

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5029

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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2023

Mr. MORAN (for himself, Ms. ROSS, Mr. HUNT, Mr. PFLUGER, and Mr. IVEY) introduced the following bill; which was 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 by adding at the end the following:

5 “(o) COPS STRONG COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.—

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

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

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

16 “(ii) a local law enforcement agency
17 that offers a law enforcement training pro-
18 gram.

19 “(B) LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGEN-
20 CY.—The term ‘local law enforcement agency’
21 means an agency of a State, unit of local gov-
22 ernment, or Indian Tribe that is authorized by
23 law or by a government agency to engage in or
24 supervise the prevention, detection, investiga-
25 tion, or prosecution of any violation of criminal
26 law.

1 “(2) GRANTS.—The Attorney General may use
2 amounts otherwise appropriated to carry out this
3 section for a fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year
4 2023) to make competitive grants to local law en-
5 forcement agencies to be used for officers and re-
6 cruits to attend law enforcement training programs
7 at eligible entities if the officers and recruits agree
8 to serve in law enforcement agencies in their com-
9 munities.

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

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

20 “(B) complete the service described in sub-
21 paragraph (A) in a local law enforcement agen-
22 cy located within—

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

1 “(ii) if the officer or recruit resides in
2 a county with fewer than 150,000 resi-
3 dents, within 20 miles of the residence of
4 the officer or recruit where the officer or
5 recruit has resided for not fewer than 5
6 years; and

7 “(C) submit to the eligible entity providing
8 a law enforcement training program to the offi-
9 cer or recruit evidence of employment of the of-
10 ficer or recruit in the form of a certification by
11 the chief administrative officer of the local law
12 enforcement agency where the officer or recruit
13 is employed.

14 “(4) REPAYMENT.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If an officer or recruit
16 does not complete the service described in para-
17 graph (3), the officer or recruit shall submit to
18 the local law enforcement agency an amount
19 equal to any benefits the officer or recruit re-
20 ceived through the local law enforcement agency
21 under this subsection.

22 “(B) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney Gen-
23 eral shall promulgate regulations that establish
24 categories of extenuating circumstances under

1 which an officer or recruit may be excused from
2 repayment under subparagraph (A).”.

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