

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1279

To authorize the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance to make grants to States, units of local government, and gun dealers to conduct gun buyback programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2019

Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Ms. DEAN, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. SOTO, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. WILD, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MENG, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. MOORE, Mr. SIRES, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. NORCROSS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. HIGGINS of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To authorize the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance to make grants to States, units of local government, and gun dealers to conduct gun buyback programs, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Safer Neighborhoods Gun Buyback Act of 2019”.

4 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
5 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—GUN BUYBACK GRANT PROGRAM

Sec. 101. Program authorized.

Sec. 102. Applications.

Sec. 103. Term of grant.

Sec. 104. Smart prepaid cards.

Sec. 105. Uses of funds.

Sec. 106. Definitions.

Sec. 107. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE II—CRIMINAL PROVISION

Sec. 201. Use of smart prepaid card to buy or sell a firearm.

6 **TITLE I—GUN BUYBACK GRANT**
7 **PROGRAM**

8 **SEC. 101. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

9 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the Bureau of
10 Justice Assistance (referred to in this title as the “Direc-
11 tor”) may make grants to eligible entities to conduct gun
12 buyback programs.

13 (b) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.**—In this title, the
14 term “eligible entity” means—

15 (1) a State;

16 (2) a unit of local government; or

17 (3) a gun dealer if neither the unit of local gov-
18 ernment nor the State where such dealer is located
19 receives a grant under this title.

1 **SEC. 102. APPLICATIONS.**

2 (a) GRANTS.—The chief executive of an eligible entity
3 seeking a grant under this title shall submit an application
4 to the Director at such time and containing such informa-
5 tion as the Director may reasonably require.

6 (b) SUBGRANTS.—A gun dealer located in a unit of
7 local government or State that does receive a grant under
8 this title seeking a subgrant shall submit an application
9 to the chief executive of such unit of local government or
10 State at such time and containing such information as the
11 chief executive may reasonably require, including proof of
12 such dealer’s license under section 923 of title 18, United
13 States Code.

14 **SEC. 103. TERM OF GRANT.**

15 (a) TERM.—The term of a grant awarded under this
16 title shall be two years.

17 (b) AVAILABILITY OF GRANT FUNDS.—

18 (1) STATES OR UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERN-
19 MENT.—A State or unit of local government that re-
20 ceives a grant under this title shall return to the Di-
21 rector any remaining smart prepaid cards and any
22 unused portion of such grant at the end of the two-
23 year and 270-day period beginning on the date that
24 the grant was awarded.

25 (2) GUN DEALERS.—A gun dealer that receives
26 a grant or subgrant under this title shall return to

1 the Director any remaining smart prepaid cards and
2 any unused portion of such grant or subgrant that
3 was allocated to be used to buy back guns—

4 (A) in the case of a gun dealer receiving a
5 grant, at the end of the two-year period begin-
6 ning on the date that the grant was awarded;
7 or

8 (B) in the case of a gun dealer receiving
9 a subgrant, at the end of the two-year period
10 beginning on the date that the grant was
11 awarded to the State or unit of local govern-
12 ment from which the gun dealer received a
13 subgrant.

14 (c) AMOUNTS RETURNED.—The Director shall re-
15 turn to the general fund of the Treasury any amounts re-
16 turned under subsection (b).

17 **SEC. 104. SMART PREPAID CARDS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—In conducting the grant program
19 authorized under section 101, the Director may reserve
20 such funds as may be necessary to acquire and distribute
21 smart prepaid cards to eligible entities that receive grants
22 under this title. The Director shall distribute the smart
23 prepaid cards without any funds loaded onto the cards.

24 (b) MARKET VALUE OF GUNS.—The Director shall
25 determine the market value of each gun that the Director

1 determines should be included in the gun buyback pro-
2 gram and make such information publicly available.

3 (c) PROHIBITION ON USE OF CARDS TO BUY
4 GUNS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—A person may not use a
6 smart prepaid card in the acquisition of a gun or
7 ammunition, and a person may not accept a smart
8 prepaid card in the transfer (including a loan) of a
9 gun or ammunition.

10 (2) PENALTY.—A person that violates para-
11 graph (1) shall pay to the Director an amount that
12 is equal to the value of the prohibited sale.

13 **SEC. 105. USES OF FUNDS.**

14 (a) STATES AND UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—
15 A State or unit of local government receiving a grant
16 under this title shall use such funds to do the following:

17 (1) GUN BUYBACK PROGRAM.—Use such funds
18 to—

19 (A) conduct a gun buyback program; or

20 (B) make subgrants to gun dealers in such
21 State or unit of local government to conduct
22 gun buyback programs, and distribute the
23 smart prepaid cards such State or unit of local
24 government receives to gun dealers receiving
25 subgrants.

1 (2) GUN AND AMMUNITION RECYCLING PRO-
2 GRAM.—Use not more than 10 percent of such funds
3 to recycle the guns and ammunition that such State
4 or unit of local government collects or receives from
5 gun dealers.

6 (3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Use not more
7 than 15 percent of such funds for the administrative
8 costs of carrying out the grant program under this
9 title, including the criminal database checks under
10 subsection (f).

11 (b) GUN DEALERS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—A gun dealer receiving a
13 grant or subgrant under this title shall use such
14 funds to conduct a gun buyback program.

15 (2) SMART PREPAID CARD AMOUNTS.—

16 (A) In order to purchase a gun through a
17 gun buyback program, a gun dealer shall load
18 onto a smart prepaid card 125 percent of the
19 market value of the gun that the individual
20 wishes to dispose of (as determined by the Di-
21 rector under section 104(b)).

22 (B) A gun dealer may increase the pur-
23 chase price of a gun and load an amount onto
24 a smart prepaid card that is greater than 125
25 percent of the market value of the gun if the

1 gun dealer determines that the gun has been al-
2 tered in a way that would increase the market
3 value of the gun (such as an altered grip, or the
4 addition of a scope).

5 (3) GUNS RECEIVED.—

6 (A) In the case of a gun dealer receiving
7 a grant under this title, the gun dealer shall de-
8 liver a gun or ammunition the dealer receives
9 under the gun buyback program to the closest
10 office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Fire-
11 arms and Explosives not later than 60 days
12 after receiving such gun.

13 (B) In the case of a gun dealer receiving
14 a subgrant under this title, the gun dealer shall
15 deliver a gun or ammunition the dealer receives
16 under the gun buyback program to the State or
17 unit of local government from which it receives
18 the subgrant not later than 60 days after re-
19 ceiving such gun.

20 (c) AMMUNITION COLLECTION.—A State, unit of
21 local government, or gun dealer conducting a gun buyback
22 program under this title may accept ammunition from in-
23 dividuals wishing to dispose of it, which shall be recycled
24 in accordance with paragraph (3), but may not use smart

1 prepaid cards to purchase ammunition under the gun
2 buyback program.

3 (d) INCENTIVES FOR GUN DEALER PARTICIPA-
4 TION.—To the extent that the Director determines nec-
5 essary to facilitate participation of gun dealers in the gun
6 buyback program, grant funds may be used to provide
7 monetary or other incentives to gun dealers to participate
8 in such program. For purposes of subsection (a), any such
9 incentives shall be treated as part of the subgrant to the
10 gun dealer described in paragraph (1)(B) thereof.

11 (e) RESALE OF GUNS PROHIBITED.—A State, unit
12 of local government, or gun dealer conducting a gun
13 buyback program under this title may not sell a gun or
14 ammunition received under such program.

15 (f) CRIMINAL DATABASE CHECK.—A State, unit of
16 local government, or office of the Bureau of Alcohol, To-
17 bacco, Firearms and Explosives that receives a gun under
18 a gun buyback program under this title shall, not later
19 than 21 days after receiving the gun, use any database
20 accessible to the State, unit of local government, or office
21 of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explo-
22 sives, as applicable, in order to determine whether the gun
23 was used in the commission of a crime. If such a gun was
24 used in the commission of a crime, the gun shall be deliv-
25 ered to the appropriate prosecuting authority.

1 **SEC. 106. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this title:

3 (1) **AMMUNITION.**—The term “ammunition”
4 has the meaning given such term in section
5 921(a)(17)(A) of title 18, United States Code.

6 (2) **GUN.**—The term “gun” means “firearm”
7 as defined in section 921(a)(3) of title 18, United
8 States Code.

9 (3) **GUN BUYBACK PROGRAM.**—The term “gun
10 buyback program” means a program under which a
11 State, a unit of local government, or a gun dealer,
12 using smart prepaid cards as described in section
13 105(b)(2), purchases back from individuals wishing
14 to dispose of them, a gun identified by the Director
15 under section 104(b).

16 (4) **GUN DEALER.**—The term “gun dealer”
17 means a dealer of firearms licensed under section
18 923 of title 18, United States Code.

19 (5) **SMART PREPAID CARD.**—The term “smart
20 prepaid card” means a card issued by the Director
21 that—

22 (A) is redeemable at multiple, unaffiliated
23 merchants or service providers;

24 (B) contains a mechanism, for the purpose
25 of preventing the cardholder from using it to
26 purchase a gun or ammunition, that recognizes

1 the merchant category code of a merchant and
2 prohibits the use of such card at a place of
3 business subject to a license to deal in firearms
4 under section 923 of title 18, United States
5 Code;

6 (C) is honored, upon presentation, by mer-
7 chants solely for goods or services, except for
8 merchants described in subparagraph (B);

9 (D) is loaded on a prepaid basis by a
10 State, unit of local government, or gun dealer
11 for use in a gun buyback program;

12 (E) clearly and conspicuously bears the
13 words “THIS CARD MAY NOT BE USED
14 TO PURCHASE A GUN OR AMMUNITION”
15 in capital and raised letters on the card; and

16 (F) may not redeemed for coins or cur-
17 rency.

18 (6) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
19 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, or any com-
20 monwealth, territory, or possession of the United
21 States.

22 **SEC. 107. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

23 There is authorized to be appropriated \$360,000,000
24 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2020 to carry out
25 this title.

1 **TITLE II—CRIMINAL PROVISION**

2 **SEC. 201. USE OF SMART PREPAID CARD IN THE ACQUISITION OR TRANSFER OF A FIREARM.**

3
4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:
6

7 **“§ 932. Use of smart prepaid card in the acquisition
8 or transfer of a firearm**

9 “Whoever, in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce,
10 merce, uses a smart prepaid card (as such term is defined
11 in section 106 of the Safer Neighborhoods Gun Buyback
12 Act of 2017) in connection with the acquisition of, or accepts
13 a smart prepaid card in connection with the transfer
14 (including a loan) of a firearm or ammunition shall be
15 fined under this title, imprisoned for not more than 2
16 years, or both.”.

17 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

18 (1) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
19 924(a)(1) of title 18, United States Code, is amended
20 ed by inserting after “section 929” the following:
21 “or section 932”.

22 (2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections
23 at the beginning of chapter 44 of title 18, United

- 1 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item
- 2 relating to section 931 the following:

“932. Use of smart prepaid card in the acquisition or transfer of a firearm.”.

