

(6) many State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, especially those in smaller communities and rural jurisdictions, need assistance in order to provide body armor for their officers.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this Act is to save lives of law enforcement officers by helping State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies provide those officers with armor vests.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ARMOR VEST.**—The term “armor vest” means body armor that has been tested through the voluntary compliance testing program operated by the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), and found to comply with the requirements of NIJ Standard 0101.03, or any subsequent revision of that standard.

(2) **BODY ARMOR.**—The term “body armor” means any product sold or offered for sale as personal protective body covering intended to protect against gunfire, stabbing, or other physical harm.

(3) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance of the Department of Justice.

(4) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian tribe” has the same meaning as in section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)).

(5) **LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.**—The term “law enforcement officer” means any officer, agent, or employee of a State, unit of local government, or Indian tribe authorized by law or by a government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, or investigation of any violation of criminal law, or authorized by law to supervise sentenced criminal offenders.

(6) **STATE.**—The term “State” means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(7) **UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**—The term “unit of local government” means a county, municipality, town, township, village, parish, borough, or other unit of general government below the State level.

SEC. 4. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

(a) **GRANT AUTHORIZATION.**—The Director may make grants to States, units of local government, and Indian tribes in accordance with this Act to purchase armor vests for use by State, local, and tribal law enforcement officers.

(b) **APPLICATIONS.**—Each State, unit of local government, or Indian tribe seeking to receive a grant under this section shall submit to the Director an application, in such form and containing such information as the Director may reasonably require.

(c) **USES OF FUNDS.**—Grant awards under this section shall be—

(1) distributed directly to the State, unit of local government, or Indian tribe; and

(2) used for the purchase of armor vests for law enforcement officers in the jurisdiction of the grantee.

(d) **PREFERENTIAL CONSIDERATION.**—In awarding grants under this section, the Director may give preferential consideration, where feasible, to applications from jurisdictions that—

(1) have a violent crime rate at or above the national average, as determined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

(2) have not been providing each law enforcement officer assigned to patrol or other hazardous duties with body armor.

(e) **MINIMUM AMOUNT.**—Unless all applications submitted by any State, unit of local government, or Indian tribe for a grant

under this section have been funded, each State, together with grantees within the State (other than Indian tribes), shall be allocated in each fiscal year under this section not less than 0.75 percent of the total amount appropriated in the fiscal year for grants pursuant to this section, except that the United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands shall each be allocated 0.25 percent.

(f) **MAXIMUM AMOUNT.**—A qualifying State, unit of local government, or Indian tribe may not receive more than 5 percent of the total amount appropriated in each fiscal year for grants under this section, except that a State, together with the grantees within the State may not receive more than 20 percent of the total amount appropriated in each fiscal year for grants under this section.

(g) **MATCHING FUNDS.**—The portion of the costs of a program provided by a grant under this section may not exceed 50 percent, unless the Director determines a case of fiscal hardship and waives, wholly or in part, the requirement under this subsection of a non-Federal contribution to the costs of a program.

(h) **ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.**—Not less than 50 percent of the funds awarded under this section in each fiscal year shall be allocated to units of local government, or Indian tribes, having jurisdiction over areas with populations of 100,000 or less.

(i) **REIMBURSEMENT.**—Grants under this section may be used to reimburse law enforcement officers who have previously purchased body armor with personal funds during a period in which body armor was not provided by the State, unit of local government, or Indian tribe.

SEC. 5. APPLICATIONS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall promulgate regulations to carry out this Act, which shall set forth the information that must be included in each application under section 4(b) and the requirements that States, units of local government, and Indian tribes must meet in order to receive a grant under section 4.

SEC. 6. PROHIBITION OF PRISON INMATE LABOR.

Any State, unit of local government, or Indian tribe that receives financial assistance provided using funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may not purchase equipment or products manufactured using prison inmate labor.

SEC. 7. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

In the case of any equipment or product authorized to be purchased with financial assistance provided using funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act, it is the sense of Congress that entities receiving the assistance should, in expending the assistance, purchase only American-made equipment and products.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2003 to carry out this Act.

MOTION OFFERED BY MR. MCCOLLUM

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. MCCOLLUM moves to strike all after the enacting clause of Senate 1605 and insert, in lieu thereof, H.R. 2829 as passed by the House.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The title of the Senate bill was amended so as to read: “A bill to estab-

lish a matching grant program to help State and local jurisdictions purchase armor vests for use by law enforcement departments.”

A similar House bill (H.R. 2829) was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, due to the illness of a member of my immediate family, I was unavoidably absent on Thursday, May 7, 1998, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 130 through 137.

Had I been present, I would have voted yes on rollcall 130, yes on rollcall 131, yes on rollcall 132, no on rollcall 133, no on rollcall 134, yes on rollcall 135, yes on rollcall 136, and no on rollcall 137.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 629, TEXAS LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL COMPACT CONSENT ACT

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Commerce, I move to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 629) to grant the consent of Congress to the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, insist on the House bill and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. DAN SCHAEFER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield 10 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BONILLA) and 10 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES), and I ask unanimous consent that they be permitted to control their own time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the motion before the House is a very simple one. It allows the House to go to conference with the Senate to resolve differences between the two versions of H.R. 629 that was passed by each body.

H.R. 629 would grant the consent of Congress to the Texas, Maine and Vermont Low-Level Radioactive Disposal Compact. This compact, like the nine others we have passed through Congress, has already been approved. It is necessary to allow these three States to fully comply with their responsibilities under the Federal Low-Level Radioactive Policy Act.

The act was passed as a part of an agreement with the States that they would be responsible for the disposal of low-level waste while the Federal Government would be responsible for high-level radioactive waste disposal. It is important for Congress to complete its work on this matter, and the motion is