

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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\_\_\_\_\_ introduced the following bill; which was read twice  
and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime  
Act of 2007.

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 “Emmett Till Unsolved  
5 Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. INVESTIGATION OF UNSOLVED CIVIL RIGHTS**  
7 **CRIMES.**

8 The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act  
9 of 2007 (28 U.S.C. 509 note) is amended—

10 (1) in section 2—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at  
2 the end;

3 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-  
4 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

5 (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the  
6 following:

7 “(3) coordinate the sharing of information be-  
8 tween the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the civil  
9 rights community, and other entities;

10 “(4) hold accountable individuals who were per-  
11 petrators of, or accomplices in, unsolved civil rights  
12 murders;

13 “(5) express the condolences of the authority to  
14 the communities affected by unsolved civil rights  
15 murders, and to the families of the victims of such  
16 murders; and

17 “(6) comply with requests for information re-  
18 ceived pursuant to section 552 of title 5, United  
19 States Code (commonly known as the ‘Freedom of  
20 Information Act’).”;

21 (2) in section 3—

22 (A) in subsection (b)—

23 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking “oc-  
24 curred not later than December 31, 1969,  
25 and”;

1 (ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting be-  
2 fore the period at the end the following: “,  
3 and eligible entities”; and

4 (iii) by adding after paragraph (2) the  
5 following:

6 “(3) REVIEW OF CLOSED CASES.—The Deputy  
7 Chief shall reopen and review any case involving a  
8 violation described in paragraph (1) that was closed  
9 prior to the date of the enactment of the Emmett  
10 Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization  
11 Act of 2016 without an in-person investigation con-  
12 ducted by an officer or employee of the Criminal  
13 Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Depart-  
14 ment of Justice or by an agent of the Federal Bu-  
15 reau of Investigation.

16 “(4) TASK FORCE.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Deputy Chief  
18 shall establish a task force that includes rep-  
19 resentatives from the Federal Bureau of Inves-  
20 tigation, the Community Relations Service of  
21 the Department of Justice, State and local law  
22 enforcement agencies, and eligible entities to  
23 conduct a thorough investigation of, and make  
24 recommendations to the Deputy Chief regard-

1           ing, the cases involving violations described in  
2           paragraph (1).

3           “(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-  
4           TIONS.—In addition to amounts made available  
5           to carry out this Act under section 6, there is  
6           authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney  
7           General \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2016 and  
8           each subsequent fiscal year to carry out this  
9           paragraph.”; and

10           (B) in subsection (c)—

11           (i) in paragraph (1)—

12           (I) in subparagraph (A), by strik-  
13           ing “that occurred not later than De-  
14           cember 31, 1969”;

15           (II) in subparagraph (F), by  
16           striking “and” at the end;

17           (III) in subparagraph (G), by  
18           striking the period at the end and in-  
19           serting “; and”; and

20           (IV) by inserting after subpara-  
21           graph (G) the following:

22           “(H) the number of cases referred by an  
23           eligible entity or a State or local law enforce-  
24           ment agency or prosecutor to the Department  
25           within the study period, the number of such

1 cases that resulted in Federal charges being  
2 filed, the date the charges were filed, and if the  
3 Department declines to prosecute or participate  
4 in an investigation of a case so referred, the  
5 fact that it did so.”; and

6 (ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting be-  
7 fore the period at the end the following:  
8 “and a description of the activities con-  
9 ducted under subsection (b)(3)”;

10 (3) in section 4(b)—

11 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “oc-  
12 curred not later than December 31, 1969,  
13 and”;

14 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting before  
15 the period at the end the following: “, and eligi-  
16 ble entities”;

17 (4) in section 5—

18 (A) in subsection (a)—

19 (i) by inserting after “local law en-  
20 forcement agencies” the following: “, or el-  
21 igible entities,”; and

22 (ii) by striking “occurred not later  
23 than December 31, 1969, and”;

24 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “each of  
25 the fiscal years 2008 through 2017” and insert-

1 ing “fiscal year 2016 and each subsequent fis-  
2 cal year”;

3 (5) in section 6—

4 (A) in subsection (a)—

5 (i) by striking “each of the fiscal  
6 years 2008 through 2017” and inserting  
7 “fiscal year 2016 and each subsequent fis-  
8 cal year”; and

9 (ii) by striking “occurred not later  
10 than December 31, 1969, and”; and

11 (B) by amending subsection (b) to read as  
12 follows:

13 “(b) COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE OF THE DE-  
14 PARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—Subject to the availability of ap-  
15 propriations, the Community Relations Service of the De-  
16 partment of Justice shall provide technical assistance by  
17 bringing together law enforcement agencies and commu-  
18 nities in the investigation of violations described in section  
19 4(b).”;

20 (6) in section 7—

21 (A) in the heading, by striking “**DEFINI-**  
22 **TION OF ‘CRIMINAL CIVIL RIGHTS STAT-**  
23 **UTES’**” and inserting “**DEFINITIONS**”;

24 (B) by striking “In this Act, the term”  
25 and inserting: “In this Act:

1           “(1) CRIMINAL CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES.—The  
2 term”; and

3           (C) by inserting at the end the following:

4           “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
5 tity’ means an organization whose primary purpose  
6 is to promote civil rights, an institution of higher  
7 education, or another entity, determined by the At-  
8 torney General to be appropriate.”; and

9           (7) by striking section 8.