

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1509

To establish a grant program to enable rural police departments to gain access to the various crime-fighting, investigatory, and information-sharing resources available on the Internet, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 4, 2001

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

A BILL

To establish a grant program to enable rural police departments to gain access to the various crime-fighting, investigatory, and information-sharing resources available on the Internet, 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 “Networking Electroni-
5 cally To Connect Our Police Act of 2001” or the “NET
6 COP Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1 (1) Internet-based crime-fighting, investigatory,
2 and information-sharing technologies have proven to
3 be extremely useful to the law enforcement agencies
4 that use them;

5 (2) the sharing of information and the dissemi-
6 nation of criminal intelligence between and among
7 Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies
8 benefit the society at large by making criminal inves-
9 tigations more inclusive and effective;

10 (3) the sharing of information between and
11 among Federal, State, and local law enforcement
12 agencies allows these agencies to find missing, ne-
13 glected, abused, or abducted children, as well as
14 non-custodial parents seeking to evade their legal or
15 financial responsibilities; and

16 (4) police departments in rural areas of the
17 country tend to be underserved by these Internet-
18 based technologies.

19 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

20 (1) to authorize the Department of Justice to
21 make grants to rural police departments for the pur-
22 chase or upgrade of computer equipment, and to pay
23 for Internet access for crime-fighting, investigatory,
24 or information-sharing purposes;

1 (2) to reimburse police department officials or
2 members who, acting on behalf of their rural police
3 departments and using personal funds, have pur-
4 chased computer equipment or paid for Internet ac-
5 cess for crime-fighting, investigatory, or information-
6 sharing purposes; and

7 (3) to require annual reports to Congress on
8 the concentration of police departments that have
9 Internet access, particularly those departments serv-
10 ing rural areas.

11 **SEC. 3. GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**

12 The Attorney General is authorized to award grants
13 to rural police departments to—

14 (1) enable those departments to gain access to
15 the various crime-fighting, investigatory, and infor-
16 mation sharing resources available on the Internet;
17 and

18 (2) reimburse rural police department officials
19 and members for the cost of computer equipment or
20 Internet access.

21 **SEC. 4. USE OF FUNDS.**

22 Grants awarded under this Act may be used—

23 (1) for the purchase of new or upgraded com-
24 puter hardware or software;

25 (2) to pay for Internet access; and

1 (3) to reimburse rural police departments that
2 have paid for computer equipment or Internet access
3 out of the funds of the department or department
4 official or members, for some or all of the costs asso-
5 ciated with those purchases, as determined by the
6 Attorney General.

7 **SEC. 5. APPLICATION.**

8 Each eligible rural police department that desires a
9 grant under this Act shall submit an application to the
10 Attorney General at such time, in such manner, and ac-
11 panied by such information as the Attorney General
12 may reasonably require.

13 **SEC. 6. GRANT PROGRAM CRITERIA.**

14 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—In awarding a grant under this
15 Act, the Attorney General shall—

16 (1) set criteria for determining which police de-
17 partments are currently underserved by crime-fight-
18 ing, investigatory, or information-sharing tech-
19 nologies available on the Internet, by differentiating
20 between police departments that do not have Inter-
21 net access, and those departments that have access
22 but are using outmoded, obsolete, or otherwise inad-
23 equate technology; and

24 (2) determine what would constitute the min-
25 imum feasible package of technologies required to

1 enable those police departments to use existing
2 crime-fighting, investigatory, and information-shar-
3 ing technologies.

4 (b) GRANT LIMITATIONS.—The Attorney General
5 shall set limits for maximum annual grants, based on de-
6 terminations made under subsection (a), for rural police
7 departments that do not have Internet access, and for
8 those that do have access but are using inadequate tech-
9 nology.

10 **SEC. 7. POLICE DEPARTMENT TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE**

11 **DESK.**

12 The Attorney General shall establish a Police Depart-
13 ment Technology Assistance Desk to offer advice to chiefs
14 of police in rural police departments regarding—

15 (1) the types of products to buy in order to
16 achieve not less than a minimum level of Internet
17 service to access existing crime-fighting, investiga-
18 tory, and information-sharing technologies; and

19 (2) technology upgrades for those police depart-
20 ments in possession of outmoded or obsolete tech-
21 nology;

22 (3) preferred vendors; and

23 (4) any other information the Attorney General
24 determines to be necessary.

1 **SEC. 8. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

2 The General Accounting Office, in consultation with
3 the Attorney General, shall annually report to Congress
4 on the concentration of police departments in the country
5 that have Internet access, with particular emphasis on the
6 number and percentage of rural police departments that
7 lack Internet access, especially high-speed Internet access.

8 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 There is authorized to be appropriated \$500,000,000
10 for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2007 to carry out
11 this Act.

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