

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 657

To establish a National Center for Rural Law Enforcement, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 10, 1997

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

A BILL

To establish a National Center for Rural Law Enforcement,
and for other purposes.

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 “Rural Law Enforce-
5 ment Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) effective and impartial enforcement of the
9 law is one of the most important functions of the
10 government;

1 (2) the preservation of our form of Government
2 and the rights of our citizens are dependent upon
3 competent and professional law enforcement agen-
4 cies;

5 (3) responsibility for law enforcement in the
6 United States resides primarily with State and local
7 governments;

8 (4)(A) one-third of all Americans live in non-
9 urban areas and 90 percent of all law enforcement
10 agencies serve populations of fewer than 25,000 resi-
11 dents; and

12 (B) 75 percent serve a population of fewer than
13 10,000 residents;

14 (5) rural violent crime has increased over 35
15 percent from 1985 to 1995, and is taking a toll on
16 rural citizens and rural law enforcement practition-
17 ers;

18 (6) approximately 22,400 local government en-
19 tities exist in the 50 States, and the needs of rural
20 law enforcement in the areas of research, technical
21 assistance, and the delivery of executive education
22 and training programs have been jointly identified
23 by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Depart-
24 ment of Justice, and the National Center for Rural

1 Law Enforcement at the University of Arkansas at
2 Little Rock; and

3 (7) the National Center for Rural Law Enforce-
4 ment at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock
5 will continue to cooperate with the Federal Bureau
6 of Investigation and the Department of Justice to
7 promote the development and implementation of
8 training and education programs for rural law en-
9 forcement agencies.

10 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL CENTER FOR RURAL LAW ENFORCE-**
11 **MENT.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title XVIII of the Violent Crime
13 Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 is amended
14 by adding at the end the following new subtitle:

15 **“Subtitle D—National Center for**
16 **Rural Law Enforcement**

17 **“SEC. 180401. ESTABLISHMENT.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established at the Uni-
19 versity of Arkansas, at Little Rock, the National Center
20 for Rural Law Enforcement.

21 “(b) ADVISORY BOARD.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be established
23 within the National Center for Rural Law Enforce-
24 ment an Advisory Board (referred to in this Act as

1 the ‘Advisory Board’) that shall be comprised of 15
2 members, of whom—

3 “(A) 10 shall be selected by the Attorney
4 General of the United States, in consultation
5 with the Director of the Federal Bureau of In-
6 vestigation, from personnel of rural law enforce-
7 ment agencies serving communities with popu-
8 lations of less than 25,000 people, 2 from each
9 of 5 regions (including the Northeast, North-
10 west, Southeast, Southwest, and Midwest);

11 “(B) 2 shall be selected by the Attorney
12 General from personnel of State law enforce-
13 ment agencies, 1 from training and 1 from law
14 enforcement;

15 “(C) 2 shall be selected by the Director of
16 the Federal Bureau of Investigation from em-
17 ployees of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
18 and

19 “(D) the Executive Director of the Na-
20 tional Center for Rural Law Enforcement, who
21 shall serve as a permanent member of the Advi-
22 sory Board.

23 “(2) POWERS.—

24 “(A) Terms of the Advisory Board mem-
25 bers will be for 1 year, with 3 members rotating

1 each year. The first Advisory Board members,
2 at their first meeting, will draw lots from 1 to
3 5 years.

4 “(B) The Advisory Board members shall
5 formulate, adopt, and publish guidelines govern-
6 ing the operation of the Center, consistent with
7 its mission.

8 “(3) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the
9 Advisory Board shall be allowed travel expenses, in-
10 cluding per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates au-
11 thorized for employees of agencies under subchapter
12 I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while
13 away from their homes or regular places of business
14 in performance of services for the Advisory Board.

15 “(c) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—

16 “(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Attorney General
17 shall appoint the Executive Director of the National
18 Center for Rural Law Enforcement in consultation
19 with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Inves-
20 tigation and the Chancellor of the University of Ar-
21 kansas at Little Rock. The Executive Director shall
22 serve a term not longer than 5 years.

1 “(2) DUTIES.—The Executive Director shall
2 have the duties and responsibilities fulfilling func-
3 tions as set forth in this Act, including the prepara-
4 tion and submission of a periodic report to the Advi-
5 sory Board and the Chancellor of the University of
6 Arkansas at Little Rock.

7 “(d) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMIT-
8 TENT SERVICES.—The National Center for Rural Law
9 Enforcement, with the advice of the Advisory Board, may
10 procure temporary and intermittent services under section
11 3109 of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individ-
12 uals that do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual
13 rate of basic pay prescribed for members of the Senior
14 Executive Service, ES–6, Level V of the Executive Sched-
15 ule as authorized by section 5352 of such title.

16 **“SEC. 180402. FUNCTIONS.**

17 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National
18 Center for Rural Law Enforcement shall provide for—

19 “(1) the training of supervisory and executive
20 managers of rural law enforcement in a systematic
21 and effective manner;

22 “(2) the support of rural law enforcement agen-
23 cies with technical assistance and practical and fo-
24 cused research;

1 “(3) equitable education and training opportu-
2 nities for rural law enforcement personnel;

3 “(4) the delivery of training programs by Fed-
4 eral agencies and the Center;

5 “(5) the promotion, development, and adoption
6 of a voluntary national system of education and
7 training standards and certification;

8 “(6) the development and dissemination of in-
9 formation designed to assist States and units of
10 local government in rural areas throughout the coun-
11 try;

12 “(7) grants to, and contracts with, Federal,
13 State, and general units of local government, public
14 and private agencies, educational institutions, orga-
15 nizations, and individuals to carry out this subtitle;

16 “(8) the establishment and continuation of a
17 clearinghouse and information center for the collec-
18 tion, preparation, and dissemination of information
19 on criminal justice and rural law enforcement, in-
20 cluding programs for prevention of crime and recidi-
21 vism, and management training of law enforcement
22 personnel;

23 “(9) assistance and service in a consulting ca-
24 pacity to Federal, State, and local criminal justice

1 agencies in the development, maintenance, and co-
2 ordination of programs, facilities and services, train-
3 ing, research, and prevention with respect to crime
4 in rural areas;

5 “(10) the encouragement and assistance to
6 Federal, State, and local government programs and
7 services, and programs for law enforcement officers,
8 judges and judicial personnel, probation and parole
9 personnel, correctional personnel, welfare workers,
10 and other persons;

11 “(11) the development of technical training
12 teams to aid in the development of seminars, work-
13 shops, and training programs within the States and
14 with the State and local agencies that work with
15 rural law enforcement managers;

16 “(12) the conduct, encouragement, and coordi-
17 nation of research relating to law enforcement and
18 criminal justice issues, including the causes, diag-
19 nosis, and prevention of criminal activity;

20 “(13) the formulation and dissemination of
21 rural law enforcement policy, goals, standards, and
22 recommendations for Federal, State, and local crimi-
23 nal justice agencies, organizations, institutions, and
24 personnel; and

1 “(14) evaluation programs that study the effec-
2 tiveness of new approaches, techniques, systems,
3 programs, and devices employed to improve rural
4 law enforcement systems.

5 “(b) AUTHORITY.—The National Center for Rural
6 Law Enforcement may—

7 “(1) enter into contracts with public or private
8 agencies, organizations, or individuals for the per-
9 formance of any of the functions of the Center;

10 “(2) enter into cooperative agreements with
11 Federal, State, and local agencies and nonprofit en-
12 tities to carry out the functions of the Center;

13 “(3) arrange with and reimburse the heads of
14 Federal departments and agencies for the use of
15 personnel, facilities, or equipment of such depart-
16 ments and agencies;

17 “(4) confer with and avail itself of the assist-
18 ance, services, records, and facilities of State and
19 local governments or other public or private agen-
20 cies, organizations, and individuals; and

21 “(5) procure the services of experts and con-
22 sultants in accordance with section 3109 of title 5,
23 United States Code, at rates of compensation not to
24 exceed the daily equivalent of the rate authorized for
25 members of the Senior Executive Service, ES–6,

1 Level 5, as authorized by section 5352 of title 5,
2 United States Code.

3 “(c) METHODS.—In carrying out its functions under
4 this section, the National Center for Rural Law Enforce-
5 ment shall—

6 “(1) utilize consensus building;

7 “(2) work in cooperation with—

8 “(A) rural, nonurban law enforcement
9 agencies;

10 “(B) agencies of Federal, State, and local
11 governments; and

12 “(C) institutions of higher learning, law
13 enforcement associations, and other not-for-
14 profit organizations;

15 “(3) request and receive from other Federal de-
16 partments and agencies such statistics, data, pro-
17 gram reports, and other materials necessary for the
18 Center to carry out its functions;

19 “(4) arrange with and reimburse the heads of
20 other Federal departments and agencies for the use
21 of personnel, facilities, or equipment of such depart-
22 ments and agencies; and

23 “(5) use the assistance, services, records, and
24 facilities of State and local governments or other

1 public or private agencies, organizations, and indi-
 2 viduals.

3 **“SEC. 180403. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 5 this subtitle, as a separate line item in the Department
 6 of Justice Appropriations Act—

7 “(1) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 1998; and

8 “(2) such sums as are necessary for each of the
 9 fiscal years 1999 through 2002.”.

10 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
 11 for the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act
 12 of 1994 is amended by adding at the end of the matter
 13 relating to title XVIII, the following:

“SUBTITLE D—NATIONAL CENTER FOR RURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

“Sec. 180401. Establishment.

“Sec. 180402. Functions.

“Sec. 180403. Authorization of appropriations.”.

