

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1424

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide for grants to increase the number of law enforcement officers on the streets by 5 to 10 percent in areas with high incidences of violent crime.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 9, 2009

Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. LEVIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide for grants to increase the number of law enforcement officers on the streets by 5 to 10 percent in areas with high incidences of violent crime.

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 “Enhanced Violent
5 Crime Community Policing Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) According to the U.S. Department of Jus-
2 tice, from Fiscal Year 1995 to Fiscal Year 2000, the
3 COPS program funded 105,000 police officers.

4 (2) According to the Government Accountability
5 Office, the COPS program has contributed to a 2.5
6 percent decline in the violent crime rate between
7 1999 and 2000.

8 (3) According to University of Chicago econo-
9 mist Steven Levitt, each 10 percent increase in the
10 size of a police force reduces violent crime by 4 per-
11 cent and property crime by 5 percent.

12 (4) A study by University of Maryland econo-
13 mists William Evans and Emily Owens suggests that
14 a 2 percent increase in police officers put on the
15 streets through the COPS program led to a 2 per-
16 cent decline in violent crime.

17 (5) Economists David Anderson of Centre Col-
18 lege and Mark Cohen of Vanderbilt University sug-
19 gest that the total cost of crime in the United States
20 is approximately \$2,000,000,000, annually, and that
21 each additional dollar provided to the COPS pro-
22 gram may generate \$4.00 to \$8.50 in savings to the
23 Nation by reducing crimes committed and the over-
24 all cost of crime.

1 (6) According to the U.S. Department of Jus-
2 tice Census of State and Local Law Enforcement
3 Agencies, 20 of the Nation's 50 largest local police
4 departments saw a decline in sworn law enforcement
5 personnel from 2000 to 2004.

6 (7) Following a 10-year decline in the violent
7 crime rate, Federal Bureau of Investigation's statis-
8 tics indicate that violent crime increased in 2004,
9 2005, and 2006.

10 (8) In recent months, incidences of violent
11 crime, gang violence, violence against police officers,
12 and homicides have risen in many of the metropoli-
13 tan areas in the United States, including the fol-
14 lowing:

15 (A) On March 21, 2009, four Oakland,
16 California, police officers were shot and killed
17 during a traffic stop and the subsequent pur-
18 suit of the suspect.

19 (B) On April 4, 2009, three Pittsburgh,
20 Pennsylvania, police officers were killed re-
21 sponding to a domestic dispute.

22 (C) On April 3, 2009, a Binghamton, New
23 York, man killed himself and 13 others at a
24 local civic association building.

1 **SEC. 3. ENHANCED VIOLENT CRIME COMMUNITY POLICY.**

2 Section 1701 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe
3 Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796dd) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (b), by inserting after para-
5 graph (4) the following new paragraph:

6 “(5) hire and train new career law enforcement
7 officers for deployment in areas and communities
8 with high incidences of violent crime, in accordance
9 with subsection (j).”; and

10 (2) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-
11 lows:

12 “(c) **PRIORITY AND PREFERENTIAL CONSIDER-**
13 **ATION.**—In awarding grants under this part, the Attorney
14 General—

15 “(1) may give preferential consideration to ap-
16 plications for hiring and training new career law en-
17 forcement officers for deployment in areas and com-
18 munities with high incidences of violent crime, as
19 authorized by paragraph (5) of subsection (b) and in
20 accordance with subsection (j); and

21 “(2) may give preferential consideration, where
22 feasible, to applications for hiring and rehiring addi-
23 tional career law enforcement officers that involve a
24 non-Federal contribution exceeding the 25 percent
25 minimum under subsection (g).”; and

1 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
2 section:

3 “(j) ENHANCED VIOLENT CRIME COMMUNITY POLIC-
4 ING GRANTS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General
6 shall, subject to the availability of appropriations to
7 carry out this subsection, make grants, as author-
8 ized under subsection (b)(5) and in accordance with
9 this subsection, to hire and train new career law en-
10 forcement officers for deployment in areas and com-
11 munities with high incidences of violent crime to en-
12 hance community policing in such areas.

13 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Notwithstanding
14 subsection (a), grants awarded under this subsection
15 shall be awarded only to units of local government.

16 “(3) GRANT DESIGNATIONS.—The Attorney
17 General shall award grants under this subsection
18 to—

19 “(A) the 5 units of local government with
20 a population over 350,000 residents with the
21 highest violent crime rate per capita as listed by
22 the 2007 Federal Bureau of Investigation
23 ‘Crime in the United States’ report; and

24 “(B) 15 additional units of local govern-
25 ment determined by the Attorney General to

1 have the greatest need for such a grant, based
2 on—

3 “(i) per capita violent crime rate;

4 “(ii) gang population;

5 “(iii) drug trafficking rate;

6 “(iv) high school drop-out rate;

7 “(v) unemployment rate;

8 “(vi) poverty rate;

9 “(vii) population; and

10 “(viii) any other criteria determined

11 by the Attorney General.

12 “(4) GRANT AMOUNT.—

13 “(A) MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM AMOUNT.—

14 The grant amount awarded to an grantee under
15 this subsection for the grant period shall be—

16 “(i) not more than is necessary to in-
17 crease the size of the grantee’s sworn po-
18 lice force, as of the date the grantee sub-
19 mitted the application for a grant under
20 this subsection, by 10 percent; and

21 “(ii) not less than is necessary to in-
22 crease the size of the grantee’s sworn po-
23 lice force, as of the date the grantee sub-
24 mitted the application for a grant under
25 this subsection, by 5 percent.

1 “(B) RATABLE REDUCTION.—If funds ap-
 2 propriated in a fiscal year to carry out this sub-
 3 section are not sufficient to fully fund the min-
 4 imum grant amount determined under subpara-
 5 graph (A) for each grantee, the Attorney Gen-
 6 eral shall reduce the amount of the grant to
 7 each grantee by a proportionate share.

8 “(5) INAPPLICABLE PROVISIONS.—The fol-
 9 lowing provisions of this part shall not apply to
 10 grants awarded under this subsection:

11 “(A) Subsection (g) of this section (relat-
 12 ing to matching funds).

13 “(B) Subsection (i) of this section (relating
 14 to termination of grants for hiring officers).

15 “(C) Subsection (c) of section 1704 (relat-
 16 ing to hiring costs).”.

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