

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6198

To support infrastructure investment in small law enforcement agencies and small fire departments.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 2, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS (for himself, Ms. LETLOW, and Mr. KEAN of New Jersey) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To support infrastructure investment in small law enforcement agencies and small fire departments.

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 “Building Up Infra-
5 structure for Local Departments Act of 2023” or the
6 “BUILD Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. BUILDING UP INFRASTRUCTURE FOR LOCAL DE-**
2 **PARTMENTS GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) GRANT PROGRAM.—Title I of the Omnibus Crime
4 Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 is amended by add-
5 ing at the end the following:

6 **“PART PP—BUILDING UP INFRASTRUCTURE FOR**
7 **LOCAL DEPARTMENTS GRANT PROGRAM**

8 **“SEC. 3061. GRANT AUTHORIZATION.**

9 “The Attorney General is authorized to make grants
10 to State and local law enforcement agencies that serve ju-
11 risdictions with fewer than 50,000 residents for use in ac-
12 cordance with section 3062.

13 **“SEC. 3062. USE OF FUNDS.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available to a State
15 or local law enforcement agency under this part shall be
16 used for a project to modify, upgrade, or construct a facil-
17 ity of the law enforcement agency, which project shall have
18 a substantial nexus to—

19 “(1) the improvement of the provision of emer-
20 gency services;

21 “(2) the training and development of law en-
22 forcement officers;

23 “(3) the recruitment and retention of law en-
24 forcement officers;

25 “(4) community engagement; or

26 “(5) the improvement of community safety.

1 “(b) CLARIFICATION.—A portion of a project to mod-
2 ify, upgrade, or construct a facility of law enforcement
3 agency that does not have a substantial nexus to any of
4 paragraphs (1) through (5), such portion may not use
5 funds made available under this part.

6 **“SEC. 3063. APPLICATION.**

7 “The head of a State or local law enforcement agency
8 seeking a grant under this part shall submit to the Attor-
9 ney General at such time and containing such information
10 as the Attorney General may reasonably require, including
11 an estimate of the cost of the project for which the grant
12 will be used, as well as a demonstration of financial need
13 for the grant.

14 **“SEC. 3064. DUTIES OF ATTORNEY GENERAL.**

15 “(a) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 120 days after the
16 date of enactment of this part, the Attorney General shall
17 issue guidance to carry out the grant program under this
18 part.

19 “(b) DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.—The Attor-
20 ney General shall distribute information about the grant
21 program under this part to eligible State and local law
22 enforcement agencies.

23 “(c) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding
24 grants under this part, the Attorney General shall ensure,

1 to the extent practicable, an equitable geographic distribu-
2 tion among the regions of the United States.

3 “(d) REPORT.—On the date that is 2 years after the
4 date of enactment of this part, and biannually thereafter
5 until the date that is 6 years after the date of enactment
6 of this part, the Attorney General shall submit to Con-
7 gress and make publicly available a report on the grant
8 program under this part.

9 **“SEC. 3065. GRANT AMOUNT.**

10 “A grant under this part may not exceed \$4,000,000.

11 **“SEC. 3066. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12 “There is authorized to be appropriated to the Attor-
13 ney General to carry out this section \$250,000,000 for
14 each of fiscal years 2024 through 2026.”.

15 (b) REPORTS.—

16 (1) ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney Gen-
17 eral shall periodically conduct and publish a study of
18 the met and unmet construction and renovation
19 needs of a national sample of law enforcement agen-
20 cies. Such study may be conducted as a supplement
21 to the Law Enforcement Management and Adminis-
22 trative Statistics program operated by the Bureau of
23 Justice Statistics.

24 (2) GAO.—Not later than 180 days after the
25 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller Gen-

1 eral of the United States shall conduct a study on
2 the sufficiency of existing capital infrastructure for
3 law enforcement agencies serving jurisdictions with
4 fewer than 50,000 residents, including the met and
5 unmet construction and renovation needs of such
6 law enforcement agencies. Such report shall include
7 projections relating to such needs over the following
8 periods:

9 (A) One to five years.

10 (B) Five to ten years.

11 (C) More than ten years.

12 **SEC. 3. BUILDING UP INFRASTRUCTURE FOR LOCAL DE-**
13 **PARTMENTS—FIRE GRANT PROGRAM.**

14 (a) **GRANT AUTHORIZATION.**—The Administrator is
15 authorized to make grants to entities described in sub-
16 section (b) to modify, upgrade, or construct fire depart-
17 ment facilities.

18 (b) **ENTITIES DESCRIBED.**—Entities described in
19 this subsection are career fire departments, combination
20 fire departments, and volunteer fire departments which
21 serve jurisdictions of 50,000 people or fewer.

22 (c) **DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.**—The Adminis-
23 trator shall distribute to entities described in subsection
24 (b) information regarding the grant program.

1 (d) APPLICATIONS.—An entity described in sub-
2 section (b) seeking a grant under this section shall submit
3 to the Administrator an application at such time and con-
4 taining such information as the Administrator may rea-
5 sonably require, including the size of the jurisdiction
6 served by such applicant, an estimate of the cost of the
7 project for which the grant will be used, and a demonstra-
8 tion of financial need for the grant.

9 (e) USES OF FUNDS.—In carrying out the purpose
10 described in subsection (a), a recipient of a grant under
11 this section may use funds received for the following:

12 (1) The improvement of the provision of emer-
13 gency services, including either firefighting or affili-
14 ated EMS capabilities.

15 (2) The training and development of fire-
16 fighting or EMS personnel.

17 (3) The recruitment and retention of such per-
18 sonnel, including by improving safety.

19 (4) Community engagement.

20 (5) The improvement of community safety.

21 (f) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding grants
22 under this part, the Administrator shall ensure, to the ex-
23 tent practicable, an equitable geographic distribution
24 among the regions of the United States.

1 (g) GRANT AMOUNT.—A grant under this section
2 may not exceed \$4,000,000.

3 (h) REPORTS ON GRANTS.—Not later than two years
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act and biennially
5 thereafter for six years, the Administrator shall submit to
6 Congress and make publicly available a report on grants
7 made under this section.

8 (i) REPORTS ON CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION
9 NEEDS.—

10 (1) FEMA.—To the greatest extent possible,
11 the Administrator shall periodically conduct and
12 publish a study of the met and unmet construction
13 and renovation needs of a national sample of career
14 fire departments, combination fire departments, and
15 volunteer fire departments.

16 (2) GAO.—Not later than 180 days after the
17 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
18 General of the United States shall submit to Con-
19 gress and make publicly available a report on the
20 sufficiency of existing capital infrastructure for ca-
21 reer fire departments, combination fire departments,
22 and volunteer fire departments nationwide serving
23 jurisdictions with fewer than 50,000 residents, in-
24 cluding the met and unmet construction and renova-
25 tion needs and the provision of emergency services.

1 Such report shall include projections relating to such
2 needs and services over the following periods:

3 (A) One to five years.

4 (B) Five to ten years.

5 (C) More than ten years.

6 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
7 authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator
8 \$250,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2026
9 to carry out this section.

10 (k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
12 trator” means the Administrator of the Federal
13 Emergency Management Agency.

14 (2) CAREER FIRE DEPARTMENT.—The term
15 “career fire department” means a fire department
16 that has an all-paid force of firefighting personnel
17 other than paid-on-call firefighters.

18 (3) COMBINATION FIRE DEPARTMENT.—The
19 term “combination fire department” means a fire
20 department that has—

21 (A) paid firefighting personnel; and

22 (B) volunteer firefighting personnel.

23 (4) EMS.—The term “EMS” means emergency
24 medical services.

1 (5) VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.—The
2 term “volunteer fire department” means a fire de-
3 partment that has an all-volunteer force of fire-
4 fighting personnel.

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