

106TH CONGRESS
3RD SESSION

H.R. 18

To provide for the establishment of the American Bar Authority as an independent federal agency overseeing attorney and judge licensing, regulation, ethics enforcement, and related administrative functions within the community.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
UNITED STATES

June 20th, 2025

Representative Sheev_PalpatineTGR (for himself, Rep.Gabezilla090909) has introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and Government Oversight.

AN ACT

To provide for the establishment of the American Bar Authority as an independent federal agency overseeing attorney and judge licensing, regulation, ethics enforcement, and related administrative functions within the community.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives
of the United States in Congress Assembled.*

SEC. 1 — SHORT TITLE

- (a) This piece of legislation shall be referred to as the “*American Bar Authority Act of 2025*” or “*ABA Act 25*”.

SEC. 2 — GENERAL PROVISIONS

- (a) Any part of any act, joint resolution, memorandum, or codified law that conflicts with this act shall be deemed null and void.
- (b) This act shall be severable, in which, if any provision of this act is found unconstitutional, the rest of the act shall be in full effect unless also found unconstitutional.
- (c) This act shall go into effect immediately.

SEC. 3 — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AMERICAN BAR AUTHORITY

- (a) There is hereby established an independent agency of the Federal Government known as the American Bar Authority (“ABA”).
- (b) The purpose of the ABA is to regulate the licensing, education, conduct, and eligibility of individuals seeking to serve as attorneys or judges within the jurisdiction of the United States Government and its recognized political subdivisions, pursuant to the law and roleplay structure of this community.
- (c) The ABA shall operate independently of executive departments and shall not be subject to the control of any single branch of government, except as authorized by this Act.

SEC. 4 — BOARD OF LEGAL OVERSIGHT

- (a) The American Bar Authority shall be governed by a five-member board known as the Board of Legal Oversight (“The Board”).
- (b) The Board of Legal Oversight shall consist of the following members:
 - (i) The Attorney General of the United States, serving ex officio;
 - (ii) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, serving ex officio;
 - (iii) One Member of the United States House of Representatives, elected by majority vote of the House;
 - (iv) One Member of the United States Senate, elected by majority vote of the Senate;
 - (v) One Director of the American Bar Authority, appointed by majority vote of the other four members.
- (c) The Board of Legal Oversight shall be vested with full regulatory authority over legal licensing and professional standards. This includes, but is not limited to, the power to:

- (i) Issue, renew, suspend, or revoke licenses to practice law;
- (ii) Set and enforce rules of professional conduct and ethics for attorneys and judges;
- (iii) Establish education requirements, including law school accreditation and preparatory programs;
- (iv) Design, administer, or authorize bar examinations or competency assessments;
- (v) Approve or accredit legal education or continuing legal education (CLE) programs;
- (vi) Investigate misconduct and act on disciplinary recommendations from the Ethics and Compliance Division;
- (vii) Maintain a public registry of all licensed practitioners;
- (viii) Establish sub-departments, offices, or working groups as necessary to fulfill the duties of this Act, so long as their functions do not interfere with the jurisdiction of the Board or the Ethics and Compliance Division;
- (ix) Appoint officers, clerks, or support personnel to carry out the functions of the ABA.

SEC. 5 — THE DIRECTORATE

- (a) The Director of the ABA shall serve as the chief executive officer of the agency and shall be appointed by a majority vote of the four members of the Board.
- (b) The Director shall have the authority to:
 - (i) Execute and enforce the policies adopted by the Board;
 - (ii) Oversee day-to-day operations of the ABA;
 - (iii) Manage personnel and interdepartmental coordination;
 - (iv) Supervise implementation of licensing and registry systems;
 - (v) Represent the ABA in official communications;
 - (vi) Submit reports and recommend policy changes to the Board;
 - (vii) Delegate responsibilities to staff or agency units as needed.
- (c) The Director may appoint, with notice to the Board, one (1) Deputy Director to assist in the execution of duties. The Deputy Director shall serve at the pleasure of the Director.
- (d) The Deputy Director shall:
 - (i) Perform duties assigned by the Director;
 - (ii) Assume operational control in the Director's absence;
 - (iii) Assist in oversight of sub-departments;
 - (iv) Serve as acting Director during vacancies without acquiring voting power on the Board of Legal Oversight.
- (e) The Deputy Director shall not vote on Board matters or interfere with the Ethics and Compliance Division.

SEC. 6 — LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

- (a) No individual may practice law, represent clients, serve as a judge, magistrate, or offer legal services within the jurisdiction of the United States Government without an active license issued by the ABA.
- (b) Judges and Magistrates must be licensed attorneys in good standing with the ABA prior to assuming office, unless otherwise excepted by law.
- (c) Licenses lawfully issued by the Federal Bar Association prior to the enactment of this Act shall be considered valid, provided they are registered with the ABA within fourteen (14) days of the ABA becoming operational. Licenses from any other entity shall not be recognized.

SEC. 7 — ETHICS AND COMPLIANCE DIVISION

- (a) There is hereby established under the ABA a permanent sub-board known as the Ethics and Compliance Division ("ECD").
- (b) The ECD shall investigate and assess complaints of misconduct or ethical violations by licensed attorneys and judges.
- (c) The ECD shall consist of three (3) members appointed by the Board. Members may include former judges, licensed attorneys in good standing, or qualified officials, but may not be sitting members of the Board.
- (d) The ECD shall:
 - (i) Receive and docket complaints;
 - (ii) Investigate allegations and gather evidence;
 - (iii) Subpoena testimony or documents with Board approval;
 - (iv) Hold hearings when necessary;
 - (v) Issue written findings and recommendations to the Board, which may include:
 - (1) Dismissal,
 - (2) Reprimand,
 - (3) Suspension or revocation of license,
 - (4) Referral to other authorities.
- (e) All complaints must be resolved and submitted to the Board within twenty-one (21) days of receipt. Extensions may only be granted under extraordinary circumstances by majority vote of the Board.
- (f) Respondents must receive notice of allegations and an opportunity to respond in writing or appear before the Division.
- (g) The Board shall render final judgment on disciplinary matters. If no action is taken within seven (7) days of the ECD recommendation, the recommendation is deemed adopted.

SEC. 8 — TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

- (a) Within seven (7) days of this Act's passage, the House and Senate shall each select their representatives. The four government officials shall then appoint a Director to complete the formation of the Board.
- (b) All individuals holding licenses from the Federal Bar Association must register them with the ABA within fourteen (14) days of the Authority's activation.
- (c) Until superseded by the Board, the rules and procedures of the former Federal Bar Association shall remain in force.

SEC. 9 — ENFORCEMENT

- (a) The Board may censure, suspend, or revoke the license of any individual found to have violated the standards set by this Act or the Board.
- (b) Any individual found practicing law without a valid ABA license shall be subject to penalties including disqualification from legal office and administrative sanctions.