

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1444

To establish a grant program to install safety devices and improve safety  
at convenience stores.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 24, 1997

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts (for himself, Mr. OLVER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. THOMPSON, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania, Mr. FROST, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DELLUMS, and Mr. BISHOP) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To establish a grant program to install safety devices and  
improve safety at convenience stores.

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 “Mom and Pop Protec-  
5 tion Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROGRAM AUTHORITY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may pro-  
8 vide grants to States to establish a loan program for con-

1 convenience store owners to install security devices and im-  
2 prove safety in convenience stores.

3 (b) PAYMENT AND INTEREST RATE.—The State  
4 shall determine a repayment schedule of not more than  
5 5 years and an interest rate not to exceed 3 percent for  
6 convenience store owners to cover administrative expenses  
7 for the State.

8 **SEC. 3. STATE APPLICATION.**

9 To receive a grant under this Act, the chief executive  
10 officer of a State shall submit an application, at such time,  
11 in such manner and form as the Attorney General may  
12 prescribe that includes an assurance from the chief execu-  
13 tive officer that the State shall develop a process of certifi-  
14 cation and review to ensure that funds received under this  
15 Act are used only for the purpose of installing safety de-  
16 vices in convenience stores.

17 **SEC. 4. ELIGIBILITY FOR LOANS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a loan  
19 from a State, a convenience store owner shall submit an  
20 application to the State which includes—

21 (1) an assurance that security devices pur-  
22 chased from funds received under this Act shall be  
23 used to install security devices not later than 30  
24 days after receipt of such funds;

1           (2) if practicable, an assurance that each such  
2       store owner will maintain an unobstructed view of  
3       the cash register from the exterior of the store, re-  
4       moving any material that obstructs such view; and

5           (3) an assurance from each owner that such  
6       owner will repay a loan from the State in not less  
7       than 5 years.

8       (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a loan  
9       from a State, a convenience store shall meet the following  
10      qualifications:

11           (1) The owner may not own more than 5 con-  
12      venience stores.

13           (2) The gross receipts of any store may not ex-  
14      ceed \$700,000 for the preceding fiscal year, exclud-  
15      ing proceeds from the sale of gasoline.

16       (c) STATE MINIMUM.—A State that receives a grant  
17      under this Act shall receive not less than \$200,000.

18   **SEC. 5. USES OF FUNDS.**

19       A loan received under this Act shall be used to install  
20      the following:

21           (1) A video security system capable of 24-hour  
22      surveillance.

23           (2) A drop safe or cash management device  
24      with restricted access and posters that indicate not  
25      more than \$50 is accessible to store personnel.

1           (3) A silent alarm system to alert local law en-  
2           forcement officers of a problem.

3           (4) Height markers at store exits.

4   **SEC. 6. DETERMINATION TO TERMINATE PROGRAM.**

5           (a) **TERMINATION.**—The Attorney General shall, by  
6           notice in the Federal Register, terminate the State loan  
7           program once the Attorney General determines that a suf-  
8           ficient number of eligible convenience stores has had the  
9           opportunity to apply for a loan from a State.

10          (b) **NOTICE.**—Not later than 60 days after publica-  
11          tion of such termination is published in the Federal Reg-  
12          ister, the State shall provide notice to convenience store  
13          owners regarding such termination.

14          (c) **REMAINING FUNDS.**—Any funds, excluding the  
15          amount of interest collected, that a State receives as re-  
16          payment from a convenience store owner after the date  
17          that the Attorney General terminates the State loan pro-  
18          gram shall be used by such State for law enforcement pur-  
19          poses.

20   **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

21          For purposes of this Act—

22               (1) the term “convenience store” includes a re-  
23               tail store that may sell fast foods, beverages, dairy  
24               products, publications, grocery items, snacks, some  
25               nonfood items, and gasoline; and

1           (2) the term “State” means each of the 50  
2       States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Dis-  
3       trict of Columbia, the United States Virgin Islands,  
4       Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of  
5       the Northern Mariana Islands.

6 **SEC. 8. REPORT.**

7       The chief executive officer of a State that receives  
8       a grant under this Act shall submit an annual report to  
9       the Attorney General regarding the number of loans, loca-  
10      tions, amounts, terms, and repayment record of conven-  
11      ience stores in such State that receive funds under this  
12      Act.

13 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.**

14      There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal  
15      year 1998 \$50,000,000 to carry out this Act.

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