

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5268

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security, through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to make grants to eligible local education agencies to provide improved security measures on school grounds, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 14, 2018

Mr. MESSER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security, through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to make grants to eligible local education agencies to provide improved security measures on school grounds, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Safe Schools Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL SAFETY.**

2 Title XX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
3 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the
4 following:

5 **“Subtitle C—Safe School Grants**

6 **“SEC. 2031. SAFE SCHOOL GRANT ESTABLISHED.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, through the Ad-
8 ministrator, is authorized to make grants, to be known
9 as ‘Safe School Grants’ to eligible local education agencies
10 to provide improved security measures at schools and on
11 school grounds.

12 “(b) USES OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded under this
13 section shall be distributed directly to local education
14 agencies and shall be used to improve security at schools
15 and on school grounds through one or more of the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(1) Employment of additional school resource
18 officers not already employed by the local edu-
19 cational agency.

20 “(2) Entering into a contract or a memo-
21 randum of understanding with a local law enforce-
22 ment agency, private entity, or nonprofit corporation
23 for the services of school resource officers.

24 “(3) Increasing coordination with local law en-
25 forcement.

1 “(4) Purchasing equipment, technology, or in-
2 frastructure improvements to—

3 “(A) control access to school campus,
4 buildings, and classrooms;

5 “(B) expedite notification of first respond-
6 ers; or

7 “(C) inhibit weapons from entering a
8 school building.

9 “(c) PREFERENTIAL CONSIDERATION.—In awarding
10 grants under this subtitle, the Secretary shall give pref-
11 erential consideration, if feasible, to local education agen-
12 cies that demonstrate that the grant will be used effi-
13 ciently and effectively, as judged by the Secretary, to se-
14 cure school buildings or school grounds.

15 “(d) GRANT LIMIT.—A grant authorized under this
16 subtitle shall not exceed a Federal contribution of more
17 than \$50 per student currently enrolled (as defined by the
18 relevant State educational authority) per year, for each
19 school building and school grounds for which the local edu-
20 cation agency applies under this subtitle.

21 “(e) MATCHING FUNDS.—The Federal share of the
22 total costs of a program funded by a grant under this sub-
23 title may not exceed 50 percent.

24 “(f) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding
25 grants under this subtitle, the Secretary shall ensure, to

1 the extent practicable, an equitable geographic distribu-
2 tion among the regions of the United States and among
3 urban, suburban, and rural areas.

4 “(g) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary may
5 reserve for administrative costs not more than 2 percent
6 from amounts appropriated to carry out this subtitle.

7 “(h) APPLICATIONS.—To receive a grant under this
8 subtitle, a local education agency shall submit an applica-
9 tion to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
10 accompanied by such information as the Secretary may
11 require with respect to each school building or school
12 grounds area for which the local education agency intends
13 to use funds provided under this subtitle. Each application
14 shall—

15 “(1) include a detailed explanation of—

16 “(A) the intended uses of funds provided
17 under the grant; and

18 “(B) how the activities funded under the
19 grant will meet the purpose of this subtitle; and

20 “(2) be accompanied by an assurance that the
21 application was prepared after consultation with in-
22 dividuals not limited to law enforcement officers
23 (such as school violence experts or child psycholo-
24 gists) to ensure that the improvements to be funded
25 under the grant are—

1 “(A) consistent with a comprehensive ap-
2 proach to preventing school violence; and

3 “(B) individualized to the needs of each
4 school at which those improvements are to be
5 made.

6 “(i) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 120 days after the
7 date of the enactment of this subtitle, the Secretary shall
8 promulgate guidelines to implement this subtitle.

9 **“SEC. 2032. DEFINITIONS.**

10 “In this subtitle, the following definitions shall apply:

11 “(1) LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY.—The term
12 ‘local education agency’ has the meaning given such
13 term under section 8101 of the Elementary and Sec-
14 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

15 “(2) SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER.—The term
16 ‘school resource officer’ has the meaning given such
17 term in section 1709 of the Omnibus Crime Control
18 and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10389).

19 **“SEC. 2033. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 “‘There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
21 this subtitle the following:

22 “(1) \$80,000,000 for fiscal year 2018; and

23 “(2) \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019
24 through 2024.

1 **“SEC. 2034. ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

2 “Not later than November 30 of each year, the Sec-
3 retary shall submit a report to the Congress regarding the
4 activities carried out under this subtitle. Each such report
5 shall include, for the preceding fiscal year, the number of
6 grants funded under this subtitle, the amount of funds
7 provided under those grants, and the activities for which
8 those funds were used.

9 **“SEC. 2035. REPORTS BY GRANT RECIPIENTS.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receiving a
11 grant under this subtitle, a local education agency annu-
12 ally shall submit to the Secretary a report on activities
13 performed using grant funds during the preceding fiscal
14 year.

15 “(b) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under sub-
16 section (a) shall, at a minimum, include, for the applicable
17 local education agency—

18 “(1) the amount obligated to that recipient
19 under this subtitle for that fiscal year;

20 “(2) the amount of funds received and ex-
21 pended under this subtitle by that recipient in that
22 fiscal year;

23 “(3) a summary description of expenditures
24 made by that recipient using such funds, and the
25 purposes for which such expenditures were made;
26 and

1 “(4) other reporting metrics the Secretary shall
2 prescribe for the purposes of tracking and deter-
3 mining the effectiveness of the activities performed
4 using grant funds.

5 **“SEC. 2036. GAO REVIEW.**

6 “The Comptroller General of the United States shall
7 review the validity of each report submitted by the Sec-
8 retary under section 2034 not later than 120 days after
9 the date on which such report is submitted. The Comp-
10 troller General shall submit to the Congress a report con-
11 taining the findings of such review and shall provide any
12 recommendations for additional review or other require-
13 ments that could improve the effectiveness of the program
14 established under this subtitle.

15 **“SEC. 2037. CONSTRUCTION.**

16 “The provisions of subtitle B shall not be construed
17 to apply to this subtitle.”.

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