

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3509

To augment the salaries of State and local law enforcement officers and promote officer hiring and retention, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 18, 2023

Mr. LAHOOD (for himself and Mr. BOST) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To augment the salaries of State and local law enforcement officers and promote officer hiring and retention, 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 “David Dorn Thin Blue
5 Line Retention Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY FUNDING REFORM.**

7 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—Part W of title I of the Omni-
8 bus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34
9 U.S.C. 10491 et seq.) is amended—

10 (1) in section 2301 (34 U.S.C. 10491)—

1 (A) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at
2 the end;

3 (B) in paragraph (6), by striking the pe-
4 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(7) provide programs to support the hiring
7 and retention of law enforcement personnel and aug-
8 ment the salaries of law enforcement personnel em-
9 ployed by cooperating State and local law enforce-
10 ment agencies or organizations.”;

11 (2) in section 2302 (34 U.S.C. 10492), by in-
12 serting before the period at the end the following: “,
13 or in the case of State and local law enforcement
14 agencies, to support the hiring and retention of law
15 enforcement personnel and augment wages paid to
16 law enforcement personnel”;

17 (3) in section 2303 (34 U.S.C. 10493)—

18 (A) in subsection (a), by inserting before
19 the period at the end the following: “, or to
20 support the hiring and retention of law enforce-
21 ment personnel and to augment wages paid to
22 law enforcement personnel”;

23 (B) in subsection (b), in the matter pre-
24 ceding paragraph (1), by inserting before the
25 colon the following: “, unless supporting the

1 hiring and retention of law enforcement per-
2 sonnel or augmenting wages in accordance with
3 subsection (d)”; and

4 (C) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(d) HIRING AND RETENTION OF LAW ENFORCE-
6 MENT PERSONNEL.—A law enforcement agency or organi-
7 zation that receives funds under this part may use the
8 funds for activities and programs to hire and pay addi-
9 tional law enforcement personnel or to retain existing per-
10 sonnel.

11 “(e) AUGMENTATION OF WAGES.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A law enforcement agency
13 or organization that receives funds under this part
14 may use the funds to augment the salaries of law
15 enforcement personnel, up to an amount equal to
16 110 percent of the State real median household in-
17 come of the preceding year, as estimated by the
18 United States Census Bureau.

19 “(2) REQUIREMENT.—A law enforcement agen-
20 cy or organization shall not be eligible to receive
21 funds under this part for the purpose described in
22 paragraph (1) if the agency or organization reduced
23 the salaries of law enforcement personnel during the
24 calendar year immediately preceding the application
25 for funds for the sole purpose of dismantling law en-

1 enforcement agencies or organizations pursuant to a
2 State or local policy.

3 “(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
4 paragraph (2) shall be construed to affect the eligi-
5 bility of any law enforcement agency or organization
6 that reduces the salaries of law enforcement per-
7 sonnel due to budget constraints that are imple-
8 mented as a result of the COVID–19 pandemic.”;

9 (4) in section 2304(1) (34 U.S.C. 10494(1)), by
10 inserting “, unless Federal funds are sought for the
11 purpose of personnel hiring, personnel retention, or
12 wage augmentation,” after “certify”; and

13 (5) in section 2305 (34 U.S.C. 10495(b))—

14 (A) by striking “The Attorney General
15 may award” and inserting the following:

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
17 graph (2), the Attorney General may award”; and

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

19 “(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not
20 apply to grants sought for the purpose of personnel
21 hiring, personnel retention, or wage augmentation.”.

22 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
23 1001(21) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe
24 Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10261(21)) is amended
25 by striking “\$7,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2020

1 through 2024.” and inserting “\$15,000,000,000 for each
2 of fiscal years 2024 through 2028, of which any funds
3 appropriated in excess of \$7,500,000 shall be used for the
4 hiring and retention of law enforcement officers and the
5 augmentation of wages as described in such part.”.

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