

105TH CONGRESS
2ND SESSION

H.R. 12

To provide for an Acting-Chief Justice in the event of a
vacancy in the office of the Chief Justice

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
UNITED STATES

May 23rd, 2025

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

AN ACT

To provide for an Acting-Chief Justice in the event of a
vacancy in the office of the Chief Justice

*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 “*Reassignment of Authority in Transition Act*” or “*RAT Act*”.

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—AMENDMENT

28 U.S. Code § 3 shall be amended to read the following:

- (a) Whenever the Chief Justice is unable to perform the duties of their office or the office is vacant, their powers and duties shall devolve upon the associate justice next in precedence who is able to act, until such disability is removed or another Chief Justice is appointed and duly qualified.
- (b) Whenever the office of Chief Justice and there are no other associate justices on the Supreme Court, the Chief Judge of the District Court for the District of Columbia shall assume the position of Acting-Chief Justice of the Supreme Court until another Chief Justice is appointed and duly qualified or a new associate justice is appointed and duly qualified.
 - (i) In the event there is no Chief Judge of the District Court for the District of Columbia, the Senior Most Judge shall assume the role of Acting-Chief Justice.

SEC. 4—EFFECTIVE DATE

- (a) This Act shall go into immediate effect upon its passage by Congress and signature by the President or a vote of both houses of Congress with a $\frac{2}{3}$ affirmation after a Presidential Veto.