

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 268

To amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to eliminate Congressional review of newly passed District laws.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 10, 2023

Ms. NORTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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 the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to eliminate Congressional review of newly passed District laws.

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; REFERENCES IN ACT.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “District of Columbia Legislative Home Rule Act”.

6 (b) REFERENCES IN ACT.—Except as may otherwise
7 be provided, whenever in this Act an amendment is ex-
8 pressed in terms of an amendment to or repeal of a section
9 or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be

1 made to that section or other provision of the District of
2 Columbia Home Rule Act.

3 **SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW PERIOD**
4 **FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ACTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 602 (sec. 1–206.02, D.C.
6 Official Code) is amended by striking subsection (c).

7 (b) CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTIONS OF DIS-
8 APPROVAL.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 604 (sec. 1–206.04,
10 D.C. Official Code) is repealed.

11 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
12 tents is amended by striking the item relating to sec-
13 tion 604.

14 (3) EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWER.—This
15 subsection and the amendments made by this sub-
16 section are enacted by Congress—

17 (A) as an exercise of the rulemaking power
18 of the House of Representatives and the Sen-
19 ate, respectively, and as such they shall be con-
20 sidered as a part of the rules of each House, re-
21 spectively, or of that House to which they spe-
22 cifically apply, and such rules shall supersede
23 other rules only to the extent that they are in-
24 consistent therewith; and

1 (B) with full recognition of the constitu-
2 tional right of either House to change such
3 rules (so far as relating to such House) at any
4 time, in the same manner, and to the same ex-
5 tent as in the case of any other rule of such
6 House.

7 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

8 (1) DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOME RULE ACT.—

9 (A) Section 303 (sec. 1–203.03, D.C. Official Code)
10 is amended—

11 (i) in subsection (a), by striking the second
12 sentence; and

13 (ii) by striking subsection (b) and redesignating
14 subsections (c) and (d) as subsections
15 (b) and (c).

16 (B) Section 404 (sec. 1–204.04, D.C. Official
17 Code) is amended by striking “subject to the provi-
18 sions of section 602(c)” each place it appears in sub-
19 sections (e) and (f).

20 (C) Section 446 (sec. 1–204.46, D.C. Official
21 Code) is amended—

22 (i) in subsection (a), by striking the third
23 sentence; and

24 (ii) in paragraph (1) of subsection (c), by
25 striking “and such act has been transmitted by

1 the Chairman to the Congress and has com-
2 pleted the review process under section
3 602(c)(3)”.
4

5 (D) Section 462 (sec. 1–204.62, D.C. Official
6 Code) is amended—

7 (i) in subsection (a), by striking “(a) The
8 Council” and inserting “The Council”; and

9 (ii) by striking subsections (b) and (c).

10 (E) Section 472(d)(1) (sec. 1–204.72(d)(1),
11 D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking “Not-
12 withstanding section 602(c)(1), any act of the Coun-
13 cil” and inserting “Any act of the Council”.

14 (F) Section 475(e)(1) (sec. 1–204.75(e)(1),
15 D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking “Not-
16 withstanding section 602(c)(1), any act of the Coun-
17 cil” and inserting “Any act of the Council”.

18 (2) OTHER LAWS.—(A) Section 2(b)(1) of
19 Amendment No. 1 (relating to initiative and ref-
20 erendum) to title IV (the District Charter) (sec. 1–
21 204.102(b)(1), D.C. Official Code) is amended by
22 striking “the appropriate custodian” and all that fol-
23 lows through “portion of such act to”.

24 (B) Section 5 of Amendment No. 1 (relating to
25 initiative and referendum) to title IV (the District
Charter) (sec. 1–204.105, D.C. Official Code) is

1 amended by striking “, and such act” and all that
2 follows and inserting a period.

3 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

4 The amendments made by this Act shall apply with
5 respect to each act of the District of Columbia—

6 (1) passed by the Council of the District of Co-
7 lumbia and signed by the Mayor of the District of
8 Columbia;

9 (2) vetoed by the Mayor and repassed by the
10 Council;

11 (3) passed by the Council and allowed to be-
12 come effective by the Mayor without the Mayor’s sig-
13 nature; or

14 (4) in the case of initiated acts and acts subject
15 to referendum, ratified by a majority of the reg-
16 istered qualified electors voting on the initiative or
17 referendum,

18 on or after the first day of the One Hundred Eighteenth
19 Congress.

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