

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7134

To amend title 18, United States Code, to lower the mens rea standard to reckless for the offense related to depriving persons of their rights under the color of law, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 2020

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. COHEN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. COOPER, Ms. MENG, Mr. WELCH, and Mrs. TRAHAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to lower the mens rea standard to reckless for the offense related to depriving persons of their rights under the color of law, 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 “Bend Toward Justice  
5 Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPRIVATION OF RIGHTS UNDER COLOR OF LAW**

2 **MENS REA STANDARD.**

3 Section 242 of title 18, United States Code, is  
4 amended by striking “willfully” and inserting “recklessly”.

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