

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3087

To amend the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018 to strengthen the powers of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 2025

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. FITZPATRICK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To amend the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018 to strengthen the powers of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board, 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 “Civil Rights Cold Case
5 Records Collection Reauthorization Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CLARIFYING THE AUTHORITIES OF THE CIVIL**
2 **RIGHTS COLD CASE REVIEW BOARD.**

3 (a) CIVIL RIGHTS COLD CASE RECORDS REVIEW
4 BOARD PRESUMPTION OF RELEASE.—It is the sense of
5 Congress that all records of the Federal Government and
6 State and local governments concerning civil rights cold
7 cases should—

8 (1) carry a presumption of immediate disclo-
9 sure; and

10 (2) eventually be disclosed to enable the public
11 to become fully informed about the history sur-
12 rounding the cases.

13 (b) REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES INCURRED BY
14 STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—Section 3 of the Civil
15 Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018 (44
16 U.S.C. 2107 note; Public Law 115–426) is amended by
17 adding at the end the following:

18 “(i) REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES INCURRED BY
19 STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—Upon request of a
20 State or local government to the Review Board, the Review
21 Board may reimburse the State or local government in full
22 for any expense incurred by the State or local government
23 for digitizing, photocopying, or mailing a civil rights cold
24 case record for the purpose of transmitting such record
25 to the Archivist for inclusion in the Collection.”.

1 (c) TRANSMISSION TO COLLECTION OF CIVIL RIGHTS
 2 COLD CASE RECORDS IN POSSESSION OF STATE OR
 3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—Section 3(a)(2)(A)(i) of the Civil
 4 Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018 (44
 5 U.S.C. 2107 note; Public Law 115–426) is amended by
 6 striking “, except in the case of a State or local govern-
 7 ment”.

8 (d) NO APPLICATION OF SECTION 552(B)(6) TO
 9 CIVIL RIGHTS COLD CASE RECORDS ON OR BEFORE JAN-
 10 UARY 1, 1990.—Section 9(a)(2) of the Civil Rights Cold
 11 Case Records Collection Act of 2018 (44 U.S.C. 2107
 12 note; Public Law 115–426) is amended by striking the pe-
 13 riod at the end and inserting “, except in the case of infor-
 14 mation contained in a civil rights cold case record created
 15 on or before January 1, 1990.”.

16 **SEC. 3. CIVIL RIGHTS COLD CASE RECORDS REVIEW**
 17 **BOARD EXTENSION OF TENURE.**

18 Section 5(n)(1) of Civil Rights Cold Case Records
 19 Collection Act of 2018 (44 U.S.C. 2107 note; Public Law
 20 115–426) is amended—

21 (1) by striking “7 years” and inserting “11
 22 years”; and

23 (2) by striking “7-year period” and inserting
 24 “11-year period”.

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