

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3984

To amend the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 to authorize the State Justice Institute to provide awards to certain organizations to establish a State judicial threat intelligence and resource center.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 20, 2024

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 to authorize the State Justice Institute to provide awards to certain organizations to establish a State judicial threat intelligence and resource center.

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 “Countering Threats
5 and Attacks on Our Judges Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 Section 202 of the State Justice Institute Act of 1984
8 (42 U.S.C. 10701) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at the
2 end;

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

5 (3) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(9) ‘eligible organization’ means a national
7 nonprofit organization that—

8 “(A) provides technical assistance and
9 training on, and has expertise and national-level
10 experience in, judicial security and safety at the
11 State and local levels;

12 “(B) has experience in courthouse design
13 and courthouse security design standards;

14 “(C) has an understanding of State judi-
15 cial operations and public access to judicial
16 services; and

17 “(D) has experience working with a wide
18 array of different judges and court systems, in-
19 cluding an understanding of the challenges fac-
20 ing trial courts, appellate courts, rural courts,
21 and limited-jurisdiction courts at the State and
22 local levels.”.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE JUDICIAL THREAT IN-**
2 **TELLIGENCE AND RESOURCE CENTER.**

3 Section 206(c) of the State Justice Institute Act of
4 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10705(c)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (14), by striking “and” at the
6 end;

7 (2) by redesignating paragraph (15) as para-
8 graph (16); and

9 (3) by inserting after paragraph (14) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(15) to provide financial and technical support
12 to eligible organizations to establish, implement, and
13 operate a State judicial threat and intelligence re-
14 source center to—

15 “(A) provide technical assistance and
16 training around judicial security, including—

17 “(i) providing judicial officer safety
18 education and training for judicial officers,
19 courts, and local law enforcement;

20 “(ii) creating resources and guides
21 around judicial security; and

22 “(iii) providing physical security as-
23 sessments for courts, homes, and other fa-
24 cilities where judicial officers and staff
25 conduct court-related business;

1 “(B) proactively monitor threats to the
2 safety of State and local judges and court staff;

3 “(C) coordinate with Federal, State, and
4 local law enforcement agencies to mitigate
5 threats to the safety of State and local judges
6 and court staff;

7 “(D) develop standardized incident report-
8 ing and threat evaluation practices for State
9 and local courts in coordination with State and
10 local law enforcement and fusion centers;

11 “(E) develop a national database for re-
12 porting, tracking, and sharing information
13 about threats and incidents towards judicial of-
14 ficers and court staff at local and State levels
15 with entities working in the interest of judicial
16 security, including State and local law enforce-
17 ment and fusion centers; and

18 “(F) coordinate research to identify, exam-
19 ine, and advance best practices around judicial
20 security.”.

21 **SEC. 4. REPORTS.**

22 Not later than 1 year after the date on which a State
23 judicial threat intelligence and resource center is estab-
24 lished under paragraph (15) of section 206(c) of the State
25 Justice Institute Act of 1984, as added by section 3 of

1 this Act, the State Justice Institute shall submit to the
2 Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Com-
3 mittee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives
4 an annual report on the number of threats to State and
5 local judiciary members and court staff, with breakdown
6 of types of threats and level of seriousness.

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