118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9480

To permit State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies that receive eligible Federal grant funds to use such funds for investigating senior financial fraud, pig butchering, and general financial fraud, and to clarify that Federal law enforcement agencies may assist State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies in the use of tracing tools for blockchain and related technology, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. FITZGERALD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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A BILL

To permit State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies that receive eligible Federal grant funds to use such funds for investigating senior financial fraud, pig butchering, and general financial fraud, and to clarify that Federal law enforcement agencies may assist State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies in the use of tracing tools for blockchain and related technology, 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,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Empowering Law Enforcement to Combat Financial Fraud Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ELIGIBLE FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS.—The term "eligible Federal grant funds" means funds received under the following:

(A) The Department of Justice Economic, High-Technology, White Collar, and Internet Crime Prevention National Training and Technical Assistance Program.

(B) The Department of Justice Information Sharing Training and Technical Assistance Program.

(C) The Department of Justice Internet of Things National Training and Technical Assistance Program.

(D) Section 1401 of the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (34 U.S.C. 30107; relating to Local Law Enforcement Grants for Enforcement of Cybercrimes Against Individuals).

(E) Section 2220A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 665g; relating to the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program).

1   (F) The National Cybersecurity Prepared-

2   ness Consortium Act of 2021 (6 U.S.C. 652

3   note; relating to the National Cybersecurity

4   Preparedness Consortium).

5   (G) The Department of Justice COPS

6   Technology and Equipment Program.

7   (2) GENERAL FINANCIAL FRAUD.—The term

8 "general financial fraud" means the intentional mis-

9 representation of information or identity to deceive

10 others, the unlawful use of a credit card, debit card,

11 or automated teller machine or the use of electronic

12 means to transmit deceptive information, in order to

13 obtain money or other things of value.

14   (3) PIG BUTCHERING.—The term "pig butch-

15 ering" means a confidence and investment fraud in

16 which the victim is gradually lured into making in-

17 creasing monetary contributions, generally in the

18 form of cryptocurrency, to a seemingly sound invest-

19 ment before the scammer disappears with the con-

20 tributed monies.

21   (4) SENIOR FINANCIAL FRAUD.—The term

22 "senior financial fraud" means the illegal or im-

23 proper use of an elderly or adult with a disability's

24 money, property, or other resources for monetary or

25 personal benefit, profit, or gain.

1 (5) STATE.—The term "State" means each of

2 the several States, the District of Columbia, and

3 each territory of the United States.

4 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL GRANTS USED FOR INVESTIGATING SEN-**

5 **IOR FINANCIAL FRAUD, PIG BUTCHERING,**

6 **AND GENERAL FINANCIAL FRAUD.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—State, local, and Tribal law en-

8 forcement agencies that receive eligible Federal grant

9 funds may use such funds for investigating senior finan-

10 cial fraud, pig butchering, and general financial fraud, in-

11 cluding by—

12 (1) hiring and retaining analysts, agents, ex-

13 perts, and other personnel;

14 (2) providing training specific to complex finan-

15 cial investigations, including training on—

16 (A) coordination and collaboration between

17 State, local, Tribal, and Federal law enforce-

18 ment agencies;

19 (B) assisting victims of financial fraud and

20 exploitation;

21 (C) the use of blockchain intelligence tools

22 and related capabilities related to emerging

23 technologies identified in the February 2024

24 "Critical and Emerging Technology List Up-

25 date" of the Fast Track Action Subcommittee

1 on Critical and Emerging Technologies of the

2 National Science and Technology Council (the

3 "Critical and Emerging Technology List"); and

4 (D) unique aspects of fraud investigations,

5 including transnational financial investigations

6 and emerging technologies identified in the

7 Critical and Emerging Technology List;

8 (3) obtaining software and technical tools to

9 conduct financial fraud and exploitation investiga-

10 tions; and

11 (4) encouraging improved data collection and

12 reporting.

13 (b) REPORT TO GRANT PROVIDER.—Each law en-

14 forcement agency that makes use of eligible Federal grant

15 funds for a purpose specified under subsection (a) shall,

16 not later than 1 year after making such use of the funds,

17 issue a report to the Federal agency that provided the eli-

18 gible Federal grant funds, containing—

19 (1) an explanation of the amount of funds so

20 used, and the specific purpose for which the funds

21 were used;

22 (2) statistics with respect to senior financial

23 fraud, pig butchering, and general financial fraud in

24 the jurisdiction of the law enforcement agency, along

25 with an analysis of how the use of the funds for a

1 purpose specified under subsection (a) affected such

2 statistics; and

3   (3) an assessment of the ability of the law en-

4 forcement agency to deter senior financial fraud, pig

5 butchering, and general financial fraud.

6 **SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

7 Each Federal agency that provides eligible Federal

8 grant funds that are used for a purpose specified under

9 section 3(a) shall issue an annual report to the Committee

10 on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and

11 the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

12 of the Senate containing the information received from law

13 enforcement agencies under section 3(b).

14 **SEC. 5. FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ASSIST-**

15   **ING STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL LAW EN-**

16   **FORCEMENT AND FUSION CENTERS.**

17 Federal law enforcement agencies may assist State,

18 local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies and fusion cen-

19 ters in the use of tracing tools for blockchain and related

20 technology tools.

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