To subsidize the salaries of State and local law enforcement officers and promote officer hiring and retention, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 12, 2021

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BOST, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MCCAIN, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. GIMENEZ, and Mr. MANN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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A BILL

To subsidize the salaries of State and local law enforcement officers and promote officer hiring and retention, and for other purposes.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

2 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “David Dorn Back the Blue Act”.


SEC. 2. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY FUNDING REFORM.


(1) in section 2301 (34 U.S.C. 10491)—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) provide programs to support the hiring and retention of law enforcement personnel and augment the salaries of law enforcement personnel employed by cooperating State and local law enforcement agencies or organizations.”;

(2) in section 2302 (34 U.S.C. 10492), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, or in the case of State and local law enforcement agencies, to support the hiring and retention of law enforcement personnel and augment wages paid to law enforcement personnel”; 

(3) in section 2303 (34 U.S.C. 10493)—

(A) in subsection (a), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, or to support the hiring and retention of law enforce-
ment personnel and to augment wages paid to
law enforcement personnel’’;

(B) in subsection (b), in the matter pre-
ceeding paragraph (1), by inserting before the
colon the following: ‘‘, unless supporting the
 hiring and retention of law enforcement per-
sonnel or augmenting wages in accordance with
subsection (d)’’; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

‘‘(d) Hiring and Retention of Law Enforce-
ment Personnel.—A law enforcement agency or organi-
zation that receives funds under this part may use the
funds for activities and programs to hire and pay addi-
tional law enforcement personnel or to retain existing per-
sonnel.

‘‘(e) Augmentation of Wages.—

‘‘(1) In General.—A law enforcement agency
or organization that receives funds under this part
may use the funds to augment the salaries of law
enforcement personnel, up to an amount equal to
110 percent of the State real median household in-
come of the preceding year, as estimated by the
United States Census Bureau.

‘‘(2) Requirement.—A law enforcement agen-
chy or organization shall not be eligible to receive
funds under this part for the purpose described in paragraph (1) if the agency or organization reduced the salaries of law enforcement personnel during the calendar year immediately preceding the application for funds for the sole purpose of dismantling law enforcement agencies or organizations pursuant to a State or local policy.

“(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in paragraph (2) shall be construed to affect the eligibility of any law enforcement agency or organization that reduces the salaries of law enforcement personnel due to budget constraints that are implemented as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.”;

(4) in section 2304(1) (34 U.S.C. 10494(1)), by inserting “, unless Federal funds are sought for the purpose of personnel hiring, personnel retention, or wage augmentation,” after “certify”; and

(5) in section 2305 (34 U.S.C. 10495(b))—

(A) by striking “The Attorney General may award” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Attorney General may award”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:
“(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to grants sought for the purpose of personnel hiring, personnel retention, or wage augmentation.”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 1001(21) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10261(21)) is amended by striking “$7,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.” and inserting “$15,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026, of which any funds appropriated in excess of $7,500,000 shall be used for the hiring and retention of law enforcement officers and the augmentation of wages as described in such part.”.