

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6988

To amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen the enforcement of certain court ordered property distributions.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 12, 2024

Mr. D'ESPOSITO (for himself, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CARSON, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LAWLER, and Ms. SÁNCHEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

## A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen the enforcement of certain court ordered property distributions.

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 “Jane’s Law”.

5 **SEC. 2. SPOUSAL OBLIGATIONS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 11A of title 18, United  
7 States Code, is amended—

8 (1) in the chapter heading by inserting “**AND**  
9 **SPOUSAL OBLIGATION**” after “**CHILD**  
10 **SUPPORT**”; and

1 (2) by adding at the end the following:

2 **“§ 228A. Failure to pay legal spousal court-ordered**  
 3 **property distribution**

4 “(a) OFFENSE.—Whoever knowingly, travels in inter-  
 5 state or foreign commerce, with the intent to evade compli-  
 6 ance with a court ordered property distribution shall be  
 7 imprisoned for not more than two years, fined under this  
 8 title, or both.

9 “(b) MANDATORY RESTITUTION.—Upon a conviction  
 10 under this section, the court shall order restitution under  
 11 section 3663A in an amount equal to the total unpaid  
 12 amount under the court ordered property distribution.

13 “(c) DEFINITION.—The term ‘court ordered property  
 14 distribution’ means an amount of more than \$5,000 deter-  
 15 mined under a court order pursuant to the law of a State  
 16 or of an Indian tribe to be due to a spouse or former  
 17 spouse as an equitable or other distribution of assets in  
 18 connection with a separation or divorce.”.

19 (b) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The table of  
 20 sections at the beginning of chapter 11A of title 18,  
 21 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
 22 following:

“228A. Failure to pay legal spousal court ordered property distribution.”.

○