

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4678

To permit the District of Columbia to make payments pursuant to contingency fee arrangements entered into by the Attorney General of the District of Columbia for the provision of legal services in claims and other legal matters affecting the interests of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 18, 2017

Ms. NORTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To permit the District of Columbia to make payments pursuant to contingency fee arrangements entered into by the Attorney General of the District of Columbia for the provision of legal services in claims and other legal matters affecting the interests of the District of Columbia, 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 “District of Columbia
5 Civil Enforcement Equality Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZING PAYMENTS BY DISTRICT OF COLUM-**
2 **BIA PURSUANT TO CONTINGENCY FEE AR-**
3 **RANGEMENTS FOR LEGAL SERVICES.**

4 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—If the Attorney General of the
5 District of Columbia enters into a contract with private
6 counsel for the provision of legal services in claims and
7 other legal matters affecting the interests of the District
8 of Columbia and the contract includes a contingency fee
9 arrangement, the District of Columbia may make pay-
10 ments pursuant to such arrangement without regard to
11 whether the funds used for the payments are deposited
12 in accounts of the District of Columbia or provided in an
13 appropriation, notwithstanding any provision of title 31,
14 United States Code, or any other law of the United States
15 or the District of Columbia.

16 (b) CONDITIONS FOR CONTRACTS.—Any contract de-
17 scribed in subsection (a) shall be subject to the require-
18 ments of the Procurement Practices Reform Act of 2010
19 (sec. 2–351.01 et seq., D.C. Official Code). The amount
20 of the fee payable for legal services furnished under any
21 such contract may not exceed the fee that counsel engaged
22 in the private practice of law in the District of Columbia
23 typically charges clients for furnishing similar legal serv-
24 ices, as determined by the Attorney General of the District
25 of Columbia.

1 (c) RESTRICTION.—The District of Columbia may
2 not enter into a contingency fee arrangement in a claim
3 or other legal matter seeking the recovery of Federal
4 funds.

5 (d) DEFINITION.—In this section, a “contingency fee
6 arrangement” means a provision in a contract described
7 in subsection (a) under which the costs, expenses, and fees
8 the private counsel charges for legal services are payable
9 from the amount recovered.

10 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with
11 respect to fiscal year 2018 and each succeeding fiscal year.

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