

September 3, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 3703 - District of Columbia Criminal Justice Code amendment which provides for representation of indigent defendants in criminal cases in the District of Columbia.

The bill amends the D. C. Criminal Code to provide for development and operation by the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration of a plan for furnishing representation for indigent defendants in D. C. courts. The bill covers a defendant financially unable to obtain adequate legal representation who is charged with an offense for which the Constitution or D. C. law requires representation, who is under arrest when representation is required, who is charged with parole or probation violation, who is subject to proceedings relating to hospitalization of mentally ill, and who is a juvenile delinquent.

S. 3703 further provides for provision of limited ancillary services such as investigative or expert services necessary to an adequate defense.

The bill authorizes appropriation of such sums as may be necessary during fiscal years 1975 and 1976. Further, the bill would provide for retroactivity to July 1, 1974.

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