

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am offering a bill tonight, H.R. 2816, the Computer Crime Enforcement Act of 2000, which was introduced by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON).

The bill would authorize \$25 million in grants to be awarded by the Department of Justice to local law enforcement agencies in order to assist them in combatting computer crime. Crime committed by computers is one of the most rapidly growing areas. With ever-innovating computers come new innovations and crimes committed by those computers.

Of course, to fight this crime, law enforcement agencies must have equipment that is equal of that used by criminals and the training to effectively use that equipment. Much of the investigation of this type of crime has been done at the Federal level, but there is simply not sufficient resources for the Federal Government to do all the work.

State and local law enforcement agencies stand ready to investigate these crimes but often the financial resources are lacking to do so. This bill will help address the problem.

According to a recent report released by the FBI and the Computer Security Institute, 32 percent of companies surveyed required assistance from law enforcement agencies, up 17 percent from the prior year. And according to a recent report by the San Francisco Computer Security Institute, nearly a third of U.S. companies, financial institutions and Government agencies and universities say their computer systems were penetrated by outsiders last year.

A recent poll conducted by the Information Technology Association of America found that 61 percent of consumers questioned are less likely to shop over the Internet as a result of a rise in cyber crimes.

Mr. Speaker, we simply cannot allow this type of crime to hinder a robust expansion in this new area of commerce. The bill before us will help put more law enforcement agencies on the trail of these criminals. It will make our business in other commercial activities more secure. And so, I strongly urge support of the bill.

As introduced, it authorizes award of grants from fiscal year 2002 to 2003. Because we are now well into the 2000 fiscal year, the amendment that I offer will start the 4-year authorization in fiscal year 2001.

I want to thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON) for his leadership in introducing this bill. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 2816

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Computer Crime Enforcement Act".

SEC. 2. STATE GRANT PROGRAM FOR TRAINING AND PROSECUTION OF COMPUTER CRIMES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts, the Office of Justice Programs shall make a grant to each State, which shall be used by the State, in conjunction with units of local government, State and local courts, other States, or combinations thereof in accordance with subsection (b).

(b) USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.—Grants under this section may be used to establish and develop programs to—

(1) assist State and local law enforcement agencies in enforcing State and local criminal laws relating to computer crime;

(2) assist State and local law enforcement agencies in educating the public to prevent and identify computer crime;

(3) educate and train State and local law enforcement officers and prosecutors to conduct investigations and forensic analyses of evidence and prosecutions of computer crime;

(4) assist State and local law enforcement officers and prosecutors in acquiring computer and other equipment to conduct investigations and forensic analysis of evidence of computer crimes; and

(5) facilitate and promote the sharing of Federal law enforcement expertise and information about the investigation, analysis, and prosecution of computer crimes with State and local law enforcement officers and prosecutors, including the use of multijurisdictional task forces.

(c) ASSURANCES.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a State shall provide assurances to the Attorney General that the State—

(1) has in effect laws that penalize computer crime, such as criminal laws prohibiting—

(A) fraudulent schemes executed by means of a computer system or network;

(B) the unlawful damaging, destroying, altering, deleting, removing of computer software, or data contained in a computer, computer system, computer program, or computer network; or

(C) the unlawful interference with the operation of or denial of access to a computer, computer program, computer system, or computer network;

(2) an assessment of the State and local resource needs, including criminal justice resources being devoted to the investigation and enforcement of computer crime laws; and

(3) a plan for coordinating the programs funded under this section with other federally funded technical assistant and training programs, including directly funded local programs such as the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant program (described under the heading "Violent Crime Reduction Programs, State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance" of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998 (Public Law 105-119)).

(d) MATCHING FUNDS.—The Federal share of a grant received under this section may not exceed 90 percent of the costs of a program or proposal funded under this section unless the Attorney General waives, wholly or in part, the requirements of this subsection.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2000 through 2003.

(2) LIMITATIONS.—Of the amount made available to carry out this section in any fiscal year not more than 3 percent may be used by the Attorney General for salaries and administrative expenses.

(3) MINIMUM AMOUNT.—Unless all eligible applications submitted by any State or unit of local government within such State for a grant under this section have been funded, such State, together with grantees within the State (other than Indian tribes), shall be allocated in each fiscal year under this section not less than 0.75 percent of the total amount appropriated in the fiscal year for grants pursuant to this section, except that the United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands each shall be allocated 0.25 percent.

(f) GRANTS TO INDIAN TRIBES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the Attorney General may use amounts made available under this section to make grants to Indian tribes for use in accordance with this section.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCCOLLUM

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. MCCOLLUM:

Page 4, line 17, strike "2000 through 2003" and insert the following: "2001 through 2004".

Mr. MCCOLLUM (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The amendment was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1900

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2816.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

AMENDING CHARTER OF AMVETS ORGANIZATION

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 604) to amend the charter of the AMVETS organization, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman for an explanation of the bill.

Mr. MCCOLLUM. I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) for yielding to me on this bill.