

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3235

To improve academic and social outcomes for youth and reduce both juvenile crime and the risk that youth will become victims of crime by providing productive activities conducted by law enforcement personnel during non-school hours.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 5, 1999

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin (for himself and Mr. KLECZKA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To improve academic and social outcomes for youth and reduce both juvenile crime and the risk that youth will become victims of crime by providing productive activities conducted by law enforcement personnel during non-school hours.

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 “National Police Ath-
5 letic League Youth Enrichment Act of 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) The goals of the Police Athletic League are
2 to—

3 (A) increase the academic success of youth
4 participants in PAL programs;

5 (B) promote a safe, healthy environment
6 for youth under the supervision of law enforce-
7 ment personnel where mutual trust and respect
8 can be built;

9 (C) increase school attendance by pro-
10 viding alternatives to suspensions and expul-
11 sions;

12 (D) reduce the juvenile crime rate in par-
13 ticipating designated communities and the num-
14 ber of police calls involving juveniles during
15 nonschool hours;

16 (E) provide youths with alternatives to
17 drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and gang activity;

18 (F) create positive communications and
19 interaction between youth and law enforcement
20 personnel; and

21 (G) prepare youth for the workplace.

22 (2) The Police Athletic League, during its 55-
23 year history as a national organization, has proven
24 to be a positive force in the communities it serves.

1 (3) The Police Athletic League is a network of
2 1,700 facilities serving over 3,000 communities.
3 There are 320 PAL chapters throughout the United
4 States, the Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth
5 of Puerto Rico, serving 1,500,000 youths, ages 5 to
6 18, nationwide.

7 (4) Based on PAL chapter demographics, ap-
8 proximately 82 percent of the youths who benefit
9 from PAL programs live in inner cities and urban
10 areas.

11 (5) PAL chapters are locally operated, volun-
12 teer-driven organizations. Although most PAL chap-
13 ters are sponsored by a law enforcement agency,
14 PAL chapters receive no direct funding from law en-
15 forcement agencies and are dependent in large part
16 on support from the private sector, such as individ-
17 uals, business leaders, corporations, and founda-
18 tions. PAL chapters have been exceptionally success-
19 ful in balancing public funds with private sector do-
20 nations and maximizing community involvement.

21 (6) Today's youth face far greater risks than
22 did their parents and grandparents. Law enforce-
23 ment statistics demonstrate that youth between the
24 ages of 12 and 17 are at risk of committing violent

1 acts and being victims of violent acts between the
2 hours of 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

3 (7) Greater numbers of students are dropping
4 out of school and failing in school, even though the
5 consequences of academic failure are more dire in
6 1999 than ever before.

7 (8) Many distressed areas in the United States
8 are still underserved by PAL chapters.

9 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

10 The purpose of this Act is to provide adequate re-
11 sources in the form of—

12 (1) assistance for the 320 established PAL
13 chapters to increase of services to the communities
14 they are serving; and

15 (2) seed money for the establishment of 250
16 (50 per year over a 5-year period) additional local
17 PAL chapters in public housing projects and other
18 distressed areas, including distressed areas with a
19 majority population of Native Americans, by not
20 later than fiscal year 2005.

21 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

22 In this Act:

23 (1) ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The
24 term “Assistant Attorney General” means the As-

1 sistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice
2 Programs of the Department of Justice.

3 (2) DISTRESSED AREA.—The term “distressed
4 area” means an urban, suburban, or rural area with
5 a high percentage of high-risk youth, as defined in
6 section 509A of the Public Health Service Act (42
7 U.S.C. 290aa–8(f)).

8 (3) PAL CHAPTER.—The term “PAL chapter”
9 means a chapter of a Police or Sheriff’s Athletic/Ac-
10 tivities League.

11 (4) POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE.—The term
12 “Police Athletic League” means the private, non-
13 profit, national representative organization for 320
14 Police or Sheriff’s Athletic/Activities Leagues
15 throughout the United States (including the Virgin
16 Islands and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico).

17 (5) PUBLIC HOUSING; PROJECT.—The terms
18 “public housing” and “project” have the meanings
19 given those terms in section 3(b) of the United
20 States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)).

21 **SEC. 5. GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to appropriations, for
23 each of fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004,
24 the Assistant Attorney General shall award a grant to the
25 Police Athletic League for the purpose of establishing

1 PAL chapters to serve public housing projects and other
2 distressed areas, and expanding existing PAL chapters to
3 serve additional youths.

4 (b) APPLICATION.—

5 (1) SUBMISSION.—In order to be eligible to re-
6 ceive a grant under this section, the Police Athletic
7 League shall submit to the Assistant Attorney Gen-
8 eral an application, which shall include—

9 (A) a long-term strategy to establish 250
10 additional PAL chapters and detailed summary
11 of those areas in which new PAL chapters will
12 be established, or in which existing chapters will
13 be expanded to serve additional youths, during
14 the next fiscal year;

15 (B) a plan to ensure that there are a total
16 of not less than 570 PAL chapters in operation
17 before January 1, 2003;

18 (C) a certification that there will be appro-
19 priate coordination with those communities
20 where new PAL chapters will be located; and

21 (D) an explanation of the manner in which
22 new PAL chapters will operate without addi-
23 tional, direct Federal financial assistance once
24 assistance under this Act is discontinued.

1 (2) REVIEW.—The Assistant Attorney General
2 shall review and take action on an application sub-
3 mitted under paragraph (1) not later than 120 days
4 after the date of such submission.

5 **SEC. 6. USE OF FUNDS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—

7 (1) ASSISTANCE FOR NEW AND EXPANDED
8 CHAPTERS.—Amounts made available under a grant
9 awarded under this Act shall be used by the Police
10 Athletic League to provide funding for the establish-
11 ment of PAL chapters serving public housing
12 projects and other distressed areas, or the expansion
13 of existing PAL chapters.

14 (2) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—Each new or
15 expanded PAL chapter assisted under paragraph (1)
16 shall carry out not less than 4 programs during non-
17 school hours, of which—

18 (A) not less than 2 programs shall
19 provide—

20 (i) mentoring assistance;

21 (ii) academic assistance;

22 (iii) recreational and athletic activi-
23 ties; or

24 (iv) technology training; and

1 (B) any remaining programs shall
2 provide—

3 (i) drug, alcohol, and gang prevention
4 activities;

5 (ii) health and nutrition counseling;

6 (iii) cultural and social programs;

7 (iv) conflict resolution training, anger
8 management, and peer pressure training;

9 (v) job skill preparation activities; or

10 (vi) Youth Police Athletic League
11 Conferences or Youth Forums.

12 (b) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out
13 the programs under subsection (a), a PAL chapter shall,
14 to the maximum extent practicable—

15 (1) use volunteers from businesses, academic
16 communities, social organizations, and law enforce-
17 ment organizations to serve as mentors or to assist
18 in other ways;

19 (2) ensure that youth in the local community
20 participate in designing the after-school activities;

21 (3) develop creative methods of conducting out-
22 reach to youth in the community;

23 (4) request donations of computer equipment
24 and other materials and equipment; and

1 (5) work with State and local park and recre-
2 ation agencies so that activities funded with amounts
3 made available under a grant under this Act will not
4 duplicate activities funded from other sources in the
5 community served.

6 **SEC. 7. REPORTS.**

7 (a) REPORT TO ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL.—
8 For each fiscal year for which a grant is awarded under
9 this Act, the Police Athletic League shall submit to the
10 Assistant Attorney General a report on the use of amounts
11 made available under the grant.

12 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than May 1
13 of each fiscal year for which amounts are made available
14 to carry out this Act, the Assistant Attorney General shall
15 submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate
16 a report that details the progress made under this Act in
17 establishing and expanding PAL chapters in public hous-
18 ing projects and other distressed areas, and the effective-
19 ness of the PAL programs in reducing drug abuse, school
20 dropouts, and juvenile crime.

21 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
23 priated to carry out this Act \$16,000,000 for each of fiscal
24 years 2000 through 2004.

1 (b) FUNDING FOR PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.—Of
2 the amount made available to carry out this Act in each
3 fiscal year—

4 (1) not less than 2 percent shall be used for re-
5 search and evaluation of the grant program under
6 this Act;

7 (2) not less than 1 percent shall be used for
8 technical assistance related to the use of amounts
9 made available under grants awarded under this Act;
10 and

11 (3) not less than 1 percent shall be used for the
12 management and administration of the grant pro-
13 gram under this Act, except that the total amount
14 made available under this paragraph for administra-
15 tion of that program shall not exceed 6 percent.

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