

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4026

To provide grants to States to offset costs associated with the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 10, 1998

Mr. BASS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide grants to States to offset costs associated with the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act.

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 “Megan’s Law Imple-
5 mentation Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO STATES TO OFFSET COSTS ASSOCIATED**
2 **WITH THE JACOB WETTERLING CRIMES**
3 **AGAINST CHILDREN AND SEXUALLY VIOLENT**
4 **OFFENDER REGISTRATION ACT.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 170101 of the Violent
6 Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42
7 U.S.C. 14071) is amended by—

8 (1) redesignating the second subsection (g) as
9 subsection (h); and

10 (2) adding at the end the following new sub-
11 section:

12 “(i) GRANTS TO STATES TO COMPLY WITH THE
13 WETTERLING ACT.—

14 “(1) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

15 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the
16 Bureau of Justice Assistance shall award a
17 grant to each eligible State to offset costs di-
18 rectly associated with complying with the Jacob
19 Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexu-
20 ally Violent Offender Registration Act. Such
21 grant program shall be known as the “Sex Of-
22 fender Management Assistance Program
23 (SOMA)”.

24 “(ii) USES OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded
25 under this subsection shall be—

1 “(I) distributed directly to the State
2 for distribution to State and local entities;
3 and

4 “(II) used for training, salaries,
5 equipment, materials, and other costs di-
6 rectly associated with complying with the
7 Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children
8 and Sexually Violent Offender Registration
9 Act.

10 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—

11 “(i) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to re-
12 ceive a grant under this subsection, the chief
13 executive of a State shall, on an annual basis,
14 submit an application to the Director of the
15 Bureau of Justice Assistance (in such form and
16 containing such information as the Director
17 may reasonably require) assuring that—

18 “(I) the State complies with (or made
19 a good faith effort to comply with) the
20 Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children
21 and Sexually Violent Offender Registration
22 Act; and

23 “(II) where applicable, the State has
24 penalties comparable to or greater than

1 Federal penalties for crimes listed in such
2 Act.

3 The Director of the Bureau of Justice Assist-
4 ance may waive the requirement of subclause
5 (II) if a State demonstrates an overriding need
6 for assistance under this subsection.

7 “(ii) REGULATIONS.—

8 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90
9 days after the date of enactment of this
10 subsection, the Director shall promulgate
11 regulations to implement this subsection
12 (including the information that must be in-
13 cluded and the requirements that the
14 States must meet) in submitting the appli-
15 cations required under this subsection. In
16 allocating funds under this subsection, the
17 Director may consider the annual number
18 of sex offenders registered in each eligible
19 state’s monitoring and notification pro-
20 grams.

21 “(II) CERTAIN TRAINING PRO-
22 GRAMS.—Prior to implementing this sub-
23 section, the Director of the Bureau of Jus-
24 tice Assistance shall study the feasibility of
25 incorporating into the SOMA program the

1 activities of any technical assistance or
2 training program established as a result of
3 section 40152 of the Violent Crime Control
4 and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public
5 Law 103–322). In a case in which incor-
6 porating such activities into the SOMA
7 program will eliminate duplication of ef-
8 forts or administrative costs, the Director
9 shall take administrative actions, as allow-
10 able, and make recommendations to Con-
11 gress to incorporate such activities into the
12 SOMA program prior to implementing the
13 SOMA program.”.

14 (b) STUDY.—The Director of the Bureau of Justice
15 Assistance shall conduct a study to assess the efficacy of
16 the SOMA program and submit recommendations to Con-
17 gress not later than March 1, 2000.

18 (c) AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection
20 (i) of section 170101 of the Violent Crime Control and
21 Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14211),
22 \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 and 2000.

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