

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5320

To require States and units of local government receiving funds under grant programs operated by the Department of Justice, which use such funds for pretrial services programs, to submit to the Attorney General a report relating to such program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 5, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To require States and units of local government receiving funds under grant programs operated by the Department of Justice, which use such funds for pretrial services programs, to submit to the Attorney General a report relating to such program, 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 “Citizens’ Right to
5 Know Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR DEPARTMENT OF**
2 **JUSTICE GRANT RECIPIENTS USING FUNDS**
3 **FOR PRETRIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year in which a
5 State or unit of local government receives funds under any
6 grant program operated by the Department of Justice, in-
7 cluding the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance
8 grant program under subpart I of part E of title I of the
9 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42
10 U.S.C. 3750 et seq.), and which uses funds received under
11 such program for a pretrial services program, the State
12 or unit of local government shall submit to the Attorney
13 General a report which contains the following:

14 (1) The name of each defendant participating
15 in a pretrial release program administered by the
16 pretrial services program, and whether, as applica-
17 ble, each occasion on which such defendant failed to
18 make an appearance.

19 (2) Information relating to any prior convic-
20 tions of each defendant participating in the pretrial
21 services program.

22 (3) The amount of money allocated for the pre-
23 trial services program.

24 (b) PUBLICATION REQUIREMENT.—Subject to any
25 applicable confidentiality requirements, the Attorney Gen-

1 eral shall, on an annual basis, make publicly available the
2 information received under subsection (a).

3 (c) REDUCTION IN FUNDING.—The Attorney General
4 shall, for State or unit of local government which fails to
5 comply with the requirement under subsection (a) for a
6 fiscal year, reduce the amount that the State or local gov-
7 ernment would otherwise receive under each grant pro-
8 gram described in subsection (a) in the following fiscal
9 year by 100 percent.

10 (d) REALLOCATION.—Amounts not allocated to a
11 State or unit of local government under subsection (c)
12 shall be reallocated under each such grant program to
13 States and units of local government that comply with the
14 requirement under subsection (a).

15 (e) DEFINITION.—The term “failed to make an ap-
16 pearance” means an action whereby any defendant has
17 been charged with an offense before a court and who is
18 participating in a pretrial release program for which funds
19 received under a grant program referred to in subsection
20 (a) are used as a condition of pretrial release—

21 (1) does not appear for any court date regard-
22 ing such charge;

23 (2) does not appear for any one appointment
24 with the pretrial services program; or

1 (3) does not appear for any post-release appear-
2 ance the court may require.

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