

## Union Calendar No.

115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3249

[Report No. 115-]

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

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 2017

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

NOVEMBER --, 2017

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on July 14, 2017]

# **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—*

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

11            (2) *the term “gang crime” means a felony or*  
12 *misdemeanor crime, under State or Federal law, com-*  
13 *mitted by one or more persons who are a member of,*  
14 *or directly affiliated with, a criminal street gang;*

15            (3) *the term “transnational organized crime*  
16 *group” has the meaning given such term in section*  
17 *36(k)(6) of the State Department Basic Authorities*  
18 *Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708(k)(6));*

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

23            (5) *the term “firearms offenses” means an offense*  
24 *under section 922 or 924 of title 18, United States*  
25 *Code.*

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.**

2       *The Attorney General of the United States is author-*  
3 *ized to establish and carry out a program, to be known as*  
4 *the “Project Safe Neighborhoods Block Grant Program” or,*  
5 *in this Act, as the “Program”, within the Office of Justice*  
6 *Programs at the Department of Justice.*

7 **SEC. 4. PURPOSE.**

8       *The purpose of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Block*  
9 *Grant Program is to foster and improve existing partner-*  
10 *ships between Federal, State, and local agencies, including*  
11 *the United States Attorney in each Federal judicial district,*  
12 *to create safer neighborhoods through sustained reductions*  
13 *in violent crimes by—*

14           (1) *developing and executing strategic plans to*  
15 *assist law enforcement agencies in combating gang*  
16 *crimes, including the enforcement of gun laws and*  
17 *drug interdiction; and*

18           (2) *developing intervention and prevention ini-*  
19 *tiatives, including juvenile justice projects and activi-*  
20 *ties which may include street-level outreach, conflict*  
21 *mediation, and the changing of community norms, in*  
22 *order to reduce violence.*

23 **SEC. 5. RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

24       (a) *IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall, not*  
25 *later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act,*

1 *make rules to create, carry out, and administer the Pro-*  
2 *gram in accordance with this section.*

3 (b) *FUNDS TO BE DIRECTED TO LOCAL CONTROL.*—  
4 *Amounts made available as grants under the Program shall*  
5 *be, to the greatest extent practicable, locally controlled to*  
6 *address problems that are identified locally*

7 (c) *REGIONAL GANG TASK FORCES.*—30 percent of the  
8 *amounts made available as grants under the Program each*  
9 *fiscal year shall be granted to established Regional Gang*  
10 *Task Forces in regions experiencing a significant or in-*  
11 *creased presence of, or high levels of activity from,*  
12 *transnational organized crime groups posing threats to*  
13 *community safety in terms of violent crime, firearms of-*  
14 *fenses, human trafficking, trafficking and distribution of il-*  
15 *legal opioids and heroin, and other crimes.*

16 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; CONSOLIDA-**  
17 **TION OF PROGRAMS.**

18 (a) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—*There is*  
19 *authorized to be appropriated for the Program under this*  
20 *Act \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2020.*

21 (b) *CONSOLIDATION OF PROGRAMS.*—*For each of fiscal*  
22 *years 2018 through 2022, no funds are authorized to be sep-*  
23 *arately appropriated to the Department of Justice Office*  
24 *of Justice Programs for—*

- 1           (1) *competitive and evidence-based programs to*  
2           *reduce gun crime and gang violence;*
- 3           (2) *an Edward Byrne Memorial criminal justice*  
4           *innovation program;*
- 5           (3) *community-based violence prevention initia-*  
6           *tives; or*
- 7           (4) *gang and youth violence education, preven-*  
8           *tion and intervention, and related activities.*