

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5550

To provide for a reduction in the amount that may be awarded to a unit of local government under subpart 1 of part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3750 et seq.) for a unit of local government that funds an amount that is greater than 18 percent of its operating budget using revenue generated from collecting fines and other fees related to violations of traffic laws, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide for a reduction in the amount that may be awarded to a unit of local government under subpart 1 of part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3750 et seq.) for a unit of local government that funds an amount that is greater than 18 percent of its operating budget using revenue generated from collecting fines and other fees related to violations of traffic laws, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “The Urban and Munic-
3 ipal Justice Act of 2014” or the “Justice Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The growing trend of local units of govern-
7 ment using traffic fines and traffic court fees and
8 costs as revenue generators promotes unfair, exces-
9 sive targeting of citizens by law enforcement agents,
10 infringes on civil liberties, and promotes reliance on
11 unpredictable revenue sources.

12 (2) The growing trend of local units of govern-
13 ment using traffic fines and traffic court fees and
14 costs as revenue generators has the potential to
15 breed public cynicism and distrust of local law en-
16 forcement agencies, and to lessen public confidence
17 that the laws are being enforced impartially and the
18 criminal justice system is administered equally.

19 **SEC. 3. REDUCTION IN GRANT FUNDING FOR UNITS OF**
20 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**

21 (a) COLLECTION OF FINES FOR VIOLATIONS OF
22 TRAFFIC LAWS.—Except as provided in subsection (b), a
23 unit of local government which, during the previous 3 fis-
24 cal years, funded an amount that, on average, was greater
25 than 18 percent of its operating budget using revenue gen-
26 erated from collecting fines and other fees related to viola-

1 tions of traffic laws, shall, in the case of a unit of local
2 government receiving grant funds under subpart 1 of part
3 E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets
4 Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3750 et seq.), receive only 25 per-
5 cent of the grant award that would have otherwise been
6 awarded to that unit of local government under such sub-
7 part.

8 (b) DISPROPORTIONATE RACIAL COMPOSITION OF
9 LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.—In the case of a unit of
10 local government described in subsection (a) for which,
11 during the previous fiscal year, the percentage of individ-
12 uals who identify as a race who were employees of the
13 law enforcement agency for that unit of local government,
14 and the percentage of individuals who identify as that race
15 who live in the jurisdiction which that law enforcement
16 agency serves, differs by greater than 30 percent, the unit
17 of local government shall receive only 5 percent of the
18 grant award that would have otherwise been awarded to
19 that unit of local government under subpart 1 of part E
20 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets
21 Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3750 et seq.).

22 (c) OBLIGATION OF STATES.—A State that receives
23 a grant award under subpart 1 of part E of title I of the
24 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42
25 U.S.C. 3750 et seq.), which does not reduce a subgrant

1 award made under such grant to a unit of local govern-
2 ment in its jurisdiction in accordance with this section,
3 shall, in the succeeding fiscal year, receive only 50 percent
4 of the grant award that would have otherwise been award-
5 ed to that State under such subpart.

6 (d) REALLOCATION.—Any funds withheld from a
7 State or unit of local government from a direct grant
8 award by the Attorney General shall be reallocated in ac-
9 cordance with subpart 1 of part E of title I of the Omni-
10 bus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42
11 U.S.C. 3750 et seq.).

○