

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 768

To establish a grant program to provide assistance to local law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 27, 2025

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COONS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KELLY, Mr. YOUNG, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To establish a grant program to provide assistance to local law enforcement agencies, 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 “Invest to Protect Act  
5 of 2025”.

### 6 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

8 (1) DE-ESCALATION TRAINING.—The term “de-  
9 escalation training” means training relating to tak-

1 ing action or communicating verbally or non-verbally  
2 during a potential force encounter in an attempt to  
3 stabilize the situation and reduce the immediacy of  
4 the threat so that more time, options, and resources  
5 can be called upon to resolve the situation without  
6 the use of force or with a reduction in the force nec-  
7 essary.

8 (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means  
9 the Director of the Office.

10 (3) ELIGIBLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term  
11 “eligible local government” means—

12 (A) a county, municipality, town, township,  
13 village, parish, borough, or other unit of general  
14 government below the State level that employs  
15 fewer than 175 law enforcement officers; and

16 (B) a Tribal government that employs  
17 fewer than 175 law enforcement officers.

18 (4) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term  
19 “law enforcement officer” has the meaning given the  
20 term “career law enforcement officer” in section  
21 1709 of title I the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe  
22 Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10389).

23 (5) OFFICE.—The term “Office” means the Of-  
24 fice of Community Oriented Policing Services of the  
25 Department of Justice.

1 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within  
2 the Office a grant program to—

3 (1) provide training and access to mental health  
4 resources to local law enforcement officers; and

5 (2) improve the recruitment and retention of  
6 local law enforcement officers.

7 (c) AUTHORITY.—Not later than 120 days after the  
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall award  
9 grants to eligible local governments as a part of the grant  
10 program established under subsection (b).

11 (d) APPLICATIONS.—

12 (1) BARRIERS.—The Attorney General shall de-  
13 termine what barriers exist to establishing a stream-  
14 lined application process for grants under this sec-  
15 tion.

16 (2) REPORT.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days  
18 after the date of enactment of this Act, the At-  
19 torney General shall submit to Congress a re-  
20 port that includes a plan to execute a stream-  
21 lined application process for grants under this  
22 section under which an eligible local government  
23 seeking a grant under this section can reason-  
24 ably complete the application in not more than  
25 2 hours.

1 (B) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The plan re-  
2 quired under subparagraph (A) may include a  
3 plan for—

4 (i) proactively providing eligible local  
5 governments seeking a grant under this  
6 section with information on the data eligi-  
7 ble local governments will need to prepare  
8 before beginning the grant application; and

9 (ii) ensuring technical assistance is  
10 available for eligible local governments  
11 seeking a grant under this section before  
12 and during the grant application process,  
13 including through dedicated liaisons within  
14 the Office.

15 (3) APPLICATIONS.—In selecting eligible local  
16 governments to receive grants under this section, the  
17 Director shall use the streamlined application proc-  
18 ess described in paragraph (2)(A).

19 (e) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible local govern-  
20 ment that receives a grant under this section may use  
21 amounts from the grant only for—

22 (1) de-escalation training for law enforcement  
23 officers;

24 (2) victim-centered training for law enforcement  
25 officers in handling situations of domestic violence;

(3) evidence-based law enforcement safety training for—

(A) active shooter situations;

(B) the safe handling of illicit drugs and precursor chemicals;

(C) rescue situations;

(D) recognizing and countering ambush attacks; or

(E) response to calls for service involving—

(i) persons with mental health needs;

(ii) persons with substance use disorders;

(iii) veterans;

(iv) persons with disabilities;

(v) vulnerable youth;

(vi) persons who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or trafficking;

or

(vii) persons experiencing homelessness or living in poverty;

(4) the offsetting of overtime costs associated with scheduling issues relating to the participation of a law enforcement officer in the training described in paragraphs (1) through (3), (9), and (10);

1           (5) a signing bonus for a law enforcement offi-  
2           cer in an amount determined by the eligible local  
3           government;

4           (6) a retention bonus for a law enforcement of-  
5           ficer—

6                 (A) in an amount determined by the eligi-  
7                 ble local government that does not exceed 20  
8                 percent of the salary of the law enforcement of-  
9                 ficer; and

10            (B) who—

11                 (i) has been employed at the law en-  
12                 forcement agency for not fewer than 5  
13                 years;

14                 (ii) has not been found by an internal  
15                 investigation to have engaged in serious  
16                 misconduct; and

17                 (iii) commits to remain employed by  
18                 the law enforcement agency for not less  
19                 than 3 years after the date of receipt of  
20                 the bonus;

21           (7) a stipend for the graduate education of law  
22           enforcement officers in the area of mental health,  
23           public health, or social work, which shall not exceed  
24           the lesser of—

25                 (A) \$10,000; or

1 (B) the amount the law enforcement offi-  
 2 cer pays towards such graduate education;

3 (8) providing access to patient-centered behav-  
 4 ioral health services for law enforcement officers,  
 5 which may include resources for risk assessments,  
 6 evidence-based, trauma-informed care to treat post-  
 7 traumatic stress disorder or acute stress disorder,  
 8 peer support and counselor services and family sup-  
 9 ports, and the promotion of improved access to high  
 10 quality mental health care through telehealth;

11 (9) the implementation of evidence-based best  
 12 practices and training on the use of lethal and non-  
 13 lethal force;

14 (10) the implementation of evidence-based best  
 15 practices and training on the duty of care and the  
 16 duty to intervene; and

17 (11) data collection for police practices relating  
 18 to officer and community safety.

19 (f) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANT RECIPI-  
 20 ENTS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish  
 22 reasonable reporting requirements specifically relat-  
 23 ing to a grant awarded under this section for eligible  
 24 local governments that receive such a grant in order

1 to assist with the evaluation by the Office of the pro-  
2 gram established under this section.

3 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing require-  
4 ments under paragraph (1), the Director shall con-  
5 sider the capacity of law enforcement agencies with  
6 fewer than 175 officers to collect and report infor-  
7 mation.

8 (g) DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER RECRUITMENT AND  
9 RETENTION BONUSES.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after  
11 the date on which an eligible local government that  
12 receives a grant under this section awards a signing  
13 or retention bonus described in paragraph (5) or (6)  
14 of subsection (e), the eligible local government shall  
15 disclose to the Director and make publicly available  
16 on a website of the eligible local government the  
17 amount of the bonus.

18 (2) REPORT.—The Attorney General shall sub-  
19 mit to the appropriate congressional committees an  
20 annual report that includes each signing or retention  
21 bonus disclosed under paragraph (1) during the pre-  
22 ceding year.

23 (h) GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—All grants awarded by the  
25 Director under this section shall be subject to the

1       accountability provisions described in this sub-  
2       section.

3           (2) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—

4           (A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the  
5       term “unresolved audit finding” means a find-  
6       ing in the final audit report of the Inspector  
7       General of the Department of Justice that the  
8       audited grantee has used grant funds for an  
9       unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallow-  
10      able cost that is not closed or resolved within  
11      12 months from the date when the final audit  
12      report is issued.

13          (B) AUDITS.—Beginning in the first fiscal  
14      year beginning after the date of enactment of  
15      this subsection, and in each fiscal year there-  
16      after, the Inspector General of the Department  
17      of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of  
18      grants under this section to prevent waste,  
19      fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees. The In-  
20      specter General of the Department of Justice  
21      shall determine the appropriate number of  
22      grantees to be audited each year.

23          (C) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A recipient  
24      of grant funds under this section that is found  
25      to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be

1 eligible to receive grant funds under this section  
2 during the first 3 fiscal years beginning after  
3 the end of the 12-month period described in  
4 subparagraph (A).

5 (D) REIMBURSEMENT.—If an eligible local  
6 government is awarded grant funds under this  
7 section during the 3-fiscal-year period during  
8 which the eligible local government is barred  
9 from receiving grants under subparagraph (C),  
10 the Attorney General shall—

11 (i) deposit an amount equal to the  
12 amount of the grant funds that were im-  
13 properly awarded to the grantee into the  
14 General Fund of the Treasury; and

15 (ii) seek to recoup the costs of the re-  
16 payment to the fund from the grant recipi-  
17 ent that was erroneously awarded grant  
18 funds.

19 (3) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—Beginning in the  
20 fiscal year during which audits commence under  
21 paragraph (2)(B), the Attorney General shall submit  
22 to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Com-  
23 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate and the  
24 Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on

1 Appropriations of the House of Representatives an  
2 annual certification—

3 (A) indicating whether—

4 (i) all audits issued by the Office of  
5 the Inspector General of the Department  
6 of Justice under paragraph (2) have been  
7 completed and reviewed by the appropriate  
8 Assistant Attorney General or Director;

9 (ii) all mandatory exclusions required  
10 under paragraph (2)(C) have been issued;  
11 and

12 (iii) all reimbursements required  
13 under paragraph (2)(D) have been made;  
14 and

15 (B) that includes a list of any grant recipi-  
16 ents excluded under paragraph (2) from the  
17 previous year.

18 (i) PROGRAM EVALUATION.—Not less frequently  
19 than annually, the Attorney General shall analyze the in-  
20 formation provided by eligible local governments pursuant  
21 to the reporting requirements established under subsection  
22 (f)(1) to evaluate the efficacy of programs funded by the  
23 grant program under this section.

24 (j) PREVENTING DUPLICATIVE GRANTS.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Before the Director awards  
 2           a grant to an eligible local government under this  
 3           section, the Attorney General shall compare poten-  
 4           tial grant awards with other grants awarded by the  
 5           Attorney General to determine if grant awards are  
 6           or have been awarded for a similar purpose.

7           (2) REPORT.—If the Attorney General awards  
 8           grants to the same applicant for a similar purpose,  
 9           whether through the grant program under this sec-  
 10          tion or another grant program administered by the  
 11          Department of Justice, the Attorney General shall  
 12          submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
 13          Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
 14          House of Representatives a report that includes—

15                 (A) a list of all such grants awarded, in-  
 16                 cluding the total dollar amount of any such  
 17                 grants awarded; and

18                 (B) the reason the Attorney General  
 19                 awarded multiple grants to the same applicant  
 20                 for a similar purpose.

21          (k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
 22          are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
 23          not more than \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026  
 24          through 2030.

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