

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2137

To ensure Federal law enforcement officers remain able to ensure their own safety, and the safety of their families, during a covered furlough.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 2015

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (for himself, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. REICHERT, and Mr. PASCRELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To ensure Federal law enforcement officers remain able to ensure their own safety, and the safety of their families, during a covered furlough.

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 “Federal Law Enforce-
5 ment Self-Defense and Protection Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Too often, Federal law enforcement officers
2 encounter potentially violent criminals, placing offi-
3 cers in danger of grave physical harm.

4 (2) In 2012 alone, 1,857 Federal law enforce-
5 ment officers were assaulted, with 206 sustaining se-
6 rious injuries.

7 (3) From 2008 through 2011, an additional
8 8,587 Federal law enforcement officers were as-
9 saulted.

10 (4) Federal law enforcement officers remain a
11 target even when they are off-duty. Over the past 3
12 years, 27 law enforcement officers have been killed
13 off-duty.

14 (5) It is essential that law enforcement officers
15 are able to defend themselves, so they can carry out
16 their critical missions and ensure their own personal
17 safety and the safety of their families whether on-
18 duty or off-duty.

19 (6) These dangers to law enforcement officers
20 continue to exist during a covered furlough.

21 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

22 In this Act—

23 (1) the term “agency” means each authority of
24 the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the
25 Government of the United States;

1 (2) the term “covered Federal law enforcement
2 officer” means any individual who—

3 (A) is an employee of an agency;

4 (B) has the authority to make arrests or
5 apprehensions for, or prosecute, violations of
6 Federal law; and

7 (C) on the day before the date on which
8 the applicable covered furlough begins, is au-
9 thorized by the agency employing the individual
10 to carry a firearm in the course of official du-
11 ties;

12 (3) the term “covered furlough” means a
13 planned event by an agency during which employees
14 are involuntarily furloughed due to downsizing, re-
15 duced funding, lack of work, or any budget situation
16 including a lapse in appropriations; and

17 (4) the term “firearm” has the meaning given
18 that term in section 921 of title 18, United States
19 Code.

20 **SEC. 4. PROTECTING FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFI-**
21 **CERS WHO ARE SUBJECTED TO A COVERED**
22 **FURLOUGH.**

23 During a covered furlough, a covered Federal law en-
24 forcement officer shall have the same rights to carry a
25 firearm issued by the Federal Government as if the cov-

1 ered furlough was not in effect, including, if authorized
2 on the day before the date on which the covered furlough
3 begins, the right to carry a concealed firearm, if the sole
4 reason the covered Federal law enforcement officer was
5 placed on leave was due to the covered furlough.

○