

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9180

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide education assistance to public safety officers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 26, 2024

Ms. CARAVEO (for herself, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. JAMES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide education assistance to public safety officers, 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 “Educational and Ca-
5 reer Opportunities for Public Safety Act of 2024” or the
6 “EdCOPS Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe
4 Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.) is amended
5 by adding at the end the following:

6 **“PART PP—PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER EDUCATION**
7 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

8 **“SEC. 3061. PURPOSE.**

9 “The purpose of this part is to improve recruitment
10 and retention of public safety officers employed by State,
11 local, tribal, and regional law enforcement agencies by pro-
12 viding assistance for the pursuit of a program of higher
13 education.

14 **“SEC. 3062. DEFINITIONS.**

15 “In this part:

16 “(1) CHILD.—The term ‘child’ means a nat-
17 ural, illegitimate, or adopted child or stepchild of an
18 eligible public safety officer.

19 “(2) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION; PROGRAM OF
20 EDUCATION.—The terms ‘educational institution’
21 and ‘program of education’ have the meanings given
22 the terms in section 1217.

23 “(3) ELIGIBLE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER.—The
24 term ‘eligible public safety officer’ means a public
25 safety officer that—

1 “(A) has served as a public safety officer
2 for not less than 8 years for a single employer
3 prior to the date of submission of an applica-
4 tion under section 3064; and

5 “(B) commits to serving as a public safety
6 officer with the employer described in subpara-
7 graph (A) during the 4-year period following
8 the date of submission of an application under
9 section 3064.

10 “(4) PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER.—The term
11 ‘public safety officer’ has the meaning given the
12 term in section 1204.

13 **“SEC. 3063. BASIC ELIGIBILITY.**

14 “(a) BENEFITS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall
16 provide financial assistance to a person who attends
17 a program of education and is—

18 “(A) an eligible public safety officer; or

19 “(B) a child of an eligible public safety of-
20 ficer to whom an eligible public safety officer
21 transfers eligibility for financial assistance in
22 accordance with paragraph (4)(A).

23 “(2) FORM AND AMOUNT.—Except as provided
24 in paragraph (3), financial assistance under this
25 part shall—

1 “(A) consist of direct payments to a person
2 described in paragraph (1); and

3 “(B) be computed on the basis set forth in
4 section 3532 of title 38, United States Code.

5 “(3) REDUCTION.—The financial assistance re-
6 ferred to in paragraph (2) shall be reduced by the
7 amount, if any, determined under section 3065(b).

8 “(4) TRANSFER OF ASSISTANCE.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible public
10 safety officer may elect to transfer eligibility for
11 part or all of the financial assistance for which
12 the eligible public safety officer is eligible under
13 this part to an individual described in para-
14 graph (1)(B).

15 “(B) APPROVAL.—An eligible public safety
16 officer shall approve the receipt of financial as-
17 sistance under this part by a person who is not
18 the eligible public safety officer.

19 “(b) DURATION OF BENEFITS.—The Attorney Gen-
20 eral may not provide financial assistance under this part
21 to a person for a period in excess of 45 months of full-
22 time education or training or a proportional period of time
23 for a part-time program.

24 “(c) AGE LIMITATION FOR CHILDREN.—The Attor-
25 ney General may not provide financial assistance under

1 this part to a child of an eligible public safety officer after
2 the date of the 27th birthday of the child.

3 **“SEC. 3064. APPLICATIONS; APPROVAL.**

4 “(a) APPLICATION.—A person seeking assistance
5 under this part shall submit to the Attorney General an
6 application in such form and containing such information
7 as the Attorney General reasonably may require.

8 “(b) APPROVAL.—The Attorney General shall ap-
9 prove an application for assistance under this part unless
10 the Attorney General finds that—

11 “(1) the person is not eligible for, is no longer
12 eligible for, or is not entitled to the assistance for
13 which application is made;

14 “(2) the person’s selected educational institu-
15 tion fails to meet a requirement established in a reg-
16 ulation implementing this part for eligibility;

17 “(3) the person’s enrollment in or pursuit of
18 the educational program selected would fail to meet
19 the criteria in a regulation implementing this part
20 for programs; or

21 “(4) the person already is qualified by previous
22 education or training for the educational, profes-
23 sional, or vocational objective for which the edu-
24 cational program is offered.

1 “(c) NOTIFICATION.—The Attorney General shall no-
2 tify a person applying for assistance under this part of
3 approval or disapproval of the application in writing.

4 **“SEC. 3065. REGULATIONS.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may pro-
6 mulgate reasonable and necessary regulations to imple-
7 ment this part.

8 “(b) SLIDING SCALE.—Notwithstanding section
9 3064(b), the Attorney General shall issue regulations re-
10 garding the use of a sliding scale based on financial need
11 to ensure that a person eligible to receive financial assist-
12 ance under this part who is in financial need receives pri-
13 ority in receiving funds under this part.

14 **“SEC. 3066. DISCONTINUATION FOR UNSATISFACTORY CON-
15 DUCT OR PROGRESS.**

16 “The Attorney General may discontinue assistance
17 under this part to a person if the Attorney General finds
18 that, according to the regularly prescribed standards and
19 practices of an educational institution attended by the per-
20 son, the person fails to maintain satisfactory progress as
21 described in section 484(c) of the Higher Education Act
22 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1091(c)).

1 **“SEC. 3067. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out

3 this part such sums as may be necessary.”.

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