

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9188

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

OCTOBER 14, 2022

Ms. SHERRILL (for herself, Mr. BACON, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. CARBAJAL, 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 partment 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 determined by prioritizing
9 States with a higher rate of auto thefts as determined by
10 an equal weighting of the—

11 (1) rate of auto thefts faced by the State in the
12 year prior to the date of enactment of this Act; and

13 (2) percentage increase in auto thefts between
14 the year that is three years prior to the date of the
15 enactment of this Act and the year prior to the date
16 of the enactment of this Act.

17 (c) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—

18 (1) LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.—

19 The Attorney General of a State shall make at least
20 50 percent of a grant awarded under subsection (b)
21 available as competitive subgrants to local law en-
22 forcement agencies to combat auto theft, with the
23 amount awarded determined by prioritizing localities
24 with a higher rate of auto theft as determined by an
25 equal weighting of the—

1 (A) rate of auto thefts faced by the locality
2 in the year prior to the date of enactment of
3 this Act; and

4 (B) percentage increase in auto thefts be-
5 tween three years prior to the date of the enact-
6 ment of this Act and the year prior to the date
7 of the enactment of this Act.

8 (2) STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.—
9 The Attorney General of a State shall make at least
10 25 percent of a grant awarded under subsection (b)
11 available as competitive grants to State law enforce-
12 ment agencies to combat auto theft.

13 (3) OTHER AMOUNTS.—The Attorney General
14 of a State shall make any proportion of the grant
15 awarded under subsection (b) not allocated under
16 paragraph (1) or (2) available as competitive sub-
17 grants to local law enforcement agencies or competi-
18 tive grants to State law enforcement agencies. Any
19 subgrant made under this paragraph to a local law
20 enforcement agency shall follow the prioritization
21 pursuant to paragraph (1).

22 (d) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—Amounts from a grant
23 awarded under subsection (b) may only be used for the
24 purpose of combating auto theft and combating stolen
25 automobile trafficking, including—

1 (1) purchasing equipment used to combat auto
2 theft, such as law enforcement vehicles and license
3 plate readers;

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

6 (3) funding overtime costs and additional com-
7 pensation for law enforcement officers and support
8 staff involved in combating auto theft;

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

11 (5) providing resources for joint task forces es-
12 tablished to combat auto theft; and

13 (6) funding law enforcement data collection and
14 research activities related to combating auto theft.

15 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
16 authorized to be appropriated \$30,000,000 for each of fis-
17 cal years 2023 through 2027 to carry out the Program.

18 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZED USES OF COPS GRANT**
19 **PROGRAM FUNDS.**

20 Section 1701(b) of the Omnibus Crime Control and
21 Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381(b)) is amend-
22 ed—

23 (1) by redesignating paragraph (23) as para-
24 graph (24);

25 (2) in paragraph (22)—

1 (A) by striking “(21)” and inserting
2 “(22)”; and

3 (B) by redesignating paragraph (22) as
4 paragraph (23); and

5 (3) by inserting after paragraph (21), the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(22) to combat auto thefts and combat stolen
8 automobile trafficking by purchasing equipment, hir-
9 ing law enforcement officers and support staff, cov-
10 ering overtime and officer compensation costs, ex-
11 panding access to training initiatives, funding joint
12 task forces, and funding law enforcement data col-
13 lection and research activities related to auto
14 thefts;”.

15 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

16 For purposes of this Act:

17 (1) **LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.**—The
18 term “local law enforcement agency” means any en-
19 tity administered by a locality that exists primarily
20 to prevent and detect crime and enforce criminal
21 laws.

22 (2) **LOCALITY.**—The term “locality” means any
23 city, county, township, town, borough, parish, vil-
24 lage, or other general purpose political subdivision of
25 a State.

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

6 (4) STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The
7 term “State law enforcement agency” means any
8 State entity that exists primarily to prevent and de-
9 tect crime and enforce criminal laws.

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