

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2948

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

APRIL 17, 2025

Mrs. McIVER (for herself, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. BELL) 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,*

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

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Safer Neighborhoods Gun Buyback Act of 2025”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

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 in the acquisition or transfer of a firearm.

## 1 **TITLE I—GUN BUYBACK GRANT** 2 **PROGRAM**

### 3 **SEC. 101. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Bureau of  
 5 Justice Assistance (referred to in this title as the “Direc-  
 6 tor”) may make grants to eligible entities to conduct gun  
 7 buyback programs.

8 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this title, the  
 9 term “eligible entity” means—

- 10 (1) a State;
- 11 (2) a unit of local government;
- 12 (3) Tribal government; or
- 13 (4) a covered gun dealer.

### 14 **SEC. 102. APPLICATIONS.**

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

19 (b) SUBGRANTS.—A covered gun dealer seeking a  
 20 subgrant shall submit an application to the chief executive

1 of such unit of local government or State at such time  
2 and containing such information as the chief executive  
3 may reasonably require, including proof of such dealer's  
4 license under section 923 of title 18, United States Code.

5 **SEC. 103. TERM OF GRANT.**

6 (a) **TERM.**—The term of a grant awarded under this  
7 title shall be two years.

8 (b) **AVAILABILITY OF GRANT FUNDS.**—

9 (1) **STATES OR UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERN-**  
10 **MENT.**—A State or unit of local government that re-  
11 ceives a grant under this title shall return to the Di-  
12 rector any remaining smart prepaid cards and any  
13 unused portion of such grant at the end of the two-  
14 year and 270-day period beginning on the date that  
15 the grant was awarded.

16 (2) **GUN DEALERS.**—A gun dealer that receives  
17 a grant or subgrant under this title shall return to  
18 the Director any remaining smart prepaid cards and  
19 any unused portion of such grant or subgrant that  
20 was allocated to be used to buy back guns—

21 (A) in the case of a gun dealer receiving a  
22 grant, at the end of the two-year period begin-  
23 ning on the date that the grant was awarded;  
24 or

1           (B) in the case of a gun dealer receiving  
2           a subgrant, at the end of the two-year period  
3           beginning on the date that the grant was  
4           awarded to the State or unit of local govern-  
5           ment from which the gun dealer received a  
6           subgrant.

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

10 **SEC. 104. SMART PREPAID CARDS.**

11           (a) IN GENERAL.—In conducting the grant program  
12           authorized under section 101, the Director may reserve  
13           such funds as may be necessary to acquire and distribute  
14           smart prepaid cards to eligible entities that receive grants  
15           under this title. The Director shall distribute the smart  
16           prepaid cards without any funds loaded onto the cards.

17           (b) MARKET VALUE OF GUNS.—The Director shall  
18           determine the market value of each gun that the Director  
19           determines should be included in the gun buyback pro-  
20           gram and make such information publicly available.

21           (c) PROHIBITION ON USE OF CARDS TO BUY  
22           GUNS.—

23           (1) IN GENERAL.—A person may not use a  
24           smart prepaid card in the acquisition of a gun or  
25           ammunition, and a person may not accept a smart

1 prepaid card in the transfer (including a loan) of a  
2 gun or ammunition.

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

6 **SEC. 105. USES OF FUNDS.**

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

10 (1) GUN BUYBACK PROGRAM.—Use such funds  
11 to—

12 (A) conduct a gun buyback program; or

13 (B) make subgrants to gun dealers in such  
14 State or unit of local government to conduct  
15 gun buyback programs, and distribute the  
16 smart prepaid cards such State or unit of local  
17 government receives to gun dealers receiving  
18 subgrants.

19 (2) GUN AND AMMUNITION RECYCLING PRO-  
20 GRAM.—Use not less than 5 percent of such funds  
21 to destroy the guns, including all parts, components,  
22 and accessories, and ammunition that such State or  
23 unit of local government collects or receives from  
24 gun dealers.

1           (3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Use not more  
2 than 15 percent of such funds for the administrative  
3 costs of carrying out the grant program under this  
4 title, including the criminal database checks under  
5 subsection (f).

6           (b) GUN DEALERS.—

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

10           (2) SMART PREPAID CARD AMOUNTS.—

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

17           (B) A gun dealer may increase the pur-  
18 chase price of a gun and load an amount onto  
19 a smart prepaid card that is greater than 125  
20 percent of the market value of the gun if the  
21 gun dealer determines that the gun has been al-  
22 tered in a way that would increase the market  
23 value of the gun (such as an altered grip, or the  
24 addition of a scope).

25           (3) GUNS RECEIVED.—

1           (A)(i) In the case of a gun dealer receiving  
2 a grant under this title, the gun dealer shall  
3 verify, pursuant to section 534(a)(5) of title 28,  
4 United States Code, that each firearm received  
5 under this program has not been reported sto-  
6 len.

7           (ii) If such firearm has been reported sto-  
8 len, such gun dealer shall notify the Bureau of  
9 Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
10 within 24 hours.

11           (B) In the case of a gun dealer receiving  
12 a grant under this title, the gun dealer shall de-  
13 liver a gun, as received including all parts, com-  
14 ponents, and accessories, or ammunition the  
15 dealer receives under the gun buyback program  
16 to the closest office of the Bureau of Alcohol,  
17 Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives not later  
18 than 30 days after receiving such gun.

19           (C) In the case of a gun dealer receiving  
20 a subgrant under this title, the gun dealer shall  
21 deliver a gun, as received including all parts,  
22 components, and accessories, or ammunition the  
23 dealer receives under the gun buyback program  
24 to the State or unit of local government from

1           which it receives the subgrant not later than 30  
2           days after receiving such gun.

3           (c) AMMUNITION COLLECTION.—A State, unit of  
4 local government, or gun dealer conducting a gun buyback  
5 program under this title may accept ammunition from in-  
6 dividuals wishing to dispose of it, which shall be destroyed  
7 in accordance with the recycling program in subsection  
8 (a)(2), but may not use smart prepaid cards to purchase  
9 ammunition under the gun buyback program.

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

18          (e) RESALE OF GUNS PROHIBITED.—A State, unit  
19 of local government, or gun dealer conducting a gun  
20 buyback program under this title may not sell a gun, or  
21 any of the parts, components, or accessories of the gun  
22 as received, or ammunition received under such program.

23          (f) CRIMINAL DATABASE CHECK.—A State, unit of  
24 local government, or office of the Bureau of Alcohol, To-  
25 bacco, Firearms and Explosives that receives a gun under

1 a gun buyback program under this title shall, not later  
2 than 21 days after receiving the gun, use any database  
3 accessible to the State, unit of local government, or office  
4 of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explo-  
5 sives, as applicable, in order to determine whether the gun  
6 was used in the commission of a crime. If such a gun was  
7 used in the commission of a crime, the gun shall be deliv-  
8 ered to the appropriate prosecuting authority.

9 **SEC. 106. DEFINITIONS.**

10 In this title:

11 (1) **AMMUNITION.**—The term “ammunition”  
12 has the meaning given such term in section  
13 921(a)(17)(A) of title 18, United States Code.

14 (2) **COVERED GUN DEALER.**—The term “cov-  
15 ered gun dealer” means a gun dealer—

16 (A) not subject to a warning letter or  
17 warning conference pursuant to violations of  
18 Federal law by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,  
19 Firearms and Explosives in the 5 years prior to  
20 the date on which the dealer receives a grant  
21 under this title; and

22 (B) is not located in a unit of local govern-  
23 ment or State that receives a grant under this  
24 title.

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

4           (4) GUN BUYBACK PROGRAM.—The term “gun  
5 buyback program” means a program under which a  
6 State, a unit of local government, or a gun dealer,  
7 using smart prepaid cards as described in section  
8 105(b)(2), purchases back from individuals wishing  
9 to dispose of them, a gun identified by the Director  
10 under section 104(b).

11           (5) GUN DEALER.—The term “gun dealer”  
12 means a dealer of firearms licensed under section  
13 923 of title 18, United States Code.

14           (6) SMART PREPAID CARD.—The term “smart  
15 prepaid card” means a card issued by the Director  
16 that—

17                   (A) is redeemable at multiple, unaffiliated  
18 merchants or service providers;

19                   (B) contains a mechanism, for the purpose  
20 of preventing the cardholder from using it to  
21 purchase a gun or ammunition, that recognizes  
22 the merchant category code of a merchant and  
23 prohibits the use of such card at a place of  
24 business subject to a license to deal in firearms

1 under section 923 of title 18, United States  
2 Code;

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

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

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

13 (F) may not redeemed for coins or cur-  
14 rency.

15 (7) STATE.—The term “State” means each of  
16 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, or any com-  
17 monwealth, territory, or possession of the United  
18 States.

19 (8) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “tribal  
20 government” means any Indian tribe, band, nation,  
21 or other organized group or community, including  
22 any Alaska Native village or regional or village cor-  
23 poration as defined in or established pursuant to the  
24 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 688;  
25 43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) which is recognized as eligi-

1 ble for the special programs and services provided by  
2 the United States to Indians because of their special  
3 status as Indians.

4 **SEC. 107. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 There is authorized to be appropriated \$360,000,000  
6 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2027 to carry out  
7 this title.

8 **TITLE II—CRIMINAL PROVISION**

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

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United  
12 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:  
13

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

16 “Whoever, in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce,  
17 uses a smart prepaid card (as such term is defined  
18 in section 106 of the Safer Neighborhoods Gun Buyback  
19 Act of 2017) in connection with the acquisition of, or accepts  
20 a smart prepaid card in connection with the transfer  
21 (including a loan) of a firearm or ammunition shall be  
22 fined not more than \$100,000.”.

23 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

24 (1) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
25 924(a)(1) of title 18, United States Code, is amend-

1 ed by inserting after “section 929” the following:  
2 “or section 932”.

3 (2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections  
4 at the beginning of chapter 44 of title 18, United  
5 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item  
6 relating to section 931 the following:

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

