, and copies
24 of, any such record, document, communication, or
25 investigative material described in section 2(a).

1 “(2) POSSESSION AND USE.—An attorney gen-
2 eral of a State, district attorney, or other authorized
3 State officer receiving records under paragraph (1)
4 may possess, review, copy, retain, use, and disclose
5 such records as necessary for any investigation, en-
6 forcement action, prosecution, civil action, or other
7 judicial proceeding, subject to any protective order
8 entered by a court to protect the personally identifi-
9 able information of victims.

10 “(3) COURT FILINGS.—Records produced under
11 this subsection may be filed, submitted, quoted, de-
12 scribed, or otherwise used in any Federal or State
13 court proceeding, except that any portion of the
14 record containing information protected from public
15 disclosure under section 2(c)(1) shall be filed under
16 seal or otherwise protected pursuant to an appro-
17 priate protective order unless the court determines
18 that public disclosure—

19 “(A) is authorized by law; and

20 “(B) does not reveal to the public person-
21 ally identifiable information of any victim or the
22 personal and medical files and similar files of
23 any victim the disclosure of which would con-
24 stitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of per-
25 sonal privacy.

1 “(4) NO LIMITATION TO IN CAMERA REVIEW.—

2 Production under this subsection shall not be limited
3 to in camera review, and no protective order may
4 prohibit the requesting attorney general of a State,
5 district attorney, or other authorized State officer
6 from possessing or using the records as necessary
7 for an investigation or judicial proceeding consistent
8 with this subsection.

9 “(d) REVIEW AND USE OF CLASSIFIED MATE-
10 RIALS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of any inves-
12 tigation or judicial proceeding conducted or brought
13 by the attorney general of a State, district attorney,
14 or other authorized State officer requesting access to
15 classified records described in section 2(a), the At-
16 torney General of the United States shall make
17 available to such attorney general of a State, district
18 attorney, or other authorized State officer for full,
19 unredacted review any such classified record.

20 “(2) ACCESS.—Access under paragraph (1)
21 shall be provided in a secure facility and under pro-
22 cedures approved by the court to protect information
23 that is properly classified pursuant to criteria estab-
24 lished by executive order, including review by the
25 court, the requesting attorney general of a State,

1 district attorney, or other authorized State officer,
2 and such counsel, as the court determines are nec-
3 essary and appropriate.

4 “(3) PROTECTIVE PROCEDURES.—The Attorney
5 General of the United States may not refuse, delay,
6 or object to access under paragraph (1) on the
7 grounds that the material is classified, but may re-
8 quest protective procedures governing the storage,
9 handling, review, use, and filing of classified por-
10 tions of the material.

11 “(4) USE OF CLASSIFIED PORTIONS.—Classi-
12 fied portions of records described in section 2(a)
13 may be submitted, described, quoted, or otherwise
14 used in any Federal or State court proceeding under
15 seal, in camera, and ex parte if necessary.

16 “(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
17 this subsection shall be construed to authorize the
18 public release of classified information except in ac-
19 cordance with section 2(c)(3).

20 “(e) CONGRESSIONAL ACCESS.—

21 “(1) COMPLIANCE.—

22 “(A) ACCESS.—Notwithstanding section
23 2(c) or any other provision of law, upon the
24 written request of any Member of Congress, the
25 Attorney General of the United States shall,

1 not later than 7 calendar days after receiving
2 the request, provide such Member with full,
3 unredacted access to, any record described in
4 section 2(a).

5 “(B) RELEASE.—Upon receipt of written
6 notice from any Member of Congress alleging
7 that the Attorney General of the United States
8 has unlawfully withheld or redacted material
9 under this Act or otherwise violated any re-
10 quirement of this Act, the Attorney General
11 shall, not later than 30 calendar days after re-
12 ceiving such notice, remedy the alleged violation
13 or provide the Member with a written justifica-
14 tion demonstrating that the actions identified in
15 the notice were in compliance with this Act.

16 “(2) ACTION AUTHORIZED.—A Member of Con-
17 gress who has submitted a request under paragraph
18 (1)(A) or written notice under paragraph (1)(B)
19 and, after expiration of the applicable period under
20 paragraph (1), alleges that the Attorney General of
21 the United States failed to comply with such request
22 or notice, or any other provision of this Act, includ-
23 ing through an unlawful withholding, redaction,
24 delay, removal, concealment, failure to produce, fail-
25 ure to respond, failure to provide the written jus-

1 tification required under paragraph (1)(B), the pro-
2 vision of a written justification is materially false,
3 misleading, or otherwise fails to demonstrate compli-
4 ance with this Act, shall have a cause of action
5 against the Attorney General of the United States in
6 the United States District Court for the District of
7 Columbia or in any United States district court for
8 a judicial district that includes any portion of the
9 State, congressional district, territory, or district
10 represented by the Member for any violation of any
11 provision of this Act.

12 “(3) RELIEF.—In an action brought under
13 paragraph (2), the court may—

14 “(A) declare that the Attorney General of
15 the United States has failed to comply with this
16 Act;

17 “(B) enjoin any continued withholding, re-
18 daction, delay, removal, concealment, or other
19 noncompliance;

20 “(C) declare that a written justification
21 provided under paragraph (1)(B) is materially
22 false, misleading, or otherwise fails to dem-
23 onstrate compliance with this Act;

1 “(D) compel compliance with this Act
2 through a writ of mandamus or any other ap-
3 propriate equitable remedy; and

4 “(E) award costs and reasonable attorney’s
5 fees.

6 “(f) PENALTIES.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any officer or employee of
8 the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of
9 Investigation, or United States Attorneys’ offices, in-
10 cluding the Attorney General of the United States
11 and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investiga-
12 tion, who conceals, removes, destroys, mutilates, fal-
13 sifies, withholds, misrepresents, or makes a materi-
14 ally false statement or certification concerning any
15 record, document, communication, investigative ma-
16 terial justification, report, summary, or publication
17 required under this Act shall be fined or imprisoned
18 under sections 1001, 1505, 1519, and 2071 of title
19 18, United States Code, as applicable, provided that
20 the relevant mens rea requirements under those
21 statutes shall be required to be met.

22 “(2) OBSTRUCTION OF PROCEEDINGS BEFORE
23 DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES, AND COMMITTEES.—For
24 purposes of section 1505 of title 18, United States
25 Code, any congressional review, hearing, inquiry, re-

1 port, certification, or enforcement proceeding relat-
2 ing to compliance with this Act shall be deemed a
3 proceeding before a department, agency, or com-
4 mittee of Congress.

5 “(3) DESTRUCTION, ALTERATION, OR FAL-
6 SIFICATION OF RECORDS.—For purposes of section
7 1519 of title 18, United States Code, compliance
8 with this Act shall be deemed a matter within the
9 jurisdiction of a department or agency of the United
10 States.

11 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 “(1) VICTIM.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘victim’
14 means any individual who was directly harmed
15 by any sexual abuse, trafficking, forced labor,
16 commercial sex act, abuse or exploitation of a
17 minor, or related criminal conduct involving
18 Jeffrey Epstein, Ghislaine Maxwell, or the
19 criminal network led by Epstein and Maxwell,
20 and who—

21 “(i) has been identified, designated,
22 recognized, or otherwise treated, including
23 by redacting such individual’s name or per-
24 sonally identifiable information in a record
25 described in section 2, as a victim of Jef-

1 frey Epstein, Ghislaine Maxwell, or the
2 criminal network led by Epstein and Max-
3 well by the Department of Justice, the
4 Federal Bureau of Investigation, a United
5 States Attorney’s office, or a Federal
6 court;

7 “(ii) is associated with an FD–302
8 file or other investigative record in the pos-
9 session of the Federal Bureau of Investiga-
10 tion or the Department of Justice relating
11 to Jeffrey Epstein, Ghislaine Maxwell, or
12 the criminal network led by Epstein and
13 Maxwell; or

14 “(iii) submits a sworn declaration or
15 affidavit making an allegation of such
16 harm involving Jeffrey Epstein, Ghislaine
17 Maxwell, or the criminal network led by
18 Epstein and Maxwell.

19 “(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘victim’ shall
20 not include any individual whose claim of being
21 a victim arises from such individual’s own par-
22 ticipation in, solicitation of, facilitation of, con-
23 cealment of, or benefit from the criminal con-
24 duct involving Jeffrey Epstein, Ghislaine Max-
25 well, or the criminal network led by Epstein

1 and Maxwell, unless such individual's involve-
2 ment in that conduct originated from being
3 trafficked, sexually abused, or otherwise directly
4 harmed by sexual abuse, sex trafficking, forced
5 labor, or abuse or exploitation of a minor in-
6 volving Jeffrey Epstein, Ghislaine Maxwell, or
7 the criminal network led by Epstein and Max-
8 well.

9 “(2) CRIMINAL NETWORK.—The term ‘criminal
10 network’ means any individual or entity that know-
11 ingly participated in, assisted, facilitated, funded,
12 concealed, profited from, obstructed investigation of,
13 or otherwise enabled any sexual abuse, sex traf-
14 ficking, forced labor, commercial sex act, abuse of a
15 minor, financial exploitation, money laundering,
16 bribery, extortion, racketeering activity, or other re-
17 lated criminal conduct involving Jeffrey Epstein or
18 Ghislaine Maxwell.”.

19 (b) PROHIBITED WITHHOLDINGS FURTHER CLARI-
20 FIED.—Section 2(b) of the Epstein Files Transparency
21 Act (Public Law 119–38; 139 Stat. 657) is amended by
22 adding after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

23 “(2) The Attorney General of the United States
24 may not invoke any common law privilege, including
25 the deliberative process privilege, attorney-client

1 privilege, attorney work-product privilege, or law en-
2 forcement privilege, to withhold, delay, or redact any
3 record, document, communication, or investigative
4 material described in subsection (a), except as ex-
5 pressly permitted under subsection (c).”.

6 (c) PERMITTED WITHHOLDINGS.—Section 2(c)(1) of
7 the Epstein Files Transparency Act (Public Law 119–38;
8 139 Stat. 657) is amended—

9 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking the semi-
10 colon at the end and inserting “; or”;

11 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking “; or” and
12 inserting a period; and

13 (3) by striking subparagraph (E).

14 (d) PERMITTED WITHHOLDINGS CONT.—Section
15 2(c)(2) of the Epstein Files Transparency Act (Public
16 Law 119–38; 139 Stat. 657) is amended by striking “All
17 redactions” before “must be accompanied by a written jus-
18 tification” and inserting “Each redaction”.

○