

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 411

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 21, 2021

Ms. NORTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, 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 Autonomy 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 OF**
 4 **NEWLY PASSED DISTRICT LAWS.**

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.—The District of Columbia
 10 Home Rule Act is amended by striking section 604
 11 (sec. 1–206.04, D.C. Official Code).

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

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

18 (A) as an exercise of the rulemaking power
 19 of the House of Representatives and the Sen-
 20 ate, respectively, and as such they shall be con-
 21 sidered as a part of the rules of each House, re-
 22 spectively, or of that House to which they spe-
 23 cifically apply, and such rules shall supersede
 24 other rules only to the extent that they are in-
 25 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 redesignig-
14 nating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections
15 (b) and (c).

16 (B) Section 404 (sec. 1–204.04, D.C. Official
17 Code), as amended by the Local Budget Autonomy
18 Amendment Act of 2012, is amended by striking
19 “subject to the provisions of section 602(c)” each
20 place it appears in subsections (e) and (f).

21 (C) Section 446 (sec. 1–204.46, D.C. Official
22 Code), as amended by section 2(e) of the Local
23 Budget Autonomy Amendment Act of 2012, is
24 amended—

1 (i) in the second sentence of subsection
 2 (a), by striking “pursuant to the procedure set
 3 forth in section 602(c)”;

4 (ii) in subsection (c) in the matter pre-
 5 ceding paragraph (1), by striking “section
 6 472(d)(2)” and inserting “section 472(d)”;

7 (iii) in subsection (c) in the matter pre-
 8 ceding paragraph (1), by striking “section
 9 475(e)(2)” and inserting “section 475(e)”; and

10 (iv) in paragraph (1) of subsection (c), by
 11 striking “and has completed the review process
 12 under section 602(c)(3)”.

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

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

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

18 (E) Section 472(d) (sec. 1–204.72(d), D.C. Of-
 19 ficial Code), as amended by section 2(h) of the Local
 20 Budget Autonomy Amendment Act of 2012, is
 21 amended to read as follows:

22 “(d) PAYMENTS NOT SUBJECT TO APPROPRIA-
 23 TION.—Section 446(c) shall not apply to any amount obli-
 24 gated or expended by the District for the payment of the

1 principal of, interest on, or redemption premium for any
 2 revenue anticipation note issued under subsection (a).”.

3 (F) Section 475(e) (sec. 1–204.75(e), D.C. Of-
 4 ficial Code), as amended by section 2(h) of the Local
 5 Budget Autonomy Amendment Act of 2012, is
 6 amended to read as follows:

7 “(e) PAYMENTS NOT SUBJECT TO APPROPRIA-
 8 TION.—Section 446(c) shall not apply to any amount obli-
 9 gated or expended by the District for the payment of the
 10 principal of, interest on, or redemption premium for any
 11 revenue anticipation note issued under this section.”.

12 (2) OTHER LAWS.—(A) Section 2(b)(1) of
 13 Amendment No. 1 (relating to initiative and ref-
 14 erendum) to title IV (the District Charter) (sec. 1–
 15 204.102(b)(1), D.C. Official Code) is amended by
 16 striking “the appropriate custodian” and all that fol-
 17 lows through “portion of such act to”.

18 (B) Section 5 of Amendment No. 1 (relating to
 19 initiative and referendum) to title IV (the District
 20 Charter) (sec. 1–204.105, D.C. Official Code) is
 21 amended by striking “, and such act” and all that
 22 follows and inserting a period.

23 (C) Section 16 of the District of Columbia Elec-
 24 tion Code of 1955 (sec. 1–1001.16, D.C. Official
 25 Code)—

1 (i) in subsection (j)(2)—

2 (I) by striking “sections 404 and
3 602(c)” and inserting “section 404”, and

4 (II) by striking the second sentence;
5 and

6 (ii) in subsection (m)—

7 (I) in the first sentence, by striking
8 “the appropriate custodian” and all that
9 follows through “parts of such act to”,

10 (II) by striking “is held. If, however,
11 after” and inserting “is held unless,
12 under”, and

13 (III) by striking “section, the act
14 which” and all that follows and inserting
15 “section.”.

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

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

19 (1) passed by the Council of the District of Co-
20 lumbia and signed by the Mayor of the District of
21 Columbia;

22 (2) vetoed by the Mayor and repassed by the
23 Council;

1 (3) passed by the Council and allowed to be-
2 come effective by the Mayor without the Mayor's sig-
3 nature; or

4 (4) in the case of initiated acts and acts subject
5 to referendum, ratified by a majority of the reg-
6 istered qualified electors voting on the initiative or
7 referendum,

8 on or after October 1, 2021.

○