

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To authorize the Department of Justice to provide grant funding to accredited nonprofit organizations to provide better access to needed training for law enforcement officers in rural and smaller communities.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. LANKFORD introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To authorize the Department of Justice to provide grant funding to accredited nonprofit organizations to provide better access to needed training for law enforcement officers in rural and smaller communities.

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 “Training Rural Law
5 Enforcement Officers Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. TRAINING RURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) There are more than 18,000 local police de-
2 partments and 3,000 sheriff's offices in the United
3 States. Of the local police departments in the United
4 States—

5 (A) nearly half have fewer than 10 sworn
6 officers;

7 (B) 3 out of 4 have fewer than 2 dozen
8 sworn officers; and

9 (C) 8 out of 10 have fewer than 50 sworn
10 officers.

11 (2) Federal funding available through grants
12 administered by the Department of Justice for law
13 enforcement is frequently complex in terms of the
14 application process and requires specific reporting
15 mandates.

16 (3) Smaller and rural law enforcement agencies
17 often forego pursuing Federal funding opportunities
18 as that pursuit creates a demand on already limited
19 staffing, and those smaller and rural law enforce-
20 ment agencies simply lack the experience and re-
21 sources to navigate through the application process
22 and to successfully adhere to the multitude of re-
23 porting requirements.

24 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) ACCREDITED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—

2 The term “accredited nonprofit organization” means
3 a nonprofit organization that, as determined by the
4 Attorney General, has—

5 (A) the proper experience and expertise in
6 relevant law enforcement training; and

7 (B) a strong track record of successfully
8 conducting relevant law enforcement training in
9 a particular training discipline.

10 (2) LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING GRANT.—

11 The term “law enforcement training grant” means
12 a grant awarded by the Attorney General under the
13 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of
14 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.) for the purpose of
15 law enforcement training.

16 (c) AUTHORIZATION.—An accredited nonprofit orga-
17 nization or State government entity shall be eligible to re-
18 ceive any law enforcement training grant for the purpose
19 of providing training to State and local law enforcement
20 agencies with fewer than 50 sworn law enforcement offi-
21 cers at no cost to the law enforcement agency only for
22 an eligible activity described in subsection (d).

23 (d) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible activity de-
24 scribed in this subsection is training in 1 or more of the
25 following:

1 (1) De-escalation training for law enforcement
2 officers using a certified training program or course
3 (as defined in section 508(a) of title I of the Omni-
4 bus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34
5 U.S.C. 10159(a)).

6 (2) Officer wellness programs.

7 (3) Leadership training.

8 (4) Victim-centered training for law enforce-
9 ment officers in handling situations of domestic vio-
10 lence.

11 (5) Critical incident response and management.

12 (6) Evidence-based law enforcement safety
13 training for—

14 (A) active shooter situations;

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

17 (C) rescue situations;

18 (D) recognizing and countering ambush at-
19 tacks; or

20 (E) response to calls for service involv-
21 ing—

22 (i) persons with mental health needs;

23 (ii) persons with substance use dis-
24 orders;

25 (iii) veterans;

- 1 (iv) persons with disabilities;
2 (v) vulnerable youth;
3 (vi) persons who are victims of domes-
4 tic violence, sexual assault, or trafficking;
5 or
6 (vii) persons experiencing homeless-
7 ness or living in poverty.

8 (7) Specialized training to law enforcement offi-
9 cers to enhance their conflict resolution, mediation,
10 problem solving, service, and other skills needed to
11 work in partnership with members of the commu-
12 nity.

13 (e) AMENDMENT.—Section 501(b) of title I of the
14 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (
15 34 U.S.C. 10152(b)), is amended—

16 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as
17 subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively and shifting
18 the margins accordingly;

19 (2) by striking “A State” and inserting the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A State”; and

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

23 “(2) POOLING GRANTS.—2 or more localities
24 receiving grants under this part may elect to pool all
25 or a portion of those grants to contract with an ac-

1 credited nonprofit organization (as defined in section
2 2(b) of the Training Rural Law Enforcement Offi-
3 cers Act of 2026) for the purpose of providing train-
4 ing to the group of localities that have pooled such
5 grants.”.