

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2853

To provide grants to State, local, territorial, and Tribal law enforcement agencies to purchase chemical screening devices and train personnel to use chemical screening devices in order to enhance law enforcement efficiency and protect law enforcement officers.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. BENNET) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide grants to State, local, territorial, and Tribal law enforcement agencies to purchase chemical screening devices and train personnel to use chemical screening devices in order to enhance law enforcement efficiency and protect law enforcement officers.

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 “Providing Officers
5 With Electronic Resources Act” or the “POWER Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

3 (1) chemical screening devices enhance the abil-
4 ity of law enforcement agencies to identify unknown
5 chemical substances seized or otherwise encountered
6 by law enforcement officers; and

7 (2) equipping law enforcement agencies with
8 technology that can more efficiently identify sub-
9 stances, such as heroin, fentanyl, methamphetamine,
10 and other narcotics, will ensure that law enforce-
11 ment agencies can—

12 (A) investigate cases more quickly and
13 safely;

14 (B) better deploy resources and strategies
15 to prevent illegal substances from entering and
16 harming communities throughout the United
17 States; and

18 (C) share spectral data with other law en-
19 forcement agencies and State and local fusion
20 centers.

21 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to provide
22 grants to State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies
23 to purchase chemical screening devices and train personnel
24 to use chemical screening devices in order to—

25 (1) enhance law enforcement efficiency; and

26 (2) protect law enforcement officers.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **APPLICANT.**—The term “applicant” means
4 a law enforcement agency that applies for a grant
5 under section 4.

6 (2) **ATTORNEY GENERAL.**—The term “Attorney
7 General” means the Attorney General, acting
8 through the Director of the Office of Community
9 Oriented Policing Services.

10 (3) **CHEMICAL SCREENING DEVICE.**—The term
11 “chemical screening device” means an infrared spec-
12 trophotometer, mass spectrometer, nuclear magnetic
13 resonance spectrometer, Raman spectrophotometer,
14 ion mobility spectrometer, or any other scientific in-
15 strumentation that is able to collect data that can be
16 interpreted to determine the presence and identity of
17 a covered substance.

18 (4) **CHIEF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.**—The
19 term “chief law enforcement officer” has the mean-
20 ing given the term in section 922(s) of title 18,
21 United States Code.

22 (5) **COVERED SUBSTANCE.**—The term “covered
23 substance” means—

24 (A) fentanyl;

25 (B) any other synthetic opioid; and

1 (C) any other narcotic or psychoactive sub-
2 stance.

3 (6) GRANT FUNDS.—The term “grant funds”
4 means funds from a grant awarded under section 4.

5 (7) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
6 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
7 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
8 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

9 (8) LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The term
10 “law enforcement agency” means an agency of a
11 State, unit of local government, or Indian Tribe that
12 is authorized by law or by a government agency to
13 engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, in-
14 vestigation, or prosecution of any violation of crimi-
15 nal law.

16 (9) PERSONNEL.—The term “personnel”—
17 (A) means employees of a law enforcement
18 agency; and

19 (B) includes scientists and law enforce-
20 ment officers.

21 (10) RECIPIENT.—The term “recipient” means
22 an applicant that receives a grant under section 4.

23 (11) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
24 ing given the term in section 901 of title I of the

1 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of
2 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10251).

3 **SEC. 4. GRANTS.**

4 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Attorney General
5 may award grants to applicants to—

6 (1) purchase a chemical screening device; and

7 (2) train personnel to use, and interpret data
8 collected by, a chemical screening device.

9 (b) APPLICATIONS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The chief law enforcement
11 officer of an applicant shall submit to the Attorney
12 General an application that—

13 (A) shall include—

14 (i) a statement describing the need for
15 a chemical screening device in the jurisdic-
16 tion of the applicant; and

17 (ii) a certification—

18 (I) of the number of chemical
19 screening devices the applicant owns
20 or possesses;

21 (II) that not less than 1 em-
22 ployee of the applicant will be trained
23 to—

1 (aa) use any chemical
2 screening device purchased using
3 grant funds; and

4 (bb) interpret data collected
5 by any chemical screening device
6 purchased using grant funds; and

7 (III) that the applicant will make
8 any chemical screening device pur-
9 chased using grant funds reasonably
10 available to test a covered substance
11 seized by a law enforcement agency
12 near the jurisdiction of the applicant;
13 and

14 (B) in addition to the information required
15 under subparagraph (A), may, at the option of
16 the applicant, include—

17 (i) information relating to—

18 (I) the process used by the appli-
19 cant to identify a covered substance
20 seized by the applicant, including—

21 (aa) the approximate aver-
22 age amount of time required for
23 the applicant to identify a cov-
24 ered substance; and

1 (bb) as of the date of the
2 application, the number of cases
3 in which the applicant is awaiting
4 identification of a covered sub-
5 stance;

6 (II) any documented case of a
7 law enforcement officer, first re-
8 sponder, or treating medical personnel
9 in the jurisdiction of the applicant
10 who has suffered an accidental drug
11 overdose caused by exposure to a cov-
12 ered substance while in the line of
13 duty;

14 (III) any chemical screening de-
15 vice the applicant will purchase using
16 grant funds, including the estimated
17 cost of the chemical screening device;
18 and

19 (IV) any estimated costs relating
20 to training personnel of the applicant
21 to use a chemical screening device
22 purchased using grant funds; and

23 (ii) data relating to—

24 (I) the approximate amount of
25 covered substances seized by the ap-

plicant during the 2-year period ending on the date of the application, categorized by the type of covered substance seized; and

(II) the approximate number of covered substance overdoses in the jurisdiction of the applicant that the applicant investigated or responded to during the 2-year period ending on the date of the application, categorized by fatal and nonfatal overdoses.

(2) JOINT APPLICATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Two or more law enforcement agencies, including law enforcement agencies located in different States, that have jurisdiction over areas that are geographically contiguous may submit a joint application for a grant under this section that includes—

(i) for each law enforcement agency—

(I) all information required under paragraph (1)(A); and

(II) any optional information described in paragraph (1)(B) that each

1 law enforcement agency chooses to in-
 2 clude;

3 (ii) a plan for the sharing of any
 4 chemical screening devices purchased or
 5 training provided using grant funds; and

6 (iii) a certification that not less than
 7 1 employee of each law enforcement agency
 8 will be trained to—

9 (I) use any chemical screening
 10 device purchased using grant funds;
 11 and

12 (II) interpret data collected by
 13 any chemical screening device pur-
 14 chased using grant funds.

15 (B) SUBMISSION.—Law enforcement agen-
 16 cies submitting a joint application under sub-
 17 paragraph (A) shall—

18 (i) be considered as 1 applicant; and

19 (ii) select the chief law enforcement
 20 officer of 1 of the law enforcement agen-
 21 cies to submit the joint application.

22 (c) RESTRICTIONS.—

23 (1) SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS.—Grant funds shall
 24 be used to supplement, and not supplant, State,
 25 local, and Tribal funds made available to any appli-

1 cant for any of the purposes described in subsection
2 (a).

3 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 3
4 percent of any grant awarded under this section may
5 be used for administrative costs.

6 (d) REPORTS AND RECORDS.—

7 (1) REPORTS.—For each year during which
8 grant funds are used, the recipient shall submit to
9 the Attorney General a report containing—

10 (A) a summary of any activity carried out
11 using grant funds;

12 (B) an assessment of whether each activity
13 described in subparagraph (A) is meeting the
14 needs described in subsection (b)(1)(A)(i) that
15 the applicant identified in the application sub-
16 mitted under subsection (b); and

17 (C) any other information relevant to the
18 purpose of this Act that the Attorney General
19 may determine appropriate.

20 (2) RECORDS.—For the purpose of an audit by
21 the Attorney General of the receipt and use of grant
22 funds, a recipient shall—

23 (A) keep—

24 (i) any record relating to the receipt
25 and use of grant funds; and

1 (ii) any other record as the Attorney
2 General may require; and
3 (B) make the records described in subpara-
4 graph (A) available to the Attorney General
5 upon request by the Attorney General.

6 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Attor-
8 ney General \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 to carry out
9 section 4.

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