



**THE REPUBLICAN
STUDY COMMITTEE**

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MARK WALKER, CHAIRMAN

Senate Amendment to H.R. 3249 — Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2017 (Rep. Comstock, R-VA)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on June 6, 2018, under a [rule](#).

The rule would also provide for consideration of H.R., the Water Resources Development Act of 2018, and H.R. 5895, the Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2019.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

The [Senate Amendment to H.R. 3249](#), the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2017, would create a new grant program within the Department of Justice (DOJ) designed to “foster and improve existing partnerships between Federal, State, and local agencies, including the United States Attorney in each Federal judicial district, to create safer neighborhoods through sustained reductions in violent crimes.” The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$50 million annually from fiscal years 2019 through 2021 and would expand the allowable areas of purpose for the grant program.

COST:

An estimate for the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3249 is not available. The bill would authorize a total of \$150 million to be appropriated over the FY 2019 – 2021 period.

According to a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimate](#), assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, implementing the House passed version of H.R. 3249 would cost \$130 million over the 2018-2022 period, with the remaining amounts spent in subsequent years.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

Some conservatives may be concerned that while the [House-passed bill](#) would have created the new grant program and would have also consolidated several existing grant programs dealing with related subjects, the Senate Amendment would *not* consolidate existing grant programs and would instead include additional existing programs and purposes for which the funds may be used by the Attorney General.

Some conservatives may be concerned the bill increases the authorized level for appropriation without a corresponding reduction in authorization, in violation of the [Majority Leader's Cut-Go for Discretionary Authorizations Floor Protocol](#).

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Yes, the bill would create a new grant program.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** Some conservatives may believe that the prevention of neighborhood crime is an inherently local issue falling within the scope of the state police power, and as such the federal government should not take a role in funding related local efforts.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** The bill would allow the Attorney General the authority to use funds authorized by the bill for a variety of purposes.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

The bill would authorize the creation of a new grant program within the Department of Justice (DOJ) designed to foster federal and state relations to reduce violence in neighborhoods by fighting gang crime and developing intervention and prevention initiatives.

The bill would require that 30% of grant funds be awarded to established Regional Gang Task Forces in regions experiencing a significant or increased presence of, or high levels of activity from, transnational organized crime groups.

The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$50 million annually from fiscal years 2019 through 2021.

The Senate Amendment would provide for additional purpose areas for which the Attorney General would be authorized to use funds, including: (1) competitive and evidence-based programs to reduce gun crime and gang violence; (2) the Edward Byrne criminal justice innovation program; (3) community-based violence prevention initiatives; or (4) gang and youth violence education, prevention and intervention, and related activities.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 3249 was introduced on July 14, 2017, and was referred to the House Judiciary Committee. On November 2, 2017, a mark-up session was held and the bill was ordered to be reported, as amended, by voice vote.

This legislation passed the House by voice vote on March 14, 2018. The RSC legislative Bulletin can be found [here](#).

It passed the Senate, amended, by voice vote on May 16, 2018.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

“Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution.” A specific enumerating clause was not provided.

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