

1 Title: To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that COPS  
2 grant funds may be used for local law enforcement recruits to attend schools or academies if the  
3 recruits agree to serve in precincts of law enforcement agencies in their communities.  
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6 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in  
7 Congress assembled,

## 8 SECTION 1. STRONG COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.

9 Section 1701 of Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381) is  
10 amended—

11 (1) by redesignating subsection (m) as subsection (n); and

12 (2) by inserting after subsection (l) the following:

13 “(m) COPS Strong Communities Program.—

14 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—

15 “(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

16 “(i) an institution of higher education, as defined in section 101 of the Higher  
17 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001), that, in coordination or through an  
18 agreement with a local law enforcement agency, offers a law enforcement training  
19 program; or

20 “(ii) a local law enforcement agency that offers a law enforcement training  
21 program.

22 “(B) LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The term ‘local law enforcement  
23 agency’ means an agency of a State, unit of local government, or Indian Tribe that is  
24 authorized by law or by a government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention,  
25 detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of criminal law.

26 “(2) GRANTS.—The Attorney General may use amounts otherwise appropriated to carry  
27 out this section for a fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year 2020) to make competitive  
28 grants to local law enforcement agencies to be used for recruits to attend eligible entities if  
29 the recruits agree to serve in law enforcement agencies in their communities.

30 “(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant under this subsection, each recruit described  
31 in paragraph (2) shall—

32 “(A) serve as a full-time law enforcement officer for a total of not fewer than 4 years  
33 during the 8-year period after the date on which the recruit completes a law  
34 enforcement training program for which the recruit received benefits;

35 “(B) complete their service in a local law enforcement agency located within—

36 “(i) 5 miles of the residence of the recruit where the recruit has resided for not  
37 fewer than 5 years; or

38 “(ii) if the recruit resides in a county with less than 100,000 residents, within 20  
39 miles of the residence of the recruit where the recruit has resided for not fewer

1                   than 5 years; and

2                   “(C) submit evidence of employment of the recruit to the eligible agency in the form  
3                   of a certification by the chief administrative officer of the local law enforcement  
4                   agency where the recruit is employed.

5                   “(4) REPAYMENT.—

6                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—If a recruit does not complete the service described in paragraph  
7                   (3), the recruit shall submit to the local law enforcement agency an amount equal to  
8                   any benefits the recruit received under this subsection.

9                   “(B) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney General shall promulgate regulations that  
10                  establish categories of extenuating circumstances under which a recruit may be  
11                  excused from repayment under subparagraph (A).”.