

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7702

To amend title 18, United States Code, to authorize capital punishment
for certain sexual abuse offenses against children.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2026

Ms. MACE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to authorize capital punishment for certain sexual abuse offenses against children.

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 “Death Penalty for
5 Child Rapists Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF DEATH PENALTY FOR CERTAIN**
2 **SEXUAL ABUSE OFFENSES AGAINST CHIL-**
3 **DREN.**

4 (a) AGGRAVATED SEXUAL ABUSE.—Section 2241(c)
5 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking
6 “shall be fined under this title and imprisoned for not less
7 than 30 years or for life” and inserting “shall be punished
8 by death or imprisonment for any term of years or for
9 life and by a fine under this title”.

10 (b) SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR.—Section 2243(a)
11 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking
12 “shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than
13 15 years, or both” and inserting “shall be punished by
14 death or imprisonment for any term of years or for life,
15 by a fine under this title, or by both”.

16 (c) ABUSIVE SEXUAL CONTACT.—Section 2244 of
17 title 18, United States Code, is amended—

18 (1) in paragraph (a)(3), by striking “shall be
19 fined under this title, imprisoned not more than two
20 years, or both” and inserting “shall be punished by
21 death or imprisonment for any term of years or for
22 life, by a fine under this title, or by both”;

23 (2) in paragraph (a)(5), by striking “shall be
24 fined under this title and imprisoned for any term
25 of years or for life” and inserting “shall be punished

1 by death or imprisonment for any term of years or
2 for life, by a fine under this title, or by both”; and

3 (3) in subsection (c), by—

4 (A) striking “(other than subsection
5 (a)(5))”; and

6 (B) striking “maximum term of imprison-
7 ment that may be imposed for the offense shall
8 be twice that otherwise provided in this section”
9 and inserting “maximum punishment that may
10 be imposed for the offense shall be death or im-
11 prisonment for any term of years or for life”.

12 (d) SENTENCE OF DEATH.—Section 3591(a) of title
13 18, United States Code, is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (1) by striking “or” at the
15 end;

16 (2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
17 graph (3); and

18 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(2) an offense described in section 2241, sec-
21 tion 2243, or section 2244 against a child; or”.

1 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF DEATH PENALTY FOR OF-**
2 **FENSE OF RAPE OF A CHILD UNDER THE UNI-**
3 **FORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE.**

4 Section 920b(a) of title 10, United States Code (arti-
5 cle 120b(a) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), is
6 amended by inserting “by death, or such other punish-
7 ment” after “shall be punished”.

8 **SEC. 4. SEVERABILITY.**

9 If any provision of this Act or any amendment made
10 by this Act, or the application of a provision of this Act
11 or an amendment made by this Act to any person or cir-
12 cumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder
13 of this Act, and the application of the provision or amend-
14 ment to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected
15 by the holding.

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