

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1280

To allow the photographing, electronic recording, broadcasting, and televising
to the public of Federal court proceedings.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 10, 1997

Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. COBLE, Mr. DELAY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GEKAS, Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. DIXON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To allow the photographing, electronic recording, broadcast-
ing, and televising to the public of Federal court proceed-
ings.

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 “Sunshine in the Court-
5 room Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY OF PRESIDING JUDGE TO ALLOW**
2 **MEDIA COVERAGE OF COURT PROCEEDINGS.**

3 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any pre-
4 siding judge of a court of the United States may, in his
5 or her discretion, permit the photographing, electronic re-
6 cording, broadcasting, or televising to the public of court
7 proceedings over which that judge presides, including civil
8 and criminal trials and appeals.

9 **SEC. 3. ADVISORY GUIDELINES.**

10 The Judicial Conference of the United States is au-
11 thorized to promulgate advisory guidelines to which a pre-
12 siding judge, in his or her discretion, may refer in making
13 decisions with respect to the management and administra-
14 tion of photographing, recording, broadcasting, or televis-
15 ing described in section 2.

16 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

17 As used in this Act:

18 (1) **PRESIDING JUDGE.**—The term “presiding
19 judge” means the judge presiding over the court
20 proceeding concerned. In proceedings in which more
21 than one judge participates, the presiding judge
22 shall be the senior active judge so participating or,
23 in the case of a court of appeals, the senior active
24 circuit judge so participating, except that—

25 (A) in en banc sittings of any United
26 States court of appeals, the presiding judge

1 shall be the chief judge of the circuit whenever
2 the chief judge participates; and

3 (b) in en banc sittings of the Supreme
4 Court of the United States, the presiding judge
5 shall be the Chief Justice whenever the Chief
6 Justice participates.

7 (2) COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.—The term
8 “court of the United States” has the meaning given
9 that term in section 451 of title 28, United States
10 Code.

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