

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 847

To provide funding to State and local law enforcement agencies to combat auto theft and stolen automobile trafficking, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2023

Ms. SHERRILL (for herself, Mr. BACON, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, and Mr. TRONE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide funding to State and local law enforcement agencies to combat auto theft and stolen automobile trafficking, and for other purposes.

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 “Auto Theft Prevention
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AUTO THEFT PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the
9 Office of Community Oriented Policing Services of the De-

1 department of Justice shall establish an auto theft preven-
2 tion grant program (in this Act referred to as the “Pro-
3 gram”) to provide funding to State law enforcement agen-
4 cies and local law enforcement agencies to combat auto
5 theft and stolen vehicle trafficking.

6 (b) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The Director shall make
7 grants under the Program to the Attorney General of each
8 State, with the amount awarded proportional to the overall
9 level of auto thefts within each State in the year prior
10 to the date of the disbursement of the grant.

11 (c) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—

12 (1) LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.—
13 The Attorney General of a State shall make at least
14 50 percent of a grant awarded under the Program
15 available as competitive subgrants to local law en-
16 forcement agencies to combat auto theft, with the
17 amount awarded determined by prioritizing localities
18 with a higher overall level of auto thefts in the year
19 prior to the date of the disbursement of the grant.

20 (2) STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.—
21 The Attorney General of a State shall make at least
22 25 percent of a grant awarded under the Program
23 available to State law enforcement agencies to com-
24 bat auto theft.

1 (3) OTHER AMOUNTS.—The Attorney General
2 of a State shall make any proportion of the grant
3 awarded under the Program not allocated under
4 paragraph (1) or (2) available as competitive sub-
5 grants to local law enforcement agencies or to State
6 law enforcement agencies. Any subgrant made under
7 this paragraph to a local law enforcement agency
8 shall follow the prioritization under paragraph (1).

9 (d) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—Amounts from a grant
10 awarded under the Program may only be used for the pur-
11 pose of combating auto theft and combating stolen auto-
12 mobile trafficking, including—

13 (1) purchasing equipment used to combat auto
14 theft, such as law enforcement vehicles and license
15 plate readers, and funding costs associated with that
16 equipment, such as subscription fees and data stor-
17 age fees for license plate readers;

18 (2) hiring additional law enforcement officers
19 and support staff to combat auto theft;

20 (3) funding overtime costs and additional com-
21 pensation for law enforcement officers and support
22 staff involved in combating auto theft;

23 (4) providing training for law enforcement offi-
24 cers and support staff to combat auto theft;

1 “(22) to combat auto thefts and stolen auto-
2 mobile trafficking by purchasing equipment, hiring
3 law enforcement officers and support staff, covering
4 overtime and officer compensation costs, expanding
5 access to training initiatives, funding joint task
6 forces, and funding law enforcement data collection
7 and research activities related to auto thefts;”.

8 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The
11 term “local law enforcement agency” means any en-
12 tity administered by a locality that exists primarily
13 to prevent and detect crime and enforce criminal
14 laws.

15 (2) LOCALITY.—The term “locality” means any
16 city, county, township, town, borough, parish, vil-
17 lage, or other general purpose political subdivision of
18 a State.

19 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means any
20 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
21 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-
22 lands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Common-
23 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

24 (4) STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The
25 term “State law enforcement agency” means any

- 1 State entity that exists primarily to prevent and de-
- 2 tect crime and enforce criminal laws.

○