

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2252

To increase the penalties for ambushing a law enforcement officer.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 24, 2021

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

A BILL

To increase the penalties for ambushing a law enforcement
officer.

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. PROTECTING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**
4 **FROM AMBUSH.**

5 (a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 7 of title 18, United
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 **“§ 120. Crimes targeting law enforcement officers**

9 “(a) OFFENSE.—Whoever, in any circumstance de-
10 scribed in subsection (b), knowingly causes bodily injury
11 to any person, or attempts to do so, because of the actual

1 or perceived status of the person as a law enforcement
2 officer, by ambushing the person—

3 “(1) shall be imprisoned not more than 30
4 years, fined in accordance with this title, or both;
5 and

6 “(2) shall be imprisoned for any term of years
7 or for life, fined in accordance with this title, or
8 both, if—

9 “(A) death results from the offense; or

10 “(B) the offense includes kidnapping or an
11 attempt to kidnap, or an attempt to kill.

12 “(b) CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED.—For purposes of
13 subsection (a), the circumstances described in this sub-
14 section are that—

15 “(1) the conduct described in subsection (a) oc-
16 curs during the course of, or as the result of, the
17 travel of the defendant or the victim—

18 “(A) across a State line or national border;

19 or

20 “(B) using a channel, facility, or instru-
21 mentality of interstate or foreign commerce;

22 “(2) the defendant uses a channel, facility, or
23 instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce in
24 connection with the conduct described in subsection
25 (a);

1 “(3) in connection with the conduct described in
 2 subsection (a), the defendant employs a firearm,
 3 dangerous weapon, explosive or incendiary device, or
 4 other weapon that has traveled in interstate or for-
 5 eign commerce; or

6 “(4) the conduct described in subsection (a)—

7 “(A) interferes with commercial or other
 8 economic activity in which the victim is engaged
 9 at the time of the conduct; or

10 “(B) otherwise affects interstate or foreign
 11 commerce.

12 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 “(1) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term
 14 ‘law enforcement officer’ means an employee of a
 15 governmental or public agency who is authorized by
 16 law—

17 “(A) to engage in or supervise the preven-
 18 tion, detention, investigation, or the incarcer-
 19 ation of any person for any criminal violation of
 20 law; and

21 “(B) to apprehend or arrest a person for
 22 any criminal violation of law.

23 “(2) STATE.—The term ‘State’ includes the
 24 District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and any other
 25 territory or possession of the United States.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
2 for chapter 7 of title 18, United States Code, is amended
3 by adding at the end the following:

“120. Crimes targeting law enforcement officers.”.

