

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 994

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 28, 2023

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. OSSOFF) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Strong Communities
5 Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. STRONG COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.**

2 Section 1701 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control
3 and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381) is amend-
4 ed—

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

7 (2) by inserting after subsection (l) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(m) COPS STRONG COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.—

10 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

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

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

20 “(ii) a local law enforcement agency
21 that offers a law enforcement training pro-
22 gram.

23 “(B) LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGEN-
24 CY.—The term ‘local law enforcement agency’
25 means an agency of a State, unit of local gov-
26 ernment, or Indian Tribe that is authorized by

1 law or by a government agency to engage in or
2 supervise the prevention, detection, investiga-
3 tion, or prosecution of any violation of criminal
4 law.

5 “(2) GRANTS.—The Attorney General may use
6 amounts otherwise appropriated to carry out this
7 section for a fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year
8 2023) to make competitive grants to local law en-
9 forcement agencies to be used for officers and re-
10 cruits to attend law enforcement training programs
11 at eligible entities if the officers and recruits agree
12 to serve in law enforcement agencies in their com-
13 munities.

14 “(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant
15 through a local law enforcement agency under this
16 subsection, each officer or recruit described in para-
17 graph (2) shall—

18 “(A) serve as a full-time law enforcement
19 officer for a total of not fewer than 4 years dur-
20 ing the 8-year period beginning on the date on
21 which the officer or recruit completes a law en-
22 forcement training program for which the offi-
23 cer or recruit receives benefits;

1 “(B) complete the service described in sub-
2 paragraph (A) in a local law enforcement agen-
3 cy located within—

4 “(i) 7 miles of the residence of the of-
5 ficer or recruit where the officer or recruit
6 has resided for not fewer than 5 years; or

7 “(ii) if the officer or recruit resides in
8 a county with fewer than 150,000 resi-
9 dents, within 20 miles of the residence of
10 the officer or recruit where the officer or
11 recruit has resided for not fewer than 5
12 years; and

13 “(C) submit to the eligible entity providing
14 a law enforcement training program to the offi-
15 cer or recruit evidence of employment of the of-
16 ficer or recruit in the form of a certification by
17 the chief administrative officer of the local law
18 enforcement agency where the officer or recruit
19 is employed.

20 “(4) REPAYMENT.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If an officer or recruit
22 does not complete the service described in para-
23 graph (3), the officer or recruit shall submit to
24 the local law enforcement agency an amount
25 equal to any benefits the officer or recruit re-

1 ceived through the local law enforcement agency
2 under this subsection.

3 “(B) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney Gen-
4 eral shall promulgate regulations that establish
5 categories of extenuating circumstances under
6 which an officer or recruit may be excused from
7 repayment under subparagraph (A).”.

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