

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1766

To protect Federal, State, and local public safety officers.

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 14, 2025

Mr. SULLIVAN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred  
to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

## A BILL

To protect Federal, State, and local public safety officers.

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 “Protect Our Heroes  
5       Act of 2025”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

8               (1) Law enforcement officers, first responders,  
9       and public safety officials risk their lives every day  
10      to serve and protect our neighborhoods and commu-  
11      nities.

1           (2) These men and women are true public serv-  
 2           ants who regularly sacrifice and encounter grave  
 3           daily harm.

4           (3) The families of law enforcement officers,  
 5           first responders, and public safety officials also sac-  
 6           rifice and contribute to their roles as guardians of  
 7           the public good.

8           (4) In recent times, it has become apparent  
 9           that these men and women are being targeted inten-  
 10          tionally by criminals in our society.

11          (5) Congress must do all it can to promote a  
 12          system of law and order that enables law enforce-  
 13          ment officers, first responders, and public safety of-  
 14          ficials to properly do their jobs.

15 **SEC. 3. PROTECTION OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS.**

16          (a) KILLING OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS.—

17           (1) OFFENSE.—Chapter 51 of title 18, United  
 18          States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
 19          following:

20 **“§ 1123. Killing of public safety officers**

21          “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

22           “(1) the terms ‘Federal law enforcement officer’  
 23          and ‘United States judge’ have the meanings given  
 24          those terms in section 115;

1 “(2) the term ‘federally funded public safety of-  
2 ficer’ means a public safety officer or judicial officer  
3 for a public agency that—

4 “(A) receives Federal financial assistance;

5 and

6 “(B) is an agency of an entity that is a  
7 State of the United States, the District of Co-  
8 lumbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the  
9 Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the  
10 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-  
11 lands, or any territory or possession of the  
12 United States, an Indian Tribe, or a unit of  
13 local government of that entity;

14 “(3) the term ‘firefighter’ includes an individual  
15 serving as an officially recognized or designated  
16 member of a legally organized volunteer fire depart-  
17 ment and an officially recognized or designated pub-  
18 lic employee member of a rescue squad or ambulance  
19 crew;

20 “(4) the term ‘judicial officer’ means a judge or  
21 other officer or employee of a court, including pros-  
22 ecutors, court security, pretrial services officers,  
23 court reporters, and corrections, probation, and pa-  
24 role officers;

1           “(5) the term ‘law enforcement officer’ means  
2           an individual, with arrest powers, involved in crime  
3           or juvenile delinquency control or reduction or en-  
4           forcement of the laws;

5           “(6) the term ‘public agency’ includes a court  
6           system, the National Guard of a State to the extent  
7           the personnel of that National Guard are not in  
8           Federal service, and the defense forces of a State  
9           authorized by section 109 of title 32; and

10           “(7) the term ‘public safety officer’ means an  
11           individual serving a public agency in an official ca-  
12           pacity as a law enforcement officer, a firefighter, a  
13           chaplain, or a member of a rescue squad or ambu-  
14           lance crew.

15           “(b) OFFENSE.—

16           “(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any  
17           person to, in any circumstance described in para-  
18           graph (2), kill, or attempt or conspire to kill, a cur-  
19           rent or former judicial officer or public safety offi-  
20           cer, while the officer is engaged in official duties, or  
21           on account of past performance of official duties.

22           “(2) CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED.—For pur-  
23           poses of paragraph (1), a circumstance described in  
24           this paragraph is a circumstance in which—

1           “(A) the conduct described in paragraph  
2           (1) occurs during the course of, or as the result  
3           of, the travel of the defendant or the victim—

4                   “(i) across a State line or national  
5                   border; or

6                   “(ii) using a channel, facility, or in-  
7                   strumentality of interstate or foreign com-  
8                   merce;

9           “(B) the defendant uses a channel, facility,  
10           or instrumentality of interstate or foreign com-  
11           merce in connection with the conduct described  
12           in paragraph (1);

13           “(C) in connection with the conduct de-  
14           scribed in paragraph (1), the defendant employs  
15           a firearm, dangerous weapon, explosive or in-  
16           cendiary device, or other weapon that has trav-  
17           eled in interstate or foreign commerce;

18           “(D) the conduct described in paragraph  
19           (1)—

20                   “(i) interferes with commercial or  
21                   other economic activity in which the victim  
22                   is engaged at the time of the conduct; or

23                   “(ii) otherwise affects interstate or  
24                   foreign commerce; or

25           “(E) the victim is—

1 “(i) a Federal law enforcement officer;

2 “(ii) a United States judge; or

3 “(iii) a federally funded public safety

4 officer.

5 “(c) PENALTY.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any person that violates  
7 subsection (b) shall be fined under this title and im-  
8 prisoned for not less than 10 years or for life, or,  
9 if death results, shall be sentenced to not less than  
10 30 years and not more than life, or may be punished  
11 by death.

12 “(2) DIRECTIVE TO COMMISSION.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to section  
14 994 of title 28, the United States Sentencing  
15 Commission shall promulgate guidelines or  
16 amend existing guidelines to provide sentencing  
17 enhancements of not less than 5 offense levels  
18 for offenses where the finder of fact at trial de-  
19 termines beyond a reasonable doubt that, in the  
20 commission of a violation of subsection (b), the  
21 defendant lures the victim to a location for the  
22 purpose of killing, or attempting to kill, the vic-  
23 tim.

24 “(B) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out this  
25 paragraph, the United States Sentencing Com-

1 mission shall assure reasonable consistency with  
 2 other guidelines, avoid duplicative punishments  
 3 for substantially the same offense, and take  
 4 into account any mitigating circumstances that  
 5 may justify exceptions.”.

6 (2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections  
 7 for chapter 51 of title 18, United States Code, is  
 8 amended by adding at the end the following:

“1123. Killing of public safety officers.”.

9 (b) ASSAULTS OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS.—

10 (1) OFFENSE.—Chapter 7 of title 18, United  
 11 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
 12 following:

13 **“§ 120. Assaults of public safety officers**

14 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

15 “(1) the term ‘federally funded public safety of-  
 16 ficer’ means a public safety officer or judicial officer  
 17 for a public agency that—

18 “(A) receives Federal financial assistance;

19 and

20 “(B) is an agency of an entity that is a  
 21 State of the United States, the District of Co-  
 22 lumbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the  
 23 Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the  
 24 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-  
 25 lands, or any territory or possession of the

1 United States, an Indian Tribe, or a unit of  
2 local government of that entity;

3 “(2) the term ‘firefighter’ includes an individual  
4 serving as an officially recognized or designated  
5 member of a legally organized volunteer fire depart-  
6 ment and an officially recognized or designated pub-  
7 lic employee member of a rescue squad or ambulance  
8 crew;

9 “(3) the term ‘judicial officer’ means a judge or  
10 other officer or employee of a court, including pros-  
11 ecutors, court security, pretrial services officers,  
12 court reporters, and corrections, probation, and pa-  
13 role officers;

14 “(4) the term ‘law enforcement officer’ means  
15 an individual, with arrest powers, involved in crime  
16 or juvenile delinquency control or reduction or en-  
17 forcement of the laws;

18 “(5) the term ‘public agency’ includes a court  
19 system, the National Guard of a State to the extent  
20 the personnel of that National Guard are not in  
21 Federal service, and the defense forces of a State  
22 authorized by section 109 of title 32; and

23 “(6) the term ‘public safety officer’ means an  
24 individual serving a public agency in an official ca-  
25 pacity as a law enforcement officer, a firefighter, a



1 chaplain, or a member of a rescue squad or ambu-  
 2 lance crew.

3 “(b) OFFENSE.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful, in any  
 5 circumstance described in paragraph (2), to assault,  
 6 or attempt to assault, a current or former judicial  
 7 officer or public safety officer, while the officer is  
 8 engaged in official duties, or on account of past per-  
 9 formance of official duties.

10 “(2) CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED.—For pur-  
 11 poses of paragraph (1), a circumstance described in  
 12 this paragraph is a circumstance in which—

13 “(A) the conduct described in paragraph  
 14 (1) occurs during the course of, or as the result  
 15 of, the travel of the defendant or the victim—

16 “(i) across a State line or national  
 17 border; or

18 “(ii) using a channel, facility, or in-  
 19 strumentality of interstate or foreign com-  
 20 merce;

21 “(B) the defendant uses a channel, facility,  
 22 or instrumentality of interstate or foreign com-  
 23 merce in connection with the conduct described  
 24 in paragraph (1);

“(C) in connection with the conduct described in paragraph (1), the defendant employs a firearm, dangerous weapon, explosive or incendiary device, or other weapon that has traveled in interstate or foreign commerce;

“(D) the conduct described in paragraph (1)—

“(i) interferes with commercial or other economic activity in which the victim is engaged at the time of the conduct; or

“(ii) otherwise affects interstate or foreign commerce; or

“(E) the victim is—

“(i) a Federal law enforcement officer;

“(ii) a United States judge; or

“(iii) a federally funded public safety officer.

“(c) PENALTY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any person that violates subsection (b) shall be subject to a fine under this title and—

“(A) if the assault resulted in bodily injury (as defined in section 1365), shall be imprisoned for not less than 2 years and not more than 10 years;

1           “(B) if the assault resulted in substantial  
2           bodily injury (as defined in section 113), shall  
3           be imprisoned for not less than 5 years and not  
4           more than 20 years;

5           “(C) if the assault resulted in serious bod-  
6           ily injury (as defined in section 1365), shall be  
7           imprisoned for not less than 10 years;

8           “(D) if a deadly or dangerous weapon was  
9           used during and in relation to the assault, shall  
10          be imprisoned for not less than 20 years; and

11          “(E) shall be imprisoned for not more than  
12          1 year in any other case.

13          “(2) DIRECTIVE TO COMMISSION.—

14          “(A) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to section  
15          994 of title 28, the United States Sentencing  
16          Commission shall promulgate guidelines or  
17          amend existing guidelines to provide sentencing  
18          enhancements of not less than 5 offense levels  
19          for offenses where the finder of fact at trial de-  
20          termines beyond a reasonable doubt that, in the  
21          commission of a violation of subsection (b), the  
22          defendant lures the victim to a location for the  
23          purpose of assaulting, or attempting to assault,  
24          the victim.

1           “(B) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out this  
2           paragraph, the United States Sentencing Com-  
3           mission shall assure reasonable consistency with  
4           other guidelines, avoid duplicative punishments  
5           for substantially the same offense, and take  
6           into account any mitigating circumstances that  
7           may justify exceptions.”.

8           (2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections  
9           for chapter 7 of title 18, United States Code, is  
10          amended by adding at the end the following:

“120. Assaults of public safety officers.”.

