

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3968

To create an award for law enforcement officers who exemplify best practices to reduce the excessive use of force or improve community policing, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 16, 2020

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

A BILL

To create an award for law enforcement officers who exemplify best practices to reduce the excessive use of force or improve community policing, 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 “Better Community Po-
5 licing Recognition Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AWARDS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.**

7 Part Q of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and
8 Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381 et seq.) is
9 amended—

1 (1) by redesignating sections 1708 and 1709
2 (34 U.S.C. 10388, 10389) as sections 1709 and
3 1710, respectively; and

4 (2) by inserting after section 1707 (34 U.S.C.
5 10387) the following:

6 **“SEC. 1708. BETTER COMMUNITY POLICING AWARD.**

7 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 “(1) BETTER COMMUNITY POLICING AWARD.—
9 The term ‘Better Community Policing Award’ means
10 an award authorized under subsection (b).

11 “(2) ELIGIBLE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—
12 The term ‘eligible law enforcement officer’ means a
13 career law enforcement officer who is—

14 “(A) employed by a law enforcement agen-
15 cy receiving funding from a grant under section
16 1701; and

17 “(B) nominated for a Better Community
18 Policing Award by—

19 “(i) the law enforcement agency that
20 employs the law enforcement officer; or

21 “(ii) the attorney general of the State
22 in which the law enforcement agency that
23 employs the law enforcement officer is lo-
24 cated.

1 “(b) AWARDS AUTHORIZED.—The Attorney General
2 may distribute cash awards to eligible law enforcement of-
3 ficers who exemplify best practices or significant innova-
4 tion to—

5 “(1) reduce the excessive use of force; or

6 “(2) improve community policing.

7 “(c) CRITERIA.—Not later than 90 days after the
8 date of enactment of this section, the Attorney General
9 shall establish—

10 “(1) the process by which a law enforcement
11 agency or the attorney general of a State may nomi-
12 nate an eligible law enforcement officer for a Better
13 Community Policing Award;

14 “(2) the criteria for the selection of recipients
15 of a Better Community Policing Award; and

16 “(3) the maximum amount of a Better Commu-
17 nity Policing Award.

18 “(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
19 of enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the
20 Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report that
21 includes, for the previous calendar year—

22 “(1) the number of nominations received by the
23 Attorney General for a Better Community Policing
24 Award;

1 “(2) the number of Better Community Policing
2 Awards distributed by the Attorney General;

3 “(3) a geographical breakdown of the location
4 of the recipients of a Better Community Policing
5 Award; and

6 “(4) information relating to the size of each law
7 enforcement agency that—

8 “(A) nominated a law enforcement officer
9 for a Better Community Policing Award; or

10 “(B) employed a recipient of a Better
11 Community Policing Award.

12 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
13 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
14 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.”.

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