

SUPPORTING POLICE REFORM

In the Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations Bills



FY2021 Appropriations Bills complement the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act to protect civil rights and improve police practices across the country.

Strong Funding for Reform Initiatives

The Commerce-Justice-Science bill complements the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act with strong funding for reform efforts at police departments across the nation:

- \$400 million for grants to carry out police reform initiatives, including for investigations of police misconduct, independent oversight of police, and efforts of community-based organizations
- \$77.5 million for Police-Community Relations Grant programs
- \$50 million within Byrne JAG for police training aimed at eliminating police misconduct
- \$27.2 million within Byrne JAG to help law enforcement improve reporting on the use of force, comply with consent decrees, and create local task forces on public safety innovation
- \$25 million for Federal investigation and prosecution support to address police misconduct, along with language reversing the limits on such efforts begun by former Attorney General Sessions
- \$8 million for Hate Crime Prevention and Prosecution Grants
- \$5 million for a new National Task Force on Law Enforcement Oversight
- \$4 million for Civilian Review Boards

Improving Police Practices

The Commerce-Justice-Science bill conditions federal grant funding for state and local law enforcement on improvements to police practices:

- Requires state and local law enforcement agencies to begin the process of obtaining accreditation from a certified law enforcement accreditation organization before receiving fiscal year 2021 DOJ funds
- Requires state and local governments, as a precondition for receiving any fiscal year 2021 COPS or Byrne JAG funds, to comply with nine specific conditions aimed at greatly improving police practices
- Requires at least 25 percent of a recipient's Byrne JAG formula funds to be spent in specified ways aimed at improving police practices and preventing police misconduct

Ensuring Appropriate Training

- Within the Homeland Security appropriations bill, provides \$4.7 million for Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC) to expand use of force training to state and local law enforcement personnel.
- Across all 12 bills, language directs departments, agencies, services, and other entities to adopt law enforcement training programs established by the Attorney General.

Strengthening Transparency and Accountability

- Adds new language prohibiting funding for law enforcement for crowd control, unless such law enforcement wears clearly visible identification showing their agency affiliation.
- Includes strong language to bring more transparency and accountability to the Capitol Police, with reports required on diversity in the force and racial profiling by officers.

Stopping Law Enforcement Militarization

- The Defense appropriations bill complements the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act by limiting the transfer of excess defense equipment, including lethal equipment, to state and local law enforcement.