

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1566

To improve security at State and local courthouses.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas (for himself and Mr. PIERLUISI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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

A BILL

To improve security at State and local courthouses.

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 “Local Courthouse Safe-
5 ty Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. SECURITY TRAINING.**

7 Part D of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and
8 Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3741 et seq.) is
9 amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 403. PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST LAW EN-**
2 **FORCEMENT AND ENSURING OFFICER RESIL-**
3 **IENCE AND SURVIVABILITY.**

4 “The Director may carry out a training and technical
5 assistance program designed to teach employees of State,
6 local, and tribal law enforcement agencies how to antici-
7 pate, survive, and respond to violent encounters during the
8 course of their duties, including duties relating to security
9 at State, county, and tribal courthouses. If the Director
10 offers a training program specifically designed to train
11 participants on courthouse security issues, preference for
12 admission into such program shall be given to employees
13 of jurisdictions that have magnetometers available for use
14 at their courthouses.”.

15 **SEC. 3. STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE.**

16 The State Justice Institute Act of 1984 is amended—

17 (1) in section 203(b)(1) (42 U.S.C.
18 10702(b)(1)), in the matter preceding subparagraph
19 (A), by inserting “, safe,” after “a fair”; and

20 (2) in section 206 (42 U.S.C. 10705)—

21 (A) in subsection (c)—

22 (i) in paragraph (14)—

23 (I) by inserting “to” before “con-
24 duct”; and

25 (II) by striking “and” at the end;

1 (ii) by redesignating paragraph (15)
2 as paragraph (16); and

3 (iii) by inserting after paragraph (14)
4 the following:

5 “(15) to improve the safety and security of
6 State and local courts; and”; and

7 (B) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(g) MAGNETOMETERS.—In the case of a grant
9 awarded under this section to be used as described in sub-
10 section (c)(15), if the State or local court applying for the
11 grant does not have magnetometers available for use, not
12 less than \$300 nor more than \$1,000 of the matching
13 fund required under subsection (d) of the State or local
14 court shall be used to acquire a magnetometer.”.

15 **SEC. 4. SECURITY EQUIPMENT.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 5 of
17 title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding after
18 section 559 the following:

19 **“§ 560. Surplus security equipment for State and**
20 **local courts**

21 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

22 “(1) the term ‘surplus security equipment’
23 means surplus property that is used to detect weap-
24 ons, including metal detectors, wands, and baggage
25 screening devices; and

1 “(2) the term ‘qualifying State or local court-
2 house’ means a courthouse of a State or local gov-
3 ernment that has less security equipment than the
4 security needs of the courthouse require.

5 “(b) DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS SECURITY EQUIP-
6 MENT.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
8 provision of this subchapter, the Administrator of
9 General Services shall ensure that a qualifying State
10 or local courthouse has an opportunity to request to
11 receive surplus security equipment for use at the
12 qualifying State or local courthouse before the sur-
13 plus security equipment is made available to any
14 other individual or entity under this subchapter.

15 “(2) DISPOSAL.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
17 graph (B), upon request by a qualifying State
18 or local courthouse for surplus security equip-
19 ment for use at the qualifying State or local
20 courthouse, the surplus security equipment shall
21 be made available to the qualifying State or
22 local courthouse without cost, except for any
23 costs of shipping, handling, and maintenance.

24 “(B) MULTIPLE REQUESTS.—If more than
25 1 qualifying State or local courthouse requests

1 a particular piece of surplus security equip-
2 ment, the surplus security equipment shall be
3 distributed based on need, as determined by the
4 Administrator of General Services, with priority
5 given to a qualifying State or local courthouse
6 that has no security equipment.”.

7 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
8 The table of sections for chapter 5 of title 40, United
9 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-
10 ing to section 559 the following:

“560. Surplus security equipment for State and local courts.”.

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