

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6521

To authorize a Law Enforcement Education Grant program to encourage students to pursue a career in law enforcement.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 30, 2023

Mrs. FISCHBACH (for herself, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To authorize a Law Enforcement Education Grant program to encourage students to pursue a career in law enforcement.

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 “Law Enforcement
5 Education Grant Program Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 Part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of
8 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) is amended by inserting
9 at the end of subpart 7 the following new subpart:

1 **“Subpart 8—Law Enforcement Education Grants**

2 **“SEC. 420. LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION GRANT PRO-**
3 **GRAM ESTABLISHED.**

4 “(a) PROGRAM AUTHORITY.—

5 “(1) PAYMENTS REQUIRED.—The Secretary is
6 authorized to carry out a Law Enforcement Edu-
7 cation Grants program to pay to each law enforce-
8 ment candidate who is selected by the Secretary, on
9 a competitive basis, to participate in such program,
10 a Law Enforcement Education Grant in the amount
11 of \$4,000 for each year during which that candidate
12 is eligible.

13 “(2) REFERENCES.—Grants made under para-
14 graph (1) shall be known as ‘Law Enforcement Edu-
15 cation Grants’.

16 “(3) FUNDING.—Of the amounts otherwise au-
17 thorized to be appropriated to carry out this title,
18 such sums as may be necessary are authorized to be
19 made available to carry out this subpart, except
20 that—

21 “(A) none of the sums made available to
22 carry out this subpart may be derived from
23 amounts authorized to be appropriated to carry
24 out the Federal Pell Grants program under sec-
25 tion 401 or the Federal Direct Loan Program
26 under part D; and

1 “(B) to the extent that insufficient
2 amounts are made available in any fiscal year
3 to carry out all programs authorized under this
4 title, the Secretary shall give priority to fully
5 funding the program under this subpart.

6 “(b) DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS TO LAW ENFORCE-
7 MENT CANDIDATES.—Payments under this subpart shall
8 be made, in accordance with regulations promulgated by
9 the Secretary for such purpose, in such manner as will
10 best accomplish the purposes of this subpart.

11 “(c) REDUCTIONS IN AMOUNT.—

12 “(1) PART-TIME STUDENTS.—In any case
13 where a law enforcement candidate attends an eligi-
14 ble institution on less than a full-time basis (includ-
15 ing a law enforcement candidate who attends an eli-
16 gible institution on less than a half-time basis) dur-
17 ing any year, the amount of a grant under this sub-
18 part for which that law enforcement candidate is eli-
19 gible shall be reduced in proportion to the degree to
20 which that law enforcement candidate is not attend-
21 ing on a full-time basis, in accordance with a sched-
22 ule of reductions established by the Secretary for the
23 purposes of this subpart, computed in accordance
24 with this subpart. Such schedule of reductions shall
25 be established by regulation and published in the

1 Federal Register in accordance with section 482 of
2 this Act.

3 “(2) NO EXCEEDING COST.—The amount of a
4 grant awarded under this subpart, in combination
5 with Federal student assistance and other student
6 assistance the law enforcement candidate may re-
7 ceive, shall not exceed the cost of attendance (as de-
8 fined in section 472) at the eligible institution at
9 which that law enforcement candidate is in attend-
10 ance.

11 “(d) PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The period during which a
13 student may receive grants under this subpart shall
14 be the period required for the completion of the first
15 associate or baccalaureate course of study related to
16 law enforcement or criminal justice being pursued by
17 the law enforcement candidate at the eligible institu-
18 tion at which the law enforcement candidate is in at-
19 tendance, except that—

20 “(A) any period during which the law en-
21 forcement candidate is enrolled in a noncredit
22 or remedial course of study as described in
23 paragraph (2) shall not be counted for the pur-
24 pose of this paragraph; and

1 “(B) the total amount that a law enforce-
2 ment candidate may receive under this subpart
3 shall not exceed \$16,000.

4 “(2) REMEDIAL COURSE.—Nothing in this sub-
5 part shall be construed to exclude from eligibility
6 courses of study which are noncredit or remedial in
7 nature (including courses in English language acqui-
8 sition) which are determined by the eligible institu-
9 tion to be necessary to help the law enforcement
10 candidate be prepared for the pursuit of a first asso-
11 ciate or baccalaureate degree or, in the case of
12 courses in English language instruction, to be nec-
13 essary to enable the law enforcement candidate to
14 utilize already existing knowledge, training, or skills.

15 **“SEC. 421. APPLICATIONS; ELIGIBILITY; SELECTION.**

16 “(a) APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall periodi-
17 cally set dates by which students shall file applications to
18 complete for grants under this subpart. Each student de-
19 siring to compete for a grant under this subpart for any
20 year shall file an application containing such information
21 and assurances as the Secretary may determine necessary
22 to enable the Secretary to carry out the functions and re-
23 sponsibilities of this subpart.

24 “(b) DEMONSTRATION OF GRANT ELIGIBILITY.—
25 Each application submitted under subsection (a) shall con-

1 tain such information as is necessary to demonstrate that
2 the applicant is a student who—

3 “(1) is enrolled at an eligible institution;

4 “(2) is an eligible student for purposes of sec-
5 tion 484;

6 “(3) is completing coursework and other re-
7 quirements necessary to begin a career in law en-
8 forcement or criminal justice, or plans to complete
9 such coursework and requirements prior to grad-
10 uating; and

11 “(4) has not obtained an associate or baccalaureate
12 degree related to law enforcement or criminal
13 justice before receiving a Law Enforcement Edu-
14 cation grant.

15 “(c) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall award grants
16 under this subpart competitively on the basis of criteria
17 determined by the Secretary by regulation.

18 **“SEC. 422. AGREEMENTS TO SERVE.**

19 “(a) SERVICE AGREEMENTS.—Each application
20 under section 421(a) shall contain or be accompanied by
21 an agreement by the applicant that—

22 “(1) if selected to be a law enforcement can-
23 didate, the applicant will—

24 “(A) serve as a full-time law enforcement
25 officer for a total of not less than 4 years with-

1 in 8 years after completing the course of study
2 for which the candidate received a Law En-
3 forcement Education Grant under this subpart;
4 and

5 “(B) submit evidence of such employment
6 in the form of a certification by the chief officer
7 of the law enforcement agency or department
8 employing the candidate upon completion of
9 each year of such service;

10 “(2) in the event that a law enforcement can-
11 didate is determined to have failed or refused to
12 carry out such service obligation, the sum of the
13 amounts of any Law Enforcement Education Grants
14 received by such candidate will be treated as a loan
15 and collected from the candidate in accordance with
16 subsection (b) and the regulations thereunder; and

17 “(3) contains, or is accompanied by, a plain-
18 language disclosure form developed by the Secretary
19 that clearly describes the nature of the Law En-
20 forcement Education Grant award, the service obli-
21 gation, and the loan repayment requirements that
22 are the consequence of the failure to complete the
23 service obligation.

24 “(b) REPAYMENT FOR FAILURE TO COMPLETE
25 SERVICE.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event that law en-
2 forcement candidate fails or refuses to comply with
3 the service obligation in the agreement under sub-
4 section (a), the sum of the amounts of any Law En-
5 forcement Education Grants received by such can-
6 didate shall, upon a determination of such a failure
7 or refusal in such service obligation, be treated as a
8 Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under
9 part D of this title, and shall be subject to repay-
10 ment, together with interest thereon accruing from
11 the date the grant is converted to such a Loan, in
12 accordance with terms and conditions specified by
13 the Secretary in regulations under this subpart.

14 “(2) EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.—The
15 Secretary shall establish, by regulation, categories of
16 extenuating circumstances under which a law en-
17 forcement candidate who is unable to fulfill all or
18 part of the candidate’s service obligation may be ex-
19 cused from fulfilling that portion of the service obli-
20 gation. Such categories shall ensure that a law en-
21 forcement candidate who is hired and serves as a
22 full-time law enforcement officer but is unable to ful-
23 fill part of the candidate’s service obligation due to
24 medical discharge by a law enforcement agency or
25 department because of a medical issue resulting

1 from service as a law enforcement officer shall be ex-
2 cused from fulfilling the remaining portion of the
3 service obligation.

4 **“SEC. 423. DEFINITIONS.**

5 “For the purposes of this subpart:

6 “(1) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘eligi-
7 ble institution’ means an institution of higher edu-
8 cation, as defined in section 102, that—

9 “(A) provides an associate or baccalaureate
10 degree in a field related to law enforcement or
11 criminal justice; and

12 “(B) has been approved by the Police Offi-
13 cer Standard and Training Board of the State
14 in which the institution is located or related
15 State agency.

16 “(2) LAW ENFORCEMENT CANDIDATE.—The
17 term ‘law enforcement candidate’ means an indi-
18 vidual who is selected by the Secretary to receive a
19 Law Enforcement Education Grant under this sub-
20 part.

21 “(3) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term
22 ‘law enforcement officer’ means any officer, agent,
23 or employee of a State, unit of local government, of
24 Indian tribe who is authorized to supervise the pre-

