

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3260

To establish a pilot grant program for first responder agencies that experience an extraordinary financial burden resulting from the deployment of employees.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 25, 2011

Mr. ROSS of Arkansas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a pilot grant program for first responder agencies that experience an extraordinary financial burden resulting from the deployment of employees.

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 “Strengthening Commu-
5 nity Safety Act of 2011”.

1 **SEC. 2. FIRST RESPONDER AGENCY GRANTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title XX of the Homeland Secu-
3 rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by
4 adding at the end the following:

5 **“Subtitle C—Other Assistance**

6 **“SEC. 2041. FIRST RESPONDER AGENCY GRANTS.**

7 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

8 “(1) the term ‘active duty’ has the meaning
9 given that term in section 101 of title 10, United
10 States Code;

11 “(2) the term ‘eligible first responder agency’
12 means a first responder agency for which the cost of
13 personnel of the agency has increased by not less
14 than 5 percent as a direct result of 1 or more em-
15 ployees of the agency who are reservists being placed
16 on active duty;

17 “(3) the term ‘first responder agency’—

18 “(A) means—

19 “(i) a law enforcement agency or fire
20 service (as defined in section 4 of the Fed-
21 eral Fire Prevention and Control Act of
22 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2203)) of a State or local
23 government; or

24 “(ii) a publicly or privately operated
25 ambulance service that is—

1 “(I) authorized or licensed by a
2 State to engage in rescue activity or
3 to provide emergency medical services;
4 and

5 “(II) designated by a State as a
6 prehospital emergency medical re-
7 sponse agency; and

8 “(B) shall not include a for-profit organi-
9 zation; and

10 “(4) the term ‘reservist’ means a member of a
11 reserve component of the Armed Forces, as defined
12 in section 10101 of title 10, United States Code.

13 “(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
15 the Administrator may make a grant to an eligible
16 first responder agency for the additional costs in-
17 curred by the eligible first responder agency as a di-
18 rect result of 1 or more employees of the agency or
19 service who are reservists being placed on active
20 duty.

21 “(2) LIMITATION FOR FEDERALLY FUNDED PO-
22 SITIONS.—The Administrator may not make a grant
23 under this section for costs relating to an employee
24 being placed on active duty if Federal funds are

1 used, in whole or in part, for the pay or benefits of
2 the employee.

3 “(3) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The total amount of
4 all grants made under this section to an eligible first
5 responder agency in any fiscal year may not exceed
6 \$100,000.

7 “(4) TERMINATION OF GRANT AUTHORITY.—
8 The authority of the Administrator to make a grant
9 under this section shall terminate 3 years after the
10 date of enactment of this section.

11 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section
13 may be used for—

14 “(A) pay and benefits for an individual
15 hired to replace an employee placed on active
16 duty that are in addition to any pay and bene-
17 fits that would have been provided to the de-
18 ployed employee;

19 “(B) overtime expenses for an employee
20 who performs tasks that would have been per-
21 formed by an employee placed on active duty;
22 and

23 “(C) the costs associated with filling a va-
24 cancy created by an employee placed on active
25 duty, including costs for advertising, inter-

1 viewing, performing background investigations,
2 employment training, and hiring bonuses and
3 incentives.

4 “(2) TIME PERIOD FOR REIMBURSABLE EX-
5 PENSES.—An eligible first responder agency that re-
6 ceives a grant under this section may use the grant
7 funds to cover expenses incurred during the period
8 that begins 90 days before the deployment of an em-
9 ployee of the agency and ends on the date on which
10 the employee returns to fully paid employment sta-
11 tus.

12 “(d) APPLICATION.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible first re-
14 sponder agency desiring a grant under this section
15 shall submit an application to the Administrator at
16 such time, in such manner, and accompanied by
17 such information as the Administrator may reason-
18 ably require.

19 “(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted
20 under paragraph (1) shall—

21 “(A) describe the activities for which as-
22 sistance under this section is sought; and

23 “(B) provide documentation that dem-
24 onstrates that the first responder agency meets
25 the requirements in subsection (a)(2).

1 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator
3 \$5,000,000 to carry out this section for fiscal years 2012
4 through 2014.”.

5 (b) REPORTING.—

6 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the
7 terms “active duty”, “first responder agency”, and
8 “reservist” have the meanings given those terms in
9 section 2041 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002,
10 as added by subsection (a).

11 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
12 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of
13 the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall
14 submit to Congress a report regarding the placing
15 on active duty of employees of first responder agen-
16 cies that are reservists, including an evaluation of—

17 (A) the effects, including financial effects,
18 of placing the employees on active duty on—

19 (i) the operation of the first responder
20 agencies; and

21 (ii) the services the first responder
22 agencies provide to the communities served
23 by the first responder agencies; and

24 (B) first responder agency grants under
25 section 2041 of the Homeland Security Act of

1 2002, as added by subsection (a), including the
2 effect of the grants on—

3 (i) the operation of the first responder
4 agencies; and

5 (ii) the services the first responder
6 agencies provide to the communities served
7 by the first responder agencies.

8 (c) OFFSET.—Section 1532(k)(1)(D) of the Imple-
9 menting Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of
10 2007 (6 U.S.C. 1182(k)(1)(D)) is amended by striking
11 “\$25,000,000” and inserting “\$20,000,000”.

12 (d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
13 The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Se-
14 curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by
15 adding at the end the following:

“Subtitle C—Other Assistance

“Sec. 2041. First responder agency grants.”.

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