

Union Calendar No. 419

114TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 2137

[Report No. 114-543]

To ensure Federal law enforcement officers remain able to ensure their own safety, and the safety of their families, during a covered furlough.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 2015

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (for himself, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. REICHERT, and Mr. PASCRELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

MAY 10, 2016

Additional sponsors: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan and Mr. FITZPATRICK

MAY 10, 2016

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union
and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To ensure Federal law enforcement officers remain able to ensure their own safety, and the safety of their families, during a covered furlough.

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 “Federal Law Enforce-
5 ment Self-Defense and Protection Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Too often, Federal law enforcement officers
9 encounter potentially violent criminals, placing offi-
10 cers in danger of grave physical harm.

11 (2) In 2012 alone, 1,857 Federal law enforce-
12 ment officers were assaulted, with 206 sustaining se-
13 rious injuries.

14 (3) From 2008 through 2011, an additional
15 8,587 Federal law enforcement officers were as-
16 saulted.

17 (4) Federal law enforcement officers remain a
18 target even when they are off-duty. Over the past 3
19 years, 27 law enforcement officers have been killed
20 off-duty.

21 (5) It is essential that law enforcement officers
22 are able to defend themselves, so they can carry out
23 their critical missions and ensure their own personal
24 safety and the safety of their families whether on-
25 duty or off-duty.

1 (6) These dangers to law enforcement officers
2 continue to exist during a covered furlough.

3 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act—

5 (1) the term “agency” means each authority of
6 the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the
7 Government of the United States;

8 (2) the term “covered Federal law enforcement
9 officer” means any individual who—

10 (A) is an employee of an agency;

11 (B) has the authority to make arrests or
12 apprehensions for, or prosecute, violations of
13 Federal law; and

14 (C) on the day before the date on which
15 the applicable covered furlough begins, is au-
16 thorized by the agency employing the individual
17 to carry a firearm in the course of official du-
18 ties;

19 (3) the term “covered furlough” means a
20 planned event by an agency during which employees
21 are involuntarily furloughed due to downsizing, re-
22 duced funding, lack of work, or any budget situation
23 including a lapse in appropriations; and

1 (4) the term “firearm” has the meaning given
2 that term in section 921 of title 18, United States
3 Code.

4 **SEC. 4. PROTECTING FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFI-**
5 **CERS WHO ARE SUBJECTED TO A COVERED**
6 **FURLOUGH.**

7 During a covered furlough, a covered Federal law en-
8 forcement officer shall have the same rights to carry a
9 firearm issued by the Federal Government as if the cov-
10 ered furlough was not in effect, including, if authorized
11 on the day before the date on which the covered furlough
12 begins, the right to carry a concealed firearm, if the sole
13 reason the covered Federal law enforcement officer was
14 placed on leave was due to the covered furlough.

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