

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 3249, With an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

115TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 3249

To authorize the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To authorize the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program, 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 “Project Safe Neighbor-
5 hoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 For the purposes of this Act—

1 (1) the term “criminal street gangs” has the
2 meaning given such term in section 521 of title 18,
3 United States Code;

4 (2) the term “gang crime” means a felony or
5 misdemeanor crime, under State or Federal law,
6 committed by one or more persons who are a mem-
7 ber of, or directly affiliated with, a criminal street
8 gang;

9 (3) the term “transnational organized crime
10 group” has the meaning given such term in section
11 36(k)(6) of the State Department Basic Authorities
12 Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708(k)(6));

13 (4) the term “transnational organized crime”
14 has the meaning given such term in section 36(k)(5)
15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of
16 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708(k)(5)); and

17 (5) the term “firearms offenses” means an of-
18 fense under section 922 or 924 of title 18, United
19 States Code.

20 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.**

21 The Attorney General of the United States is author-
22 ized to establish and carry out a program, to be known
23 as the “Project Safe Neighborhoods Block Grant Pro-
24 gram” or, in this Act, as the “Program”, within the Office
25 of Justice Programs at the Department of Justice.

1 **SEC. 4. PURPOSE.**

2 The purpose of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Block
3 Grant Program is to foster and improve existing partner-
4 ships between Federal, State, and local agencies, including
5 the United States Attorney in each Federal judicial dis-
6 trict, to create safer neighborhoods through sustained re-
7 ductions in violent crimes by—

8 (1) developing and executing strategic plans to
9 assist law enforcement agencies in combating gang
10 crimes, including the enforcement of gun laws and
11 drug interdiction; and

12 (2) developing intervention and prevention ini-
13 tiatives, including juvenile justice projects and activi-
14 ties which may include street-level outreach, conflict
15 mediation, and the changing of community norms, in
16 order to reduce violence.

17 **SEC. 5. RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall, not
19 later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act,
20 make rules to create, carry out, and administer the Pro-
21 gram in accordance with this section.

22 (b) FUNDS TO BE DIRECTED TO LOCAL CONTROL.—
23 Amounts made available as grants under the Program
24 shall be, to the greatest extent practicable, locally con-
25 trolled to address problems that are identified locally

1 (c) REGIONAL GANG TASK FORCES.—30 percent of
2 the amounts made available as grants under the Program
3 each fiscal year shall be granted to established Regional
4 Gang Task Forces in regions experiencing a significant
5 or increased presence of, or high levels of activity from,
6 transnational organized crime groups posing threats to
7 community safety in terms of violent crime, firearms of-
8 fenses, human trafficking, trafficking and distribution of
9 illegal opioids and heroin, and other crimes.

10 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; CONSOLIDA-**
11 **TION OF PROGRAMS.**

12 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
13 authorized to be appropriated for the Program under this
14 Act \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through
15 2021.

16 (b) CONSOLIDATION OF PROGRAMS.—For each of fis-
17 cal years 2019 through 2023, no funds are authorized to
18 be separately appropriated to the Department of Justice
19 Office of Justice Programs for—

20 (1) competitive and evidence-based programs to
21 reduce gun crime and gang violence;

22 (2) an Edward Byrne Memorial criminal justice
23 innovation program;

24 (3) community-based violence prevention initia-
25 tives; or

- 1 (4) gang and youth violence education, preven-
- 2 tion and intervention, and related activities.