

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7624

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that COPS grant funds may be used for local law enforcement recruits to attend schools or academies if the recruits agree to serve in precincts of law enforcement agencies in their communities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2020

Mr. CORREA (for himself, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mr. FITZPATRICK) 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 for local law enforcement recruits to attend schools or academies if the recruits agree to serve in precincts of law enforcement agencies in their communities.

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. STRONG COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.**

4 Section 1701 of Omnibus Crime Control and Safe
5 Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subsection (m) as sub-
2 section (n); and

3 (2) by inserting after subsection (l) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(m) COPS STRONG COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.—

6 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—

7 “(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-
8 ble entity’ means—

9 “(i) an institution of higher education,
10 as defined in section 101 of the Higher
11 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001),
12 that, in coordination or through an agree-
13 ment with a local law enforcement agency,
14 offers a law enforcement training program;
15 or

16 “(ii) a local law enforcement agency
17 that offers a law enforcement training pro-
18 gram.

19 “(B) LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGEN-
20 CY.—The term ‘local law enforcement agency’
21 means an agency of a State, unit of local gov-
22 ernment, or Indian Tribe that is authorized by
23 law or by a government agency to engage in or
24 supervise the prevention, detection, investiga-

1 tion, or prosecution of any violation of criminal
2 law.

3 “(2) GRANTS.—The Attorney General may use
4 amounts otherwise appropriated to carry out this
5 section for a fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year
6 2020) to make competitive grants to local law en-
7 forcement agencies to be used for recruits to attend
8 eligible entities if the recruits agree to serve in law
9 enforcement agencies in their communities.

10 “(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant
11 under this subsection, each recruit described in
12 paragraph (2) shall—

13 “(A) serve as a full-time law enforcement
14 officer for a total of not fewer than 4 years dur-
15 ing the 8-year period after the date on which
16 the recruit completes a law enforcement train-
17 ing program for which the recruit received ben-
18 efits;

19 “(B) complete their service in a local law
20 enforcement agency located within—

21 “(i) 5 miles of the residence of the re-
22 cruit where the recruit has resided for not
23 fewer than 5 years; or

24 “(ii) if the recruit resides in a county
25 with less than 100,000 residents, within 20

1 miles of the residence of the recruit where
2 the recruit has resided for not fewer than
3 5 years; and

4 “(C) submit evidence of employment of the
5 recruit to the eligible agency in the form of a
6 certification by the chief administrative officer
7 of the local law enforcement agency where the
8 recruit is employed.

9 “(4) REPAYMENT.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If a recruit does not
11 complete the service described in paragraph (3),
12 the recruit shall submit to the local law enforce-
13 ment agency an amount equal to any benefits
14 the recruit received under this subsection.

15 “(B) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney Gen-
16 eral shall promulgate regulations that establish
17 categories of extenuating circumstances under
18 which a recruit may be excused from repayment
19 under subparagraph (A).”.

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