

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3159

To authorize the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance to make grants to States, units of local government, and gun dealers to conduct gun buyback programs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 12, 2021

Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SIRES, Ms. MENG, Mr. EVANS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To authorize the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance to make grants to States, units of local government, and gun dealers to conduct gun buyback 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Safer Neighborhoods Gun Buyback Act of 2021”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
2 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—GUN BUYBACK GRANT PROGRAM

Sec. 101. Program authorized.

Sec. 102. Applications.

Sec. 103. Term of grant.

Sec. 104. Smart prepaid cards.

Sec. 105. Uses of funds.

Sec. 106. Definitions.

Sec. 107. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE II—CRIMINAL PROVISION

Sec. 201. Use of smart prepaid card to buy or sell a firearm.

3 **TITLE I—GUN BUYBACK GRANT**  
4 **PROGRAM**

5 **SEC. 101. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Bureau of  
7 Justice Assistance (referred to in this title as the “Direc-  
8 tor”) may make grants to eligible entities to conduct gun  
9 buyback programs.

10 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this title, the  
11 term “eligible entity” means—

12 (1) a State;

13 (2) a unit of local government; or

14 (3) a gun dealer if neither the unit of local gov-  
15 ernment nor the State where such dealer is located  
16 receives a grant under this title.

17 **SEC. 102. APPLICATIONS.**

18 (a) GRANTS.—The chief executive of an eligible entity  
19 seeking a grant under this title shall submit an application

1 to the Director at such time and containing such informa-  
2 tion as the Director may reasonably require.

3 (b) SUBGRANTS.—A gun dealer located in a unit of  
4 local government or State that does receive a grant under  
5 this title seeking a subgrant shall submit an application  
6 to the chief executive of such unit of local government or  
7 State at such time and containing such information as the  
8 chief executive may reasonably require, including proof of  
9 such dealer’s license under section 923 of title 18, United  
10 States Code.

11 **SEC. 103. TERM OF GRANT.**

12 (a) TERM.—The term of a grant awarded under this  
13 title shall be two years.

14 (b) AVAILABILITY OF GRANT FUNDS.—

15 (1) STATES OR UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERN-  
16 MENT.—A State or unit of local government that re-  
17 ceives a grant under this title shall return to the Di-  
18 rector any remaining smart prepaid cards and any  
19 unused portion of such grant at the end of the two-  
20 year and 270-day period beginning on the date that  
21 the grant was awarded.

22 (2) GUN DEALERS.—A gun dealer that receives  
23 a grant or subgrant under this title shall return to  
24 the Director any remaining smart prepaid cards and

1 any unused portion of such grant or subgrant that  
2 was allocated to be used to buy back guns—

3 (A) in the case of a gun dealer receiving a  
4 grant, at the end of the two-year period begin-  
5 ning on the date that the grant was awarded;  
6 or

7 (B) in the case of a gun dealer receiving  
8 a subgrant, at the end of the two-year period  
9 beginning on the date that the grant was  
10 awarded to the State or unit of local govern-  
11 ment from which the gun dealer received a  
12 subgrant.

13 (c) AMOUNTS RETURNED.—The Director shall re-  
14 turn to the general fund of the Treasury any amounts re-  
15 turned under subsection (b).

16 **SEC. 104. SMART PREPAID CARDS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—In conducting the grant program  
18 authorized under section 101, the Director may reserve  
19 such funds as may be necessary to acquire and distribute  
20 smart prepaid cards to eligible entities that receive grants  
21 under this title. The Director shall distribute the smart  
22 prepaid cards without any funds loaded onto the cards.

23 (b) MARKET VALUE OF GUNS.—The Director shall  
24 determine the market value of each gun that the Director

1 determines should be included in the gun buyback pro-  
2 gram and make such information publicly available.

3 (c) PROHIBITION ON USE OF CARDS TO BUY  
4 GUNS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—A person may not use a  
6 smart prepaid card in the acquisition of a gun or  
7 ammunition, and a person may not accept a smart  
8 prepaid card in the transfer (including a loan) of a  
9 gun or ammunition.

10 (2) PENALTY.—A person that violates para-  
11 graph (1) shall pay to the Director an amount that  
12 is equal to the value of the prohibited sale.

13 **SEC. 105. USES OF FUNDS.**

14 (a) STATES AND UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—  
15 A State or unit of local government receiving a grant  
16 under this title shall use such funds to do the following:

17 (1) GUN BUYBACK PROGRAM.—Use such funds  
18 to—

19 (A) conduct a gun buyback program; or

20 (B) make subgrants to gun dealers in such  
21 State or unit of local government to conduct  
22 gun buyback programs, and distribute the  
23 smart prepaid cards such State or unit of local  
24 government receives to gun dealers receiving  
25 subgrants.

1           (2) GUN AND AMMUNITION RECYCLING PRO-  
2           GRAM.—Use not more than 10 percent of such funds  
3           to recycle the guns and ammunition that such State  
4           or unit of local government collects or receives from  
5           gun dealers.

6           (3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Use not more  
7           than 15 percent of such funds for the administrative  
8           costs of carrying out the grant program under this  
9           title, including the criminal database checks under  
10          subsection (f).

11         (b) GUN DEALERS.—

12           (1) IN GENERAL.—A gun dealer receiving a  
13           grant or subgrant under this title shall use such  
14           funds to conduct a gun buyback program.

15           (2) SMART PREPAID CARD AMOUNTS.—

16           (A) In order to purchase a gun through a  
17           gun buyback program, a gun dealer shall load  
18           onto a smart prepaid card 125 percent of the  
19           market value of the gun that the individual  
20           wishes to dispose of (as determined by the Di-  
21           rector under section 104(b)).

22           (B) A gun dealer may increase the pur-  
23           chase price of a gun and load an amount onto  
24           a smart prepaid card that is greater than 125  
25           percent of the market value of the gun if the

1 gun dealer determines that the gun has been al-  
2 tered in a way that would increase the market  
3 value of the gun (such as an altered grip, or the  
4 addition of a scope).

5 (3) GUNS RECEIVED.—

6 (A) In the case of a gun dealer receiving  
7 a grant under this title, the gun dealer shall de-  
8 liver a gun or ammunition the dealer receives  
9 under the gun buyback program to the closest  
10 office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Fire-  
11 arms and Explosives not later than 60 days  
12 after receiving such gun.

13 (B) In the case of a gun dealer receiving  
14 a subgrant under this title, the gun dealer shall  
15 deliver a gun or ammunition the dealer receives  
16 under the gun buyback program to the State or  
17 unit of local government from which it receives  
18 the subgrant not later than 60 days after re-  
19 ceiving such gun.

20 (c) AMMUNITION COLLECTION.—A State, unit of  
21 local government, or gun dealer conducting a gun buyback  
22 program under this title may accept ammunition from in-  
23 dividuals wishing to dispose of it, which shall be recycled  
24 in accordance with paragraph (3), but may not use smart

1 prepaid cards to purchase ammunition under the gun  
2 buyback program.

3 (d) INCENTIVES FOR GUN DEALER PARTICIPA-  
4 TION.—To the extent that the Director determines nec-  
5 essary to facilitate participation of gun dealers in the gun  
6 buyback program, grant funds may be used to provide  
7 monetary or other incentives to gun dealers to participate  
8 in such program. For purposes of subsection (a), any such  
9 incentives shall be treated as part of the subgrant to the  
10 gun dealer described in paragraph (1)(B) thereof.

11 (e) RESALE OF GUNS PROHIBITED.—A State, unit  
12 of local government, or gun dealer conducting a gun  
13 buyback program under this title may not sell a gun or  
14 ammunition received under such program.

15 (f) CRIMINAL DATABASE CHECK.—A State, unit of  
16 local government, or office of the Bureau of Alcohol, To-  
17 bacco, Firearms and Explosives that receives a gun under  
18 a gun buyback program under this title shall, not later  
19 than 21 days after receiving the gun, use any database  
20 accessible to the State, unit of local government, or office  
21 of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explo-  
22 sives, as applicable, in order to determine whether the gun  
23 was used in the commission of a crime. If such a gun was  
24 used in the commission of a crime, the gun shall be deliv-  
25 ered to the appropriate prosecuting authority.



1 **SEC. 106. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this title:

3 (1) **AMMUNITION.**—The term “ammunition”  
4 has the meaning given such term in section  
5 921(a)(17)(A) of title 18, United States Code.

6 (2) **GUN.**—The term “gun” means “firearm”  
7 as defined in section 921(a)(3) of title 18, United  
8 States Code.

9 (3) **GUN BUYBACK PROGRAM.**—The term “gun  
10 buyback program” means a program under which a  
11 State, a unit of local government, or a gun dealer,  
12 using smart prepaid cards as described in section  
13 105(b)(2), purchases back from individuals wishing  
14 to dispose of them, a gun identified by the Director  
15 under section 104(b).

16 (4) **GUN DEALER.**—The term “gun dealer”  
17 means a dealer of firearms licensed under section  
18 923 of title 18, United States Code.

19 (5) **SMART PREPAID CARD.**—The term “smart  
20 prepaid card” means a card issued by the Director  
21 that—

22 (A) is redeemable at multiple, unaffiliated  
23 merchants or service providers;

24 (B) contains a mechanism, for the purpose  
25 of preventing the cardholder from using it to  
26 purchase a gun or ammunition, that recognizes

1 the merchant category code of a merchant and  
2 prohibits the use of such card at a place of  
3 business subject to a license to deal in firearms  
4 under section 923 of title 18, United States  
5 Code;

6 (C) is honored, upon presentation, by mer-  
7 chants solely for goods or services, except for  
8 merchants described in subparagraph (B);

9 (D) is loaded on a prepaid basis by a  
10 State, unit of local government, or gun dealer  
11 for use in a gun buyback program;

12 (E) clearly and conspicuously bears the  
13 words “THIS CARD MAY NOT BE USED  
14 TO PURCHASE A GUN OR AMMUNITION”  
15 in capital and raised letters on the card; and

16 (F) may not redeemed for coins or cur-  
17 rency.

18 (6) STATE.—The term “State” means each of  
19 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, or any com-  
20 monwealth, territory, or possession of the United  
21 States.

22 **SEC. 107. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

23 There is authorized to be appropriated \$360,000,000  
24 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2022 to carry out  
25 this title.

1 **TITLE II—CRIMINAL PROVISION**

2 **SEC. 201. USE OF SMART PREPAID CARD IN THE ACQUISITION OR TRANSFER OF A FIREARM.**

3  
4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United  
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:  
6

7 **“§ 932. Use of smart prepaid card in the acquisition  
8 or transfer of a firearm**

9 “Whoever, in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce,  
10 merce, uses a smart prepaid card (as such term is defined  
11 in section 106 of the Safer Neighborhoods Gun Buyback  
12 Act of 2017) in connection with the acquisition of, or accepts  
13 a smart prepaid card in connection with the transfer  
14 (including a loan) of a firearm or ammunition shall be  
15 fined under this title, imprisoned for not more than 2  
16 years, or both.”.

17 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

18 (1) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
19 924(a)(1) of title 18, United States Code, is amended  
20 ed by inserting after “section 929” the following:  
21 “or section 932”.

22 (2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections  
23 at the beginning of chapter 44 of title 18, United

- 1 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item
- 2 relating to section 931 the following:

“932. Use of smart prepaid card in the acquisition or transfer of a firearm.”.

