

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To require the establishment of defender organizations by Federal judicial districts.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. OSSOFF (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. WARNOCK) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To require the establishment of defender organizations by Federal judicial districts.

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 “Access to Justice Act
5 of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFENDER ORGANIZATIONS.**

7 Section 3006A(g)(1) of title 18, United States Code,
8 is amended—

9 (1) in the heading, by striking “QUALIFICA-
10 TIONS” and inserting “REQUIREMENT”;

1 (2) in the first sentence, by striking “or a part
2 of a district in which at least two hundred persons
3 annually require the appointment of counsel may”
4 and inserting “shall”; and

5 (3) by striking the second sentence and insert-
6 ing the following: “Notwithstanding the preceding
7 sentence, 2 adjacent districts or parts of districts
8 may establish a single defender organization to serve
9 both areas.”.