

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3908

To amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide for improvements under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2014

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

A BILL

To amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide for improvements under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system.

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 “Byrne/JAG Program
5 Accountability Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS UNDER THE EDWARD BYRNE ME-**
2 **MORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PRO-**
3 **GRAM TO REDUCE RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIS-**
4 **PARITIES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYS-**
5 **TEM.**

6 Section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe
7 Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3751) is amended by add-
8 ing at the end the following new subsection:

9 “(h) RACIAL DISPARITIES PRACTICES.—For years
10 beginning after the date of the enactment of the Byrne/
11 JAG Program Accountability Act, States and units of
12 local government receiving funds under this subpart shall
13 implement policy, practice, and system improvement strat-
14 egies at the State, local, and tribal levels, as applicable,
15 to identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities among
16 individuals who come into contact with or are under the
17 supervision of the criminal justice system, without estab-
18 lishing or requiring numerical standards or quotas,
19 through each of the following methods:

20 “(1) Establishing coordinating bodies, com-
21 posed of criminal justice stakeholders at the State,
22 local, or tribal levels, as applicable, to oversee and
23 monitor efforts by such States, unit of local govern-
24 ment, or Indian tribe to reduce racial and ethnic dis-
25 parities.

1 “(2) Identifying and analyzing key decision
2 points in the criminal justice system of the State,
3 unit of local government, or Indian tribe, as applica-
4 ble, to determine which points create racial and eth-
5 nic disparities among those who come into contact
6 with the justice system.

7 “(3) Developing and implementing data collec-
8 tion and analysis systems to identify where racial
9 and ethnic disparities exist in the criminal justice
10 system and to track and analyze such disparities.

11 “(4) Developing and implementing a work plan
12 that includes measurable objectives for policy prac-
13 tice or other system changes, based on the needs
14 identified in the data collection and analysis under
15 paragraphs (2) and (3).

16 “(5) Publicly reporting, on an annual basis, the
17 efforts made in accordance with paragraphs (2), (3),
18 and (4) during the previous year.”.

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