

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2253

To establish a separate criminal offense for targeting an individual based on their status as 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 establish a separate criminal offense for targeting an individual based on their status as 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 TARGETING.**

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

1 to any person, or attempts to do so, because of the actual
 2 or perceived status of the person as a law enforcement
 3 officer—

4 “(1) shall be imprisoned not more than 20
 5 years, fined in accordance with this title, or both;
 6 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 “(2) the defendant uses a channel, facility, or
 24 instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce in

1 connection with the conduct described in subsection
2 (a);

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

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

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

12 “(B) otherwise affects interstate or foreign
13 commerce.

14 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

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

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

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

“120. Crimes targeting law enforcement officers.”.

