

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4857

To amend chapter 15 of title 28, United States Code, with respect to documentation requirements for a meeting of certain conferences and councils.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 23, 2026

Ms. HIRONO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend chapter 15 of title 28, United States Code, with respect to documentation requirements for a meeting of certain conferences and councils.

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 “Open Meetings Act
5 of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT FOR MEETING OF**
7 **CERTAIN CONFERENCES AND COUNCILS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 15 of title 28, United
9 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing:

1 **“§ 336. Documentation requirement for meeting of**
 2 **certain conferences and councils**

3 “(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘covered
 4 meeting’ means a meeting of a conference or council un-
 5 dertaken pursuant to this chapter.

6 “(b) NOTICE REQUIREMENT.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days be-
 8 fore a covered meeting, the Judicial Conference shall
 9 publish notice of the covered meeting on the internet
 10 website of the Judicial Conference, including the
 11 date, time, place, and agenda of the covered meet-
 12 ing.

13 “(2) EXCEPTION.—The Judicial Conference
 14 may waive for good cause the requirement under
 15 paragraph (1). If the Judicial Conference waives the
 16 requirement under paragraph (1), the Judicial Con-
 17 ference shall publish an explanation for why the re-
 18 quirement was not met on the internet website of
 19 the Judicial Conference.

20 “(c) LIVE AUDIO STREAMING REQUIREMENT.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each covered meeting shall
 22 provide live audio streaming, accessible to the public
 23 without charge or registration.

24 “(2) RECORD.—The Judicial Conference shall
 25 maintain an archive of each live audio stream pro-
 26 vided pursuant to paragraph (1).

1 “(3) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 7 days
 2 after the date of a covered meeting, the Judicial
 3 Conference shall publish on the internet website of
 4 the Judicial Conference an archive of the live audio
 5 stream required under paragraph (1) in a manner
 6 that is accessible to the public without charge or
 7 registration.

8 “(4) EXCEPTION.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—During each covered
 10 meeting, the conference or council—

11 “(i) shall resolve into a closed session
 12 when publication of the matter at issue is
 13 prohibited by law; or

14 “(ii) may, by a majority vote, resolve
 15 into a closed session as determined appro-
 16 priate by the conference or council for con-
 17 sideration of a sensitive or confidential
 18 matter.

19 “(B) STATEMENT.—Prior to resolving into
 20 a closed session under subparagraph (A), the
 21 conference or council shall state the reason for
 22 so resolving.”.

23 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 24 for chapter 15 of title 28, United States Code, is amended
 25 by adding at the end the following:

“336. Documentation requirement for meeting of certain conferences and councils.”.

