

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize immigration judges to hold individuals who fail to appear for court proceedings in contempt of court, to issue a bench warrant for their arrest, and to determine that they are inadmissible.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mrs. LOEFFLER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize immigration judges to hold individuals who fail to appear for court proceedings in contempt of court, to issue a bench warrant for their arrest, and to determine that they are inadmissible.

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 “Immigration Courts  
5 Efficiency Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION FOR IMMIGRATION JUDGES TO**  
2 **HOLD INDIVIDUALS IN CRIMINAL CONTEMPT**  
3 **OF COURT FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR.**

4 Section 240(b)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality  
5 Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a(b)(5)) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (B), (C), (D),  
7 and (E) as subparagraphs (C), (D), (E), and (F),  
8 respectively;

9 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-  
10 lowing:

11 “(B) CONTEMPT.—

12 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Any immigration  
13 court of the United States is authorized to  
14 hold an individual in contempt of court  
15 and punish such individual, by fine, impris-  
16 onment, or both, at the discretion of the  
17 immigration judge presiding over a pro-  
18 ceeding under this section, if such indi-  
19 vidual, after receiving notice described in  
20 subparagraph (A), fails to appear at such  
21 proceeding.

22 “(ii) WARRANT.—A judge who holds  
23 an individual described in clause (i) in con-  
24 tempt of court pursuant to this subpara-  
25 graph may issue a bench warrant for such  
26 individual.

1                   “(iii) INADMISSIBILITY.—A judge who  
2 holds an individual described in clause (i)  
3 in contempt of court, may, at his or her  
4 discretion, determine that such individual  
5 is inadmissible under section 212(a)(6).”.