

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4168

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that COPS grant funds may be used to hire and train new, additional career law enforcement officers who are residents of the communities they serve, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 6, 2019

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

A BILL

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that COPS grant funds may be used to hire and train new, additional career law enforcement officers who are residents of the communities they serve, 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 “Law Enforcement In-
5 clusion Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) According to the Equal Employment Oppor-
2 tunity Commission (EEOC) and the Census Bureau,
3 which together provide detail on the racial composi-
4 tion of government workers in large American cities,
5 in about two-thirds of the United States cities with
6 the largest police forces, the majority of police offi-
7 cers live outside of the city in which they work.

8 (2) When officers live in the cities in which they
9 work, it may reduce the carbon footprint by employ-
10 ees in their journey to work, foster more employee
11 concern in the affairs of their city, ensure manpower
12 will be available in case of emergencies, generate ad-
13 ditional tax revenue for the city, and cut down on
14 absenteeism and tardiness.

15 (3) According to a New York Times article en-
16 titled, “When Police Don’t Live in the City They
17 Serve (2016)”, trust is greater between community
18 and police force when officers live in and are demo-
19 graphically representative of the communities they
20 police.

21 (4) Existing programs, such as the Secure
22 Neighborhoods Pathways to Homeownership in At-
23 lanta, are strengthening police legitimacy and cre-
24 ating more cooperative relationships with civilians
25 across racial lines which holds promise for reducing

1 crime and violence. As a result of this program, the
2 percentage of Atlanta's police force, living in the city
3 of Atlanta, increased from 14 percent to 22 percent.

4 (5) Strained ties between police departments
5 and the communities they serve predate the 1960s
6 civil rights movement. During and after the civil
7 rights movement, activists across the country have
8 marched in support of improved police-community
9 relations.

10 (6) Police officers have an important job to
11 maintain the safety, security, and resiliency of the
12 cities they serve. By residing in the same commu-
13 nities in which they serve, officers may have oppor-
14 tunities to ameliorate their relationships with com-
15 munity residents and heal relationships between po-
16 lice and communities.

17 (7) Substantive criminal justice reform should
18 include initiatives to ameliorate the relationships po-
19 lice officers have with the communities they serve.

20 **SEC. 3. USE OF COPS GRANT FUNDS TO HIRE LAW EN-**
21 **FORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO ARE RESIDENTS**
22 **OF THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE.**

23 Section 1701(b) of the Omnibus Crime Control and
24 Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381(b)) is amend-
25 ed—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (22) and (23)
2 as paragraphs (25) and (26), respectively;

3 (2) in paragraph (25), as so redesignated, by
4 striking “(21)” and inserting “(24)”; and

5 (3) by inserting after paragraph (21) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(22) to recruit, hire, incentivize, retain, de-
8 velop, and train new, additional career law enforce-
9 ment officers or current law enforcement officers
10 who are willing to relocate to communities—

11 “(A) where there are poor or fragmented
12 relationships between police and residents of the
13 community, or where there are high incidents of
14 crime; and

15 “(B) that are the communities that the law
16 enforcement officers serve, or that are in close
17 proximity to the communities that the law en-
18 forcement officers serve;

19 “(23) to collect data on the number of law en-
20 forcement officers who are willing to relocate to the
21 communities where they serve, and whether such law
22 enforcement officer relocations have impacted crime
23 in such communities;

24 “(24) to develop and publicly report strategies
25 and timelines to recruit, hire, promote, retain, de-

- 1 velop, and train a diverse and inclusive law enforce-
- 2 ment workforce, consistent with merit system prin-
- 3 ciples and applicable law;”.

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