

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 962

To extend the same Federal benefits to law enforcement officers serving private institutions of higher education and rail carriers that apply to law enforcement officers serving units of State and local government.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 15, 2015

Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. MARKEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To extend the same Federal benefits to law enforcement officers serving private institutions of higher education and rail carriers that apply to law enforcement officers serving units of State and local government.

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 “Equity in Law En-
5 forcement Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH AND DISABILITY BENEFITS.**

2 (a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 1204(9) of title I of the
3 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42
4 U.S.C. 3796b(9)) is amended—

5 (1) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking “or” at
6 the end;

7 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period
8 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

9 (3) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(E) an individual who is—

11 “(i) serving a private institution of
12 higher education in an official capacity,
13 with or without compensation, as a law en-
14 forcement officer; and

15 “(ii) sworn, licensed, or certified
16 under the laws of a State for the purposes
17 of law enforcement (and trained to meet
18 the training standards for law enforcement
19 officers established by the relevant govern-
20 mental appointing authority); or

21 “(F) a rail police officer who is—

22 “(i) employed by a rail carrier; and

23 “(ii) sworn, licensed, or certified
24 under the laws of a State for the purposes
25 of law enforcement (and trained to meet
26 the training standards for law enforcement

1 officers established by the relevant govern-
 2 mental appointing authority).”.

3 (b) **APPLICABILITY OF AMENDMENTS.**—The amend-
 4 ments made by this section shall apply to a personal injury
 5 sustained in the line of duty by an individual described
 6 in subparagraph (E) or (F) of section 1204(9) of title I
 7 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of
 8 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796b(9)), as added by subsection (a),
 9 on or after April 15, 2013.

10 **SEC. 3. LAW ENFORCEMENT ARMOR VESTS.**

11 (a) **GRANT PROGRAM.**—Section 2501 of title I of the
 12 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42
 13 U.S.C. 3796ll) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a)—

15 (A) by striking “and Indian tribes” and in-
 16 serting “Indian tribes, private institutions of
 17 higher education, and rail carriers”; and

18 (B) by inserting before the period at the
 19 end the following: “and law enforcement offi-
 20 cers serving private institutions of higher edu-
 21 cation and rail carriers who are sworn, licensed,
 22 or certified under the laws of a State for the
 23 purposes of law enforcement (and trained to
 24 meet the training standards for law enforce-

1 ment officers established by the relevant gov-
2 ernmental appointing authority)”;

3 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “or Indian
4 tribe” and inserting “Indian tribe, private institution
5 of higher education, or rail carrier”; and

6 (3) in subsection (e), by striking “or Indian
7 tribe” and inserting “Indian tribe, private institution
8 of higher education, or rail carrier”.

9 (b) APPLICATIONS.—Section 2502 of title I of the
10 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42
11 U.S.C. 3796ll–1) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “or Indian
13 tribe” and inserting “Indian tribe, private institution
14 of higher education, or rail carrier”; and

15 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “and Indian
16 tribes” and inserting “Indian tribes, private institu-
17 tions of higher education, and rail carriers”.

18 (c) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2503(6) of title I of the
19 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42
20 U.S.C. 3796ll–2(6)) is amended by striking “or Indian
21 tribe” and inserting “Indian tribe, private institution of
22 higher education, or rail carrier”.

23 **SEC. 4. BYRNE GRANTS.**

24 Section 501(b)(2) of title I of the Omnibus Crime
25 Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C.

1 3751(b)(2)) is amended by inserting after “units of local
2 government” the following: “, private institutions of high-
3 er education, and rail carriers”.

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