

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 72

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 4, 2021

Mr. BUCHANAN 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:

8 “(17) KILLING OR TARGETING OF LAW EN-
9 FORCEMENT OFFICER.—

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

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

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

11 “(iii) to be a firefighter or other first
12 responder.

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

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

19 “(ii) because of the performance of his
20 or her official duties; or

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

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