

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4231

To amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reduce the rate of occurrence of homicides and violent crimes in violent and drug crime zones.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 8, 2009

Mr. CAO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reduce the rate of occurrence of homicides and violent crimes in violent and drug crime zones.

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 “Safe Cities Act of  
5 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. CREATION OF AND ASSISTANCE FOR VIOLENT AND**  
2 **DRUG CRIME ZONES.**

3 Title XXI of the Violent Crime Control and Law En-  
4 forcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14061 et seq.) is  
5 amended by adding at the end the following new subtitle:

6 **“Subtitle E—Coordination With**  
7 **Federal Agencies to Curb Vio-**  
8 **lent Crime**

9 **“SEC. 21501. CREATION OF AND ASSISTANCE FOR VIOLENT**  
10 **AND DRUG CRIME ZONES.**

11 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section the following  
12 definitions shall apply:

13 “(1) GOVERNOR.—The term ‘Governor’ means  
14 a Governor or other chief executive officer of a State  
15 or the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

16 “(2) VIOLENT AND DRUG CRIME ZONE.—The  
17 term ‘Violent and Drug Crime Zone’ means a metro-  
18 politan area within a State or multiple States that  
19 is designated as having rates of homicides, violent  
20 felonies, sex offenses, drug and gang-related crimes  
21 that are high in proportion to the national average  
22 rates of such crimes, as determined by the most re-  
23 cent available data of the Federal Bureau of Inves-  
24 tigation and the National Incident Based Reporting  
25 System maintained by the uniform crime reporting  
26 program of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. For

1 purposes of the previous sentence, rates of a crime  
2 for an area shall be treated as high in proportion to  
3 the national average rates of such crime if such  
4 rates for the area are greater than 5 times the na-  
5 tional average rates.

6 “(3) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means a State  
7 of the United States, the District of Columbia, and  
8 any commonwealth, territory, or possession of the  
9 United States.

10 “(b) VIOLENT AND DRUG CRIME ZONES.—

11 “(1) DESIGNATION.—The Attorney General,  
12 after consultation with the Governor of each appro-  
13 priate State and with relevant Federal agencies, may  
14 designate as a Violent and Drug Crime Zone, any  
15 specified area that is located within 1 or more  
16 States, based on the criteria for designation under  
17 paragraph (4).

18 “(2) ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATION.—In  
19 order to provide Federal assistance to Violent and  
20 Drug Crime Zones, the Attorney General shall, upon  
21 consultation with appropriate State and relevant  
22 local and Federal law enforcement agencies—

23 “(A) establish a drug and violent crime  
24 intervention team in each Violent and Drug  
25 Crime Zone, which will consist of local, State,

1 and relevant Federal law enforcement authori-  
2 ties, for the coordinated investigation, appre-  
3 hension, and prosecution of criminal activity in  
4 such zone;

5 “(B) ensure the establishment of a Safe  
6 Cities Task Force described in subsection (c)  
7 for each Violent and Drug Crime Zone;

8 “(C) coordinate with appropriate Federal  
9 agencies the temporary reassignment of per-  
10 sonnel to the intervention team established  
11 under subparagraph (A);

12 “(D) provide funding or create funding  
13 partnership opportunities with one or more  
14 States for the operation of such intervention  
15 teams; and

16 “(E) require reporting from such interven-  
17 tion teams to share intelligence and best prac-  
18 tices.

19 “(3) COMPOSITION OF DRUG AND VIOLENT  
20 CRIME INTERVENTION TEAMS.—Each drug and vio-  
21 lent crime intervention team established pursuant to  
22 paragraph (2)(A) shall consist of agents and offi-  
23 cers, where feasible, from—

24 “(A) the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

1           “(B) the Drug Enforcement Administra-  
2           tion;

3           “(C) the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Fire-  
4           arms, and Explosives; and

5           “(D) other relevant Federal agencies, as  
6           determined by the Attorney General in con-  
7           sultation with local law enforcement agencies in  
8           the relevant area designated under paragraph  
9           (1).

10          “(4) CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION.—In consid-  
11          ering an area for designation as a Drug and Violent  
12          Crime Zone under this section, the Attorney General  
13          shall consider—

14                 “(A) the current levels of homicides, vio-  
15                 lent crimes, sex crimes, and drug-related and  
16                 gang-related crimes in the zone;

17                 “(B) the extent to which State and local  
18                 law enforcement agencies have committed and  
19                 need additional resources to respond to the  
20                 crimes described in subparagraph (A);

21                 “(C) the extent to which a significant in-  
22                 crease in the allocation of Federal resources  
23                 would enhance local response to the crimes de-  
24                 scribed in subparagraph (A); and

1                   “(D) any other criteria deemed appropriate  
2                   by the Attorney General.

3                   “(5) TRAINING AND TRANSFER OF BEST PRAC-  
4                   TICES.—Federal agency personnel who participate in  
5                   a drug and violent crime intervention team under  
6                   this subsection shall, as a condition of such partici-  
7                   pation, develop and submit to the Attorney General  
8                   best practice reports. The Attorney General shall  
9                   provide for such best practice reports, as well as  
10                  other intelligence and knowledge-transfer opportuni-  
11                  ties, to be shared with State and local law enforce-  
12                  ment agencies to enable such agencies to replicate  
13                  the best practices of the intervention teams.

14                  “(c) SAFE CITIES TASK FORCES.—

15                  “(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be established,  
16                  for each Violent and Drug Crimes Zone, a Safe Cit-  
17                  ies Task Force.

18                  “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—Each Safe Cities Task  
19                  Force, with respect to a Violent and Drug Crimes  
20                  Zone, shall consist of not more than 8 members, in-  
21                  cluding the Mayor involved, Chief of Police or equiv-  
22                  alent, Governor of the applicable State, the city at-  
23                  torney (or equivalent) involved, and representatives  
24                  from Federal law enforcement agencies as deter-  
25                  mined appropriate by the Attorney General.

1           “(3) DUTIES.—The duties of each Safe Cities  
2 Task Force shall include the following:

3           “(A) Oversight of funding expenditures re-  
4 lated to the creation and work of the drug and  
5 violent crime intervention team for the zone in-  
6 volved.

7           “(B) Assistance with coordination of such  
8 intervention team.

9           “(C) Outreach to affected communities  
10 within the zone served by such intervention  
11 team, as needed.

12       “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
13 are authorized to be appropriated from the Violent Crime  
14 Reduction Trust Fund such sums as may be necessary to  
15 carry out this section.”.

16 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR COM-**  
17 **MUNITY-BASED JUSTICE GRANTS FOR PROS-**  
18 **ECUTORS.**

19       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 31707 of the Violent  
20 Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42  
21 U.S.C. 13867) is amended to read as follows:

22 **“SEC. 31707. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

23       “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
24 this subtitle \$15,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2010  
25 through 2013 .”.

1 (b) INCREASE IN PROSECUTORS FOR INTERVENTION  
2 TEAM EFFORTS.—Section 31702 of the Violent Crime  
3 Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C.  
4 14211) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the  
6 end;

7 (2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at  
8 the end and inserting “; and”; and

9 (3) adding at the end the following new para-  
10 graph:

11 “(6) to fund programs that would increase the  
12 number of prosecutors available to work with efforts  
13 of drug and violent crime intervention teams under  
14 section 21501, as determined necessary by the At-  
15 torney General in consultation with appropriate Fed-  
16 eral agencies and local law enforcement.”.

17 **SEC. 4. GRANTS TO STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
18 **TO ESTABLISH STATE-WIDE CRIME PREVEN-**  
19 **TION DATABASES.**

20 Subtitle I of title XXXII of the Violent Crime Control  
21 and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 is amended by adding  
22 at the end the following new section:



1 **“SEC. 320936. GRANTS TO STATE AND LOCAL LAW EN-**  
2 **FORCEMENT TO ESTABLISH STATE-WIDE**  
3 **CRIME PREVENTION DATABASES.**

4       “(a) **AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS.**—The Office of  
5 Justice Programs of the Department of Justice shall  
6 award grants, in accordance with such regulations as the  
7 Attorney General may prescribe, to State and local pro-  
8 grams designed to establish and maintain a State-wide  
9 database to track criminals, arrests, prosecutions, and  
10 convictions.

11       “(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There  
12 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be  
13 necessary to carry out this section.”.

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