

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 378

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide additional aggravating factors for the imposition of the death penalty based on the status of the victim.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 14, 2025

Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. EZELL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BOST, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. LALOTA, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. BACON, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. OBERNOLTE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide additional aggravating factors for the imposition of the death penalty based on the status of the victim.

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 “Thin Blue Line Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. AGGRAVATING FACTORS FOR DEATH PENALTY.**

6 Section 3592(c) of title 18, United States Code, is
7 amended by inserting after paragraph (16) the following:

1 “(17) KILLING OR TARGETING OF LAW EN-
2 FORCEMENT OFFICER.—

3 “(A) The defendant killed or attempted to
4 kill, in the circumstance described in subpara-
5 graph (B), a person who is authorized by law—

6 “(i) to engage in or supervise the pre-
7 vention, detention, investigation, or pros-
8 ecution, or the incarceration of any person
9 for any criminal violation of law;

10 “(ii) to apprehend, arrest, or pros-
11 ecute an individual for any criminal viola-
12 tion of law; or

13 “(iii) to be a firefighter or other first
14 responder.

15 “(B) The circumstance referred to in sub-
16 paragraph (A) is that the person was killed or
17 targeted—

18 “(i) while he or she was engaged in
19 the performance of his or her official du-
20 ties;

21 “(ii) because of the performance of his
22 or her official duties; or

23 “(iii) because of his or her status as
24 a public official or employee.”.

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