

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9408

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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 23, 2026

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. RAMIREZ, and Mr. THANEDAR) introduced the following bill; which was 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”.

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

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

6 **“§ 336. Documentation requirement for meeting of**
7 **certain conferences and councils**

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

11 “(b) NOTICE REQUIREMENT.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days be-
13 fore a covered meeting, the Judicial Conference shall
14 publish notice of the covered meeting on the internet
15 website of the Judicial Conference, including the
16 date, time, place, and agenda of the covered meet-
17 ing.

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

25 “(c) LIVE AUDIO STREAMING REQUIREMENT.—

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

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

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

14 “(4) EXCEPTION.—

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

17 “(i) shall resolve into a closed session
18 when publication of the matter at issue is
19 prohibited by law; or

20 “(ii) may, by a majority vote, resolve
21 into a closed session as determined appro-
22 priate by the conference or council for con-
23 sideration of a sensitive or confidential
24 matter.

1 “(B) STATEMENT.—Prior to resolving into
2 a closed session under subparagraph (A), the
3 conference or council shall state the reason for
4 so resolving.”.

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

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

