

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7456

To create emergency supplemental grants to local agencies for maintenance of operations during periods of increased migration.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2024

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

A BILL

To create emergency supplemental grants to local agencies for maintenance of operations during periods of increased migration.

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 “First Responders
5 Emergency Assistance Act”.

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

7 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of Homeland
8 Security is authorized to make grants to States, Indian
9 Tribes, and units of local government for use by law en-
10 forcement agencies, first responders, and emergency oper-

1 ation centers to maintain resources that are available to
2 residents of the jurisdiction during periods of increased
3 demand for such resources due to an increase in the ar-
4 rival or presence of aliens entering the United States.

5 (b) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding
6 grants under this section, the Secretary shall award not
7 less than 25 percent of the funds to applicants located
8 not more than 100 miles from the southern border of the
9 United States.

10 (c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
11 tion, the Secretary shall give priority applicants located
12 in areas experiencing an increased presence of aliens en-
13 tering the United States based on data gathered by U.S.
14 Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and
15 Customs Enforcement on the number of encounters with
16 such aliens and the number of such aliens released in that
17 area.

18 (d) RULES.—The Secretary of Homeland Security is
19 authorized to make rules to carry out this section.

20 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

21 (1) The term “emergency operation center”
22 means a physical or virtual location from which lead-
23 ers of a jurisdiction or organization coordinate and
24 provide policy direction related to an emergency, in-
25 cluding—

1 (A) coordinating information and resources
2 to support resource needs and requests, includ-
3 ing allocation and tracking;

4 (B) collecting, analyzing, and sharing in-
5 formation and

6 (C) coordinating plans and determining
7 current and future needs.

8 (2) The term “law enforcement officer” has the
9 meaning given such term in section 232 of title 18,
10 United States Code.

11 (3) The term “first responder” includes a fire-
12 fighter, law enforcement officer, paramedic, emer-
13 gency medical technician, or other individual (includ-
14 ing an employee of a legally organized and recog-
15 nized volunteer organization, whether compensated
16 or not), who, in the course of his or her professional
17 duties, responds to fire, medical, hazardous material,
18 or other similar emergencies and is an employee of
19 a unit of local government, Indian Tribe or State.

20 (4) The term “firefighter” has the meaning
21 given the term “employee in fire protection activi-
22 ties” under section 3 of the Fair Labor Standards
23 Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203).

24 (5) The term “State” means any State of the
25 United States, the District of Columbia, the Com-

1 monwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Amer-
2 ican Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Is-
3 lands.

4 (6) The term “unit of local government” means
5 any city, county, township, town, borough, parish vil-
6 lage, special district, fire authority, county improve-
7 ment district, or other general purpose political sub-
8 division of a State, and includes any entity jointly
9 created by 2 or more public employers.

10 (7) The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning
11 given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Deter-
12 mination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.
13 5304).

14 (f) APPROPRIATIONS.—The program authorized by
15 this Act shall be subject to the availability of appropria-
16 tions made in advance for such purposes. Not later than
17 90 days after funds are appropriated to carry out this Act,
18 the Secretary of Homeland Security shall obligate such
19 funds for such purposes.

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