

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7421

To authorize a Law Enforcement Education Grant program to encourage students to pursue a career in law enforcement.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2022

Mrs. FISCHBACH (for herself, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To authorize a Law Enforcement Education Grant program to encourage students to pursue a career in law enforcement.

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 “Law Enforcement
5 Education Grant Program Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 Part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of
8 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) is amended by inserting
9 at the end of subpart 7 the following new subpart:

1 **“Subpart 8—Law Enforcement Education Grants**

2 **“SEC. 420. LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION GRANT PRO-**
3 **GRAM ESTABLISHED.**

4 “(a) PROGRAM AUTHORITY.—

5 “(1) PAYMENTS REQUIRED.—The Secretary is
6 authorized to carry out a Law Enforcement Edu-
7 cation Grants program to pay to each law enforce-
8 ment candidate who is selected by the Secretary, on
9 a competitive basis, to participate in such program,
10 a Law Enforcement Education Grant in the amount
11 of \$4,000 for each year during which that candidate
12 is eligible.

13 “(2) REFERENCES.—Grants made under para-
14 graph (1) shall be known as ‘Law Enforcement Edu-
15 cation Grants’.

16 “(3) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to
17 be appropriated \$28,000,000 for fiscal year 2022
18 and each subsequent fiscal year to provide Law En-
19 forcement Education Grants in accordance with this
20 subpart.

21 “(b) DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS TO LAW ENFORCE-
22 MENT CANDIDATES.—Payments under this subpart shall
23 be made, in accordance with regulations promulgated by
24 the Secretary for such purpose, in such manner as will
25 best accomplish the purposes of this subpart.

26 “(c) REDUCTIONS IN AMOUNT.—

1 “(1) PART-TIME STUDENTS.—In any case
2 where a law enforcement candidate attends an eligi-
3 ble institution on less than a full-time basis (includ-
4 ing a law enforcement candidate who attends an eli-
5 gible institution on less than a half-time basis) dur-
6 ing any year, the amount of a grant under this sub-
7 part for which that law enforcement candidate is eli-
8 gible shall be reduced in proportion to the degree to
9 which that law enforcement candidate is not attend-
10 ing on a full-time basis, in accordance with a sched-
11 ule of reductions established by the Secretary for the
12 purposes of this subpart, computed in accordance
13 with this subpart. Such schedule of reductions shall
14 be established by regulation and published in the
15 Federal Register in accordance with section 482 of
16 this Act.

17 “(2) NO EXCEEDING COST.—The amount of a
18 grant awarded under this subpart, in combination
19 with Federal student assistance and other student
20 assistance the law enforcement candidate may re-
21 ceive, shall not exceed the cost of attendance (as de-
22 fined in section 472) at the eligible institution at
23 which that law enforcement candidate is in attend-
24 ance.

25 “(d) PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The period during which a
2 student may receive grants under this subpart shall
3 be the period required for the completion of the first
4 associate or baccalaureate course of study related to
5 law enforcement or criminal justice being pursued by
6 the law enforcement candidate at the eligible institu-
7 tion at which the law enforcement candidate is in at-
8 tendance, except that—

9 “(A) any period during which the law en-
10 forcement candidate is enrolled in a noncredit
11 or remedial course of study as described in
12 paragraph (2) shall not be counted for the pur-
13 pose of this paragraph; and

14 “(B) the total amount that a law enforce-
15 ment candidate may receive under this subpart
16 shall not exceed \$16,000.

17 “(2) REMEDIAL COURSE.—Nothing in this sub-
18 part shall be construed to exclude from eligibility
19 courses of study which are noncredit or remedial in
20 nature (including courses in English language acqui-
21 sition) which are determined by the eligible institu-
22 tion to be necessary to help the law enforcement
23 candidate be prepared for the pursuit of a first asso-
24 ciate or baccalaureate degree or, in the case of
25 courses in English language instruction, to be nec-

1 essary to enable the law enforcement candidate to
2 utilize already existing knowledge, training, or skills.

3 **“SEC. 421. APPLICATIONS; ELIGIBILITY; SELECTION.**

4 “(a) APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall periodi-
5 cally set dates by which students shall file applications to
6 complete for grants under this subpart. Each student de-
7 siring to compete for a grant under this subpart for any
8 year shall file an application containing such information
9 and assurances as the Secretary may determine necessary
10 to enable the Secretary to carry out the functions and re-
11 sponsibilities of this subpart.

12 “(b) DEMONSTRATION OF GRANT ELIGIBILITY.—
13 Each application submitted under subsection (a) shall con-
14 tain such information as is necessary to demonstrate that
15 the applicant is a student who—

16 “(1) is enrolled at an eligible institution;

17 “(2) is an eligible student for purposes of sec-
18 tion 484;

19 “(3) is completing coursework and other re-
20 quirements necessary to begin a career in law en-
21 forcement or criminal justice, or plans to complete
22 such coursework and requirements prior to grad-
23 uating; and

24 “(4) has not obtained an associate or bacca-
25 laureate degree related to law enforcement or crimi-

1 nal justice before receiving a Law Enforcement Edu-
2 cation grant.

3 “(c) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall award grants
4 under this subpart competitively on the basis of criteria
5 determined by the Secretary by regulation.

6 **“SEC. 422. AGREEMENTS TO SERVE.**

7 “(a) SERVICE AGREEMENTS.—Each application
8 under section 421(a) shall contain or be accompanied by
9 an agreement by the applicant that—

10 “(1) if selected to be a law enforcement can-
11 didate, the applicant will—

12 “(A) serve as a full-time law enforcement
13 officer for a total of not less than 4 years with-
14 in 8 years after completing the course of study
15 for which the candidate received a Law En-
16 forcement Education Grant under this subpart;
17 and

18 “(B) submit evidence of such employment
19 in the form of a certification by the chief officer
20 of the law enforcement agency or department
21 employing the candidate upon completion of
22 each year of such service;

23 “(2) in the event that a law enforcement can-
24 didate is determined to have failed or refused to
25 carry out such service obligation, the sum of the

1 amounts of any Law Enforcement Education Grants
2 received by such candidate will be treated as a loan
3 and collected from the candidate in accordance with
4 subsection (b) and the regulations thereunder; and

5 “(3) contains, or is accompanied by, a plain-
6 language disclosure form developed by the Secretary
7 that clearly describes the nature of the Law En-
8 forcement Education Grant award, the service obli-
9 gation, and the loan repayment requirements that
10 are the consequence of the failure to complete the
11 service obligation.

12 “(b) REPAYMENT FOR FAILURE TO COMPLETE
13 SERVICE.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event that law en-
15 forcement candidate fails or refuses to comply with
16 the service obligation in the agreement under sub-
17 section (a), the sum of the amounts of any Law En-
18 forcement Education Grants received by such can-
19 didate shall, upon a determination of such a failure
20 or refusal in such service obligation, be treated as a
21 Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under
22 part D of title IV, and shall be subject to repay-
23 ment, together with interest thereon accruing from
24 the date the grant is converted to such a Loan, in

1 accordance with terms and conditions specified by
2 the Secretary in regulations under this subpart.

3 “(2) EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.—The
4 Secretary shall establish, by regulation, categories of
5 extenuating circumstances under which a law en-
6 forcement candidate who is unable to fulfill all or
7 part of the candidate’s service obligation may be ex-
8 cused from fulfilling that portion of the service obli-
9 gation. Such categories shall ensure that a law en-
10 forcement candidate who is hired and serves as a
11 full-time law enforcement officer but is unable to ful-
12 fill part of the candidate’s service obligation due to
13 medical discharge by a law enforcement agency or
14 department because of a medical issue resulting
15 from service as a law enforcement officer shall be ex-
16 cused from fulfilling the remaining portion of the
17 service obligation.

18 **“SEC. 423. DEFINITIONS.**

19 “For the purposes of this subpart:

20 “(1) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘eligi-
21 ble institution’ means an institution of higher edu-
22 cation, as defined in section 102, that—

23 “(A) provides an associate or baccalaureate
24 degree in a field related to law enforcement or
25 criminal justice; and

1 “(B) has been approved by the Police Offi-
 2 cer Standard and Training Board of the State
 3 in which the institution is located or related
 4 State agency.

5 “(2) LAW ENFORCEMENT CANDIDATE.—The
 6 term ‘law enforcement candidate’ means an indi-
 7 vidual who is selected by the Secretary to receive a
 8 Law Enforcement Education Grant under this sub-
 9 part.

10 “(3) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term
 11 ‘law enforcement officer’ means any officer, agent,
 12 or employee of a State, unit of local government, of
 13 Indian tribe who is authorized to supervise the pre-
 14 vention, detection, or investigation of any violation
 15 of criminal law.”.

16 **SEC. 3. REPEAL OF UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY PRO-**
 17 **GRAMS.**

18 Part U of title VIII of the Higher Education Act of
 19 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1161u) is repealed.

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