



H.R. 6838 – CAMPUS Safety Act of 2008

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6838 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 Representative Robert Scott (D-VA) on September 8, 2008. The bill was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, but was not considered.

H.R. 6838 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 27, 2008.

SUMMARY

New Center: H.R. 6838 authorizes the establishment of a National Center for Campus and Public Safety, which will be administered by the Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing (COPS).

Grants: The bill allows grants to be awarded to institutions of higher education and nonprofit institutions to carry out the functions of the center, including providing campus public safety agencies with training and education, fostering research to strengthen the safety and security of institutions of higher education, and coordinating campus safety information.

Report: It requires the Center to report annually to Congress and the Attorney General on activities conducted during the previous twelve months.

Authorization Level: The bill authorizes \$2.75 million for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2013.

BACKGROUND

Over the past several years, many institutions of higher education have been faced with situations that compromise the safety of their students, faculty, and others on campus, most notably the tragic events that occurred at Virginia Tech in 2007 and at Northern Illinois University in 2008. These incidents have led to a renewed focus on securing the safety of our nation's campuses.

The Office of Community Oriented Policing (COPS) is a part of the Department of Justice and awards grants to tribal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to hire and train community policing professionals, to attain and deploy new crime fighting technologies, and to develop innovative strategies for policing. According to the COPS Office, the COPS Office has invested \$12.4 billion to help law enforcement advance the practice of community policing, and has enabled more than 13,000 state, local, and tribal agencies to hire more than 117,000 police officers and deputies since 1995.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office has not issued a cost estimate for this legislation.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Brianne Miller at 6-2302.