

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2541

To prioritize the hiring and training of veterans and retired law enforcement officers as school resource officers, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW (for himself, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BARR, Mr. BACON, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To prioritize the hiring and training of veterans and retired law enforcement officers as school resource officers, 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 “Ensuring Safer  
5 Schools Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. USES OF COPS GRANTS TO HIRE VETERANS AND**  
2 **RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AS**  
3 **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS.**

4 Section 1701(b)(12) of the Omnibus Crime Control  
5 and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381(b)(12))  
6 is amended by inserting “, and the hiring and training  
7 of veterans and retired law enforcement officers to serve  
8 as school resource officers” after “offenses”.

9 **SEC. 3. PREFERENTIAL CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS**  
10 **FOR CERTAIN GRANTS.**

11 Section 1701(c) of the Omnibus Crime Control and  
12 Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381(c)) is amend-  
13 ed—

14 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “or” at the  
15 end;

16 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at  
17 the end and inserting “; or”; and

18 (3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-  
19 lowing:

20 “(4) for hiring and training veterans and re-  
21 tired law enforcement officers as school resource of-  
22 ficers.”.

23 **SEC. 4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

24 Section 1701(d) of the Omnibus Crime Control and  
25 Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381(d)(3)) is  
26 amended by inserting after paragraph (3):

1           “(4) MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING AND TRAIN-  
2           ING.—The Attorney General may provide technical  
3           assistance to States, units of local government, In-  
4           dian tribal governments, and to other public and pri-  
5           vate entities using funds under this section for pur-  
6           poses described in subsection (b)(12) to provide  
7           school resource officers with an annual mental  
8           health screening and an annual training on tactics  
9           and response.”.

10 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

11           Section 1709(4) of the Omnibus Crime Control and  
12           Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10389(4)) is amend-  
13           ed—

14           (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),  
15           by inserting “, veteran, or retired law enforcement  
16           officer” after “career law enforcement officer”;

17           (2) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at  
18           the end;

19           (3) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period  
20           at the end and inserting “; and”; and

21           (4) by inserting after subparagraph (G) the fol-  
22           lowing:

23                   “(H) to meet at least annually with stu-  
24                   dents in order to increase familiarity between

1 students and the officer and to foster commu-  
2 nity engagement.”.

3 **SEC. 6. COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VET-**  
4 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

5 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall coordinate  
6 with recipients of grants under part Q of title I of the  
7 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34  
8 U.S.C. 10381 et seq.) to connect veterans seeking to serve  
9 as school resource officers (as such term is defined in sec-  
10 tion 1709 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets  
11 Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 1038)) with local law enforcement  
12 agencies participating in school-based partnerships de-  
13 scribed in section 1701(b)(12) of the Omnibus Crime Con-  
14 trol and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C.  
15 10381(b)(12)).

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