

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3589

To amend title 28, United States Code, to provide an additional place of holding court for the District of Arizona.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2005

Mr. RENZI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 28, United States Code, to provide an additional place of holding court for the District of Arizona.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds as follows:

5 (1) It is necessary for the United States Dis-
6 trict Court for the District of Arizona to hold court
7 in Flagstaff, Arizona, in order to serve the citizens
8 of northern Arizona.

9 (2) Since October 2001, there have been nearly
10 600 felony cases arising in northern Arizona. Vic-

1 tims, witnesses, police officers, Federal agents,
2 friends, experts, evidence custodians, and support
3 personnel have had to travel hundreds of miles to
4 Phoenix or Prescott for grand jury, pretrial, change
5 of plea, and sentencing hearings.

6 (3) Holding court in Flagstaff would serve 12
7 Indian reservations in northern Arizona, including
8 the Navajo Nation, which is the size of West Vir-
9 ginia. The murder rate there is 6 times the national
10 average.

11 (4) Holding court in Flagstaff would be critical
12 to the presence of the National Park Service in
13 northern Arizona. For example, the Grand Canyon
14 is located only 1 to 2 hours from Flagstaff, while
15 Phoenix is as much as 6 hours away.

16 (5) Changes in the Indian Self-Determination
17 Act extended Federal Tort Claims Act coverage to
18 tribal organizations, which has led to increased Fed-
19 eral civil actions arising in northern Arizona. Hold-
20 ing court in Flagstaff would provide a convenient
21 forum for these cases.

22 (6) There is infrastructure in place in Flagstaff
23 for a Federal courthouse. Construction and other
24 start-up costs would be minimal.

1 (7) General demographics alone dictate a need
2 for the citizens of northern Arizona to have equal
3 justice. The 5 northern Arizona counties encompass
4 a vast area of 340 miles east to west, and 200 miles
5 north to south.

6 (8) More than 650,000 people live in northern
7 Arizona.

8 (9) Northern Arizona accounts for 40 percent
9 of all crimes committed on Indian tribal land nation-
10 wide.

11 (10) Flagstaff is presently home to 9 Federal
12 law enforcement agencies: the Federal Bureau of In-
13 vestigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration,
14 the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Ex-
15 plosives, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S.
16 Marshals Service, the Forest Service, the Fish and
17 Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management,
18 and the U.S. Park Service.

19 **SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL PLACE OF HOLDING COURT FOR THE**
20 **DISTRICT OF ARIZONA.**

21 Section 82 of title 28, United States Code, is amend-
22 ed by inserting “Flagstaff,” after “held at”.

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