



S. 231 – To authorize the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program at fiscal year 2006 levels through 2012

FLOOR SITUATION

S. 231 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) on January 1, 2007. The bill was passed by the Senate by unanimous consent on May 24, 2007.

**Note: The House passed identical legislation (H.R. 3546) on June 25, 2008, by a vote of 406 to 11. ([Roll no. 456](#))*

S. 231 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 14, 2008.

SUMMARY

S. 231 authorizes appropriations for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program through fiscal year 2012.

S. 231 authorizes \$1.095 billion annually through FY2012 for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program.

**Note: The program was authorized at \$1.095 billion in FY2006 and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2007-2009.*

BACKGROUND

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) allows states and local governments to improve their criminal justice system by supporting activities that help prevent and control crime. Funding under the JAG program has six targeted purpose areas: law enforcement; prosecution and court programs; prevention and education programs; corrections and community corrections programs; drug treatment and enforcement programs; planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs; and crime victim and witness programs.

The JAG program provides state and local governments with a single funding mechanism that simplifies the administration process for grants going towards crime control programs. The formula used to distribute funds under JAG is based on state population and crime statistics, along with a minimum allocation for each state, to help ensure that each state receives an appropriate share. The JAG program was authorized under the Violence against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-162).

[Department of Justice - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program](#)

COST

On March 26, 2007, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that "S. 231 would cost about \$2.3 billion over the 2007-2012 period." (CBO Cost Estimate for H.R. 231) However, CBO had to use different assumptions for the enactment date of the House passed legislation and now estimates that the bill "would cost about \$3 billion over the 2008-2013 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts." (CBO Cost Estimate for H.R. 3546)

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