

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9778

To amend title 5, United States Code, to create a right of public access to certain records relating to the courts of the United States, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 20, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. NORTON, and Mrs. RAMIREZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

---

## A BILL

To amend title 5, United States Code, to create a right of public access to certain records relating to the courts of the United States, 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 “Judicial FOIA Expan-  
5 sion Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**  
2 **ACT AND THE PRIVACY ACT TO THE JUDICI-**  
3 **ARY.**

4 (a) AMENDMENTS.—Title 5, United States Code, is  
5 amended—

6 (1) in section 551—

7 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting after  
8 “the courts of the United States” the following:  
9 “, except for purposes of sections 552 and  
10 552a”;

11 (B) in paragraph (13), by striking “; and”  
12 and inserting a semicolon;

13 (C) in paragraph (14), by striking the pe-  
14 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

15 (D) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(15) ‘court of the United States’—

17 “(A) means—

18 “(i) a court or other entity in the ju-  
19 dicial branch, including the Supreme Court  
20 of the United States, the United States  
21 Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit,  
22 the United States Court of International  
23 Trade, the United States courts of appeals,  
24 the United States district courts, the Ad-  
25 ministrative Office of the United States  
26 Courts, the Federal Judicial Center, the

United States Sentencing Commission, and  
Federal defender organizations; and

“(ii) an entity that provides security  
or protective services for a Federal court-  
house, or for an officer or employee of the  
judicial branch; and

“(B) does not include the Foreign Intel-  
ligence Surveillance Court.”; and

(2) by inserting after section 552b the fol-  
lowing:

**“§ 552c. Applicability to the courts of the United  
States**

“(a) APPLICABILITY OF SECTION 552.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the require-  
ments under section 552, the following types of in-  
formation are subject to a record request with re-  
spect to the courts of the United States:

“(A) Any record of attorney disciplinary  
proceeding or sanction, excluding any case  
record relating to the deliberation of the dis-  
ciplinary hearing in accordance with paragraph  
(2)(A).

“(B) Any complaint, investigation, and  
order against a judge or other court personnel.

1           “(C) Meeting calendars and minutes of the  
2           Federal Judicial Conference and the member-  
3           ship list for each committee.

4           “(D) Research and educational material  
5           produced by the Federal Judicial Center.

6           “(E) Any completed jury selection form.

7           “(F) Any performance report for a judge  
8           or personnel.

9           “(G) Any technical audit or update plan  
10          for PACER.

11          “(H) Any annual report to Congress, in-  
12          cluding each committee and subcommittee of  
13          Congress.

14          “(2) EXEMPTIONS.—In addition to the matters  
15          described under section 552(b), section 552 does not  
16          apply to the following with respect to the courts of  
17          the United States:

18                 “(A) Any matter relating to an ongoing  
19                 case.

20                 “(B) Any information not in the possession  
21                 of the courts of the United States.

22          “(3) MACHINE-READABILITY.—Any information  
23          published or provided under section 552 or 552a by  
24          a court of the United States shall be machine-read-

1       able (as such term is defined in section 3502 of title  
2       44).

3       “(b) REPRESENTATION.—The Attorney General shall  
4       represent a court of the United States in any claim  
5       brought under section 552 or section 552a.”.

6       (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
7       tion, or any amendment made by this section, may be con-  
8       strued as displacing the common law right of public access  
9       to judicial records.

10       (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
11       authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for fiscal year  
12       2027 to meet the requirements of this Act, including the  
13       creation of an office to meet such requirements within the  
14       Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

15       (d) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of this Act, or  
16       the application thereof, is held invalid, the validity of the  
17       remainder of this Act and the application of such provision  
18       to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected  
19       thereby.

○