

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 103

To improve public safety through increased law enforcement presence and enhanced public safety equipment and programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 2015

Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To improve public safety through increased law enforcement presence and enhanced public safety equipment and programs, 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; DEFINITIONS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Shield Our Streets Act of 2015”.

6 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

7 (1) ELEVATED NEED LOCALITY.—The term
8 “elevated need locality” means a county or other

1 unit of local government that is not part of a county
2 that—

3 (A) has a violent crime rate at or above
4 the national average, as determined by the Fed-
5 eral Bureau of Investigation; and

6 (B) has, during the most recent 5-year pe-
7 riod, had budget reductions.

8 (2) UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term
9 “unit of local government” has the meaning given
10 such term in section 901 of title I of the Omnibus
11 Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42
12 U.S.C. 3791).

13 **SEC. 2. SHIELD POLICE HIRING GRANTS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General is author-
15 ized to carry out a program, through the Office of Com-
16 munity Oriented Policing Services, to award grants to eli-
17 gible local law enforcement agencies to assist such agen-
18 cies with hiring and rehiring career law enforcement offi-
19 cers in accordance with this section.

20 (b) ELIGIBLE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGEN-
21 CIES.—For the purposes of this section, an “eligible local
22 law enforcement agency” is a local law enforcement agen-
23 cy that has jurisdiction over all or part of an elevated need
24 locality.

1 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds awarded under
2 this section shall be used by an eligible local law enforce-
3 ment agency to—

4 (1) hire and train new career law enforcement
5 officers for deployment in the jurisdiction of the
6 agency; or

7 (2) rehire career law enforcement officers who
8 have been laid off as a result of Federal, State, or
9 local budget reductions.

10 (d) GRANT PERIOD.—Each grant awarded under this
11 section shall be for a period of 3 years and may be ex-
12 tended or renewed for an additional 2-year period at the
13 discretion of the Attorney General.

14 (e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Attorney General
15 shall provide technical assistance to eligible local law en-
16 forcement agencies during the application process and
17 while such agencies are carrying out grants under this sec-
18 tion.

19 (f) NO MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—An eligible local
20 law enforcement agency receiving a grant under this sec-
21 tion shall not be required to provide any portion of the
22 costs, in cash or in-kind, of the activities carried out with
23 such grant from non-Federal funds.

24 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addi-
25 tion to any other funds authorized to be appropriated for

1 hiring and rehiring local law enforcement officers, there
2 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$100,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2016 through
4 2021.

5 **SEC. 3. SHIELD PUBLIC SAFETY ENHANCEMENT GRANTS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General is author-
7 ized to carry out a program to award grants to eligible
8 organizations to enhance public safety through the activi-
9 ties described in subsection (c).

10 (b) ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS.—For the purposes of
11 this section, an “eligible organization” is—

12 (1) a unit of local government that has jurisdic-
13 tion over all or part of an elevated need locality; or

14 (2) a nonprofit organization that operates in
15 one or more elevated need localities.

16 (c) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Grant funds awarded
17 under this section shall be used as follows:

18 (1) With respect to an eligible organization de-
19 scribed in subsection (b)(1), to enhance public safety
20 in the jurisdiction of the organization. Such en-
21 hancement may include—

22 (A) purchasing public safety equipment;

23 (B) funding public safety programs;

24 (C) making infrastructure improvements
25 for the purpose of enhancing public safety;

- 1 (D) purchasing and installing street lights
2 and other lights to deter crime;
3 (E) funding activities related to crime labs;
4 and
5 (F) funding public defender programs.

6 (2) With respect to an eligible organization de-
7 scribed in subsection (b)(2), to carry out programs
8 designed to reduce crime in one or more of the coun-
9 ties or cities under subsection (b)(2).

10 (d) GRANT PERIOD.—Each grant awarded under this
11 section shall be for a period of one year and may be ex-
12 tended or renewed for an additional period at the discre-
13 tion of the Attorney General.

14 (e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Attorney General
15 shall provide technical assistance to eligible organizations
16 during the application process and while such organiza-
17 tions are carrying out grants under this section.

18 (f) NO MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—An eligible orga-
19 nization receiving a grant under this section shall not be
20 required to provide any portion of the costs, in cash or
21 in-kind, of the activities carried out with such grant from
22 non-Federal funds.

23 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addi-
24 tion to any other funds authorized to be appropriated for
25 public safety enhancement by eligible organizations, there

1 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
2 \$100,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2016 through
3 2021.

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