

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 1591

Entitled the “Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 29, 1998

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

A BILL

Entitled the “Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998”.

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 “Bulletproof Vest Part-
5 nership Grant Act of 1998”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) too many law enforcement officers die, while
9 protecting the public, as a result of gunshot wounds;

1 (2) according to studies, between 1985 and
2 1994, 709 law enforcement officers in the United
3 States were feloniously killed in the line of duty;

4 (3) more than 92 percent of such law enforce-
5 ment officers were killed by firearms;

6 (4) the number of law enforcement officers who
7 die as a result of gunshot wounds has declined sig-
8 nificantly since the introduction of modern bullet-
9 proof material;

10 (5) according to studies, between 1985 and
11 1994, bullet resistant materials helped save the lives
12 of more than 2,000 law enforcement officers in the
13 United States;

14 (6) the number of law enforcement officers who
15 are killed in the line of duty would significantly de-
16 crease if every law enforcement officer in the United
17 States had access to an armor vest; and

18 (7) the Executive Committee for Indian Coun-
19 try Law Enforcement Improvements reports that
20 violent crime in Indian country has risen sharply,
21 despite decreases in the national crime rate, and has
22 concluded that there is a “public safety crisis in In-
23 dian country”.

24 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to save
25 lives of law enforcement officers by helping State and local

1 law enforcement departments provide officers with armor
2 vests.

3 **SEC. 3. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

4 (a) GRANT AUTHORIZATION.—The Director of the
5 Bureau of Justice Assistance is authorized to make grants
6 to States, units of local government, and Indian tribes to
7 purchase armor vests for use by law enforcement officers.

8 (b) USES OF FUNDS.—Awards shall be distributed
9 directly to the State, unit of local government, or Indian
10 tribe and shall be used for the purchase of not more than
11 1 armor vest for each police officer in a jurisdiction.

12 (c) PREFERENTIAL CONSIDERATION.—In awarding
13 grants under this Act, the Director of the Bureau of Jus-
14 tice Assistance may give preferential consideration, where
15 feasible, to applications from jurisdictions that—

16 (1) have the greatest need for armor vests
17 based on the percentage of officers in the depart-
18 ment who do not have access to a vest;

19 (2) have a mandatory wear policy that requires
20 on-duty officers to wear armor vests whenever fea-
21 sible; and

22 (3) have a violent crime rate at or above the na-
23 tional average as determined by the Federal Bureau
24 of Investigation.

1 (d) MINIMUM AMOUNT.—Unless all applications sub-
2 mitted by any State or unit of local government pursuant
3 to subsection (a) have been funded, each qualifying State
4 or unit of local government shall be allocated in each fiscal
5 year pursuant to subsection (a) not less than 0.25 percent
6 of the total amount appropriated in the fiscal year for
7 grants pursuant to that subsection.

8 (e) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—A qualifying State or unit
9 of local government may not receive more than 5 percent
10 of the total amount appropriated in each fiscal year for
11 grants pursuant to subsection (a).

12 (f) MATCHING FUNDS.—The portion of the costs of
13 a program provided by a grant under subsection (a) may
14 not exceed 50 percent, unless the Director of the Bureau
15 of Justice Assistance determines a case of fiscal hardship
16 and waives, wholly or in part, the requirement under this
17 subsection of a non-Federal contribution to the costs of
18 a program.

19 (g) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—At least half of the
20 funds awarded under this program shall be allocated to
21 units of local government or Indian tribes with fewer than
22 100,000 residents.

23 **SEC. 4. APPLICATIONS.**

24 (a) STATE AND TRIBAL APPLICATIONS.—To request
25 a grant under this Act, the chief executive of a State shall

1 submit an application to the Director of the Bureau of
2 Justice Assistance, signed by the Attorney General of the
3 State requesting the grant, or Indian tribe shall submit
4 an application to the Director, in such form and contain-
5 ing such information as the Director may reasonably re-
6 quire.

7 (b) LOCAL APPLICATIONS.—To request a grant
8 under this Act, the chief executive of a unit of local gov-
9 ernment shall submit an application to the Director of the
10 Bureau of Justice Assistance, signed by the chief law en-
11 forcement officer of the unit of local government request-
12 ing the grant, in such form and containing such informa-
13 tion as the Director may reasonably require.

14 (c) RENEWAL.—A State, unit of local government, or
15 Indian tribe is eligible to receive a grant under this Act
16 every 3 years.

17 (d) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the
18 date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bureau
19 of Justice Assistance shall promulgate regulations to im-
20 plement this section (including the information that must
21 be included and the requirements that the States and
22 units of local government must meet) in submitting the
23 applications required under this Section.

1 **SEC. 5. PROHIBITION OF PRISON INMATE LABOR.**

2 Any State, unit of local government, or Indian tribe
3 that receives financial assistance provided using funds ap-
4 propriated or otherwise made available by this Act may
5 not purchase equipment or products manufactured using
6 prison inmate labor.

7 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

8 For purposes of this Act—

9 (1) The term “armor vest” means—

10 (A) body armor which has been tested
11 through the voluntary compliance testing pro-
12 gram operated by the National Law Enforce-
13 ment and Corrections Technology Center of the
14 National Institute of Justice (NIJ), and found
15 to comply with the requirements of NIJ Stand-
16 ard 0101.03, or any subsequent revision of such
17 standard; or

18 (B) body armor which exceeds the speci-
19 fications stated in subparagraph (A), and which
20 the law enforcement officer’s agency or depart-
21 ment permits the officer to wear on duty.

22 (2) The term “State” means each of the 50
23 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the
24 United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and
25 the Northern Mariana Islands.

1 (3) The term “qualifying State or unit of local
2 government” means any State or unit of local gov-
3 ernment which has submitted an application for a
4 grant, or in which an eligible entity has submitted
5 an application for a grant, which meets the require-
6 ments prescribed by the Director of the Bureau of
7 Justice Assistance and the conditions set out in sec-
8 tion 3.

9 (4) The term “Indian tribe” has the same
10 meaning as in section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Deter-
11 mination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.
12 450b(e)).

13 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 There are authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000
15 for each fiscal year to carry out this program.

16 **SEC. 8. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

17 In the case of any equipment or products that may
18 be authorized to be purchased with financial assistance
19 provided using funds appropriated or otherwise made
20 available by this Act, it is the sense of the Congress that
21 entities receiving the assistance should, in expending the
22 assistance, purchase only American-made equipment and
23 products.

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