

HR 1279 IH

109th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. R. 1279

To amend title 18, United States Code, to reduce violent gang crime and protect law-abiding citizens and communities from violent criminals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**March 14, 2005**

Mr. FORBES (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. GOODE, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, and Mr. ALEXANDER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to reduce violent gang crime and protect law-abiding citizens and communities from violent criminals, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the `Gang Deterrence and Community Protection Act of 2005'.

TITLE I--CRIMINAL LAW REFORMS AND ENHANCED PENALTIES TO DETER AND PUNISH ILLEGAL STREET GANG ACTIVITY AND RELATED CRIMINAL LAW REFORMS

SEC. 101. REVISION AND EXTENSION OF PENALTIES RELATED TO CRIMINAL STREET GANG ACTIVITY.

(a) In General- Chapter 26 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

`CHAPTER 26--CRIMINAL STREET GANGS

`521. Criminal street gang prosecutions.

`Sec. 521. Criminal street gang prosecutions

`(a) Street Gang Crime- Whoever commits, or conspires, threatens or attempts to commit, a gang crime in order to further the activities of a criminal street gang, or in order to gain entrance to or maintain or increase position in such a gang, shall, in addition to being subject to a fine under this title--

- `(1) if the gang crime results in the death of any person, be sentenced to death or life in prison;
- `(2) if the gang crime is kidnapping, aggravated sexual abuse, or maiming, be imprisoned for life or any term of years not less than 30;
- `(3) if the gang crime is assault resulting in serious bodily injury (as defined in section 1365), be imprisoned for life or any term of years not less than 20; and
- `(4) in any other case, be imprisoned for life or for any term of years not less than 10.

`(b) Forfeiture-

`(1) IN GENERAL- Whoever violates this section shall, in addition to any other penalty, forfeit to the United States--

`(A) any property constituting, or derived from, any proceeds the person obtained, directly or indirectly, as a result of the violation; and

`(B) any property used, or intended to be used, in any manner or part, to commit, or to facilitate the commission of, the violation.

`(2) APPLICATION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT- Subsections (b), (c), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), and (p) of section 413 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 853) shall apply to a forfeiture under this section as though it were a forfeiture under that section.

`(c) Definitions- The following definitions apply in this section:

`(1) CRIMINAL STREET GANG- The term `criminal street gang' means a formal or informal group or association of 3 or more individuals, who commit 2 or more gang crimes (one of which is a crime of violence other than an offense punishable under subparagraphs (A), (B), or (C) of section 401(b)(1) of the Controlled Substances Act), in 2 or more separate criminal episodes, in relation to the group or association, if any of the activities of the criminal street gang affects interstate or foreign commerce.

`(2) GANG CRIME- The term `gang crime' means conduct constituting any Federal or State crime, punishable by imprisonment for more than one year, in any of the following categories:

`(A) A crime of violence.

`(B) A crime involving obstruction of justice, tampering with or retaliating against a witness, victim, or informant, or burglary.

`(C) A crime involving the manufacturing, importing, distributing, possessing with intent to distribute, or otherwise dealing in a controlled substance or listed chemical (as those terms are defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)).

`(D) Any conduct punishable under section 844 (relating to explosive materials), subsection (d), (g)(1) (where the underlying conviction is a violent felony (as defined in section 924(e)(2)(B) of this title) or is a serious drug offense (as defined in section 924(e)(2)(A)), (i), (j), (k), (o), (p), (q), (u), or (x) of section 922 (relating to unlawful acts), or subsection (b), (c), (g), (h), (k), (l), (m), or (n) of section 924 (relating to penalties), section 930 (relating to possession of firearms and dangerous weapons in Federal facilities), section 931 (relating to purchase, ownership, or possession of body armor by violent felons), sections 1028 and 1029 (relating to fraud and related activity in

connection with identification documents or access devices), section 1952 (relating to interstate and foreign travel or transportation in aid of racketeering enterprises), section 1956 (relating to the laundering of monetary instruments), section 1957 (relating to engaging in monetary transactions in property derived from specified unlawful activity), or sections 2312 through 2315 (relating to interstate transportation of stolen motor vehicles or stolen property).

(E) Any conduct punishable under section 274 (relating to bringing in and harboring certain aliens), section 277 (relating to aiding or assisting certain aliens to enter the United States), or section 278 (relating to importation of alien for immoral purpose) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

(3) AGGRAVATED SEXUAL ABUSE- The term 'aggravated sexual abuse' means an offense that, if committed in the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction would be an offense under section 2241(a).

(4) STATE- The term 'State' means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, and any commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.'

(b) Amendment Relating to Priority of Forfeiture Over Orders for Restitution- Section 3663(c)(4) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking 'chapter 46 or chapter 96 of this title' and inserting 'section 521, under chapter 46 or 96,'.

SEC. 102. INCREASED PENALTIES FOR INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN TRAVEL OR TRANSPORTATION IN AID OF RACKETEERING.

(a) Substantive Changes to Offense- Section 1952(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended--

(1) so that the heading for the section reads as follows:

'Sec. 1952. Interstate or foreign commerce-related aid to racketeering';

(2) by inserting '(1)' after '(a)';

(3) by striking 'travels' and all that follows through 'intent to' and inserting 'in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce';

(4) by striking '(1) distribute' and inserting '(A) distributes';

(5) by striking '(2) commit' and inserting '(B) commits';

(6) by striking '(3) otherwise promote, manage, establish, carry on, or facilitate' and inserting '(C) otherwise promotes, manages, establishes, carries on, or facilitates'; and

(7) by striking 'and thereafter' and all that follows through the end of the subsection and inserting the following:

'or attempts or conspires to do so, shall be punished as provided in paragraph (2).

(2) The punishment for an offense under this subsection is--

(A) in the case of a violation of subparagraph (A) or (C) of paragraph (1), a fine under this title and imprisonment for not less than 5 nor more than 20 years; and

`(B) in the case of a violation of subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1), a fine under this title and imprisonment for not less than 10 nor more than 30 years, but if death results the offender shall be sentenced to death, or to imprisonment for any term of years or for life.'

(b) Clerical Amendment- The item relating to section 1952 in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 95 of title 18, United States Code. is amended to read as follows:

SEC. 103. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO VIOLENT CRIME.

(a) Carjacking- Section 2119 of title 18, United States Code, is amended--

- (1) by striking `, with the intent to cause death or serious bodily harm';
- (2) by inserting `or conspires' after `attempts';
- (3) by striking `15' and inserting `20'; and
- (4) by striking `or imprisoned not more than 25 years, or both' and inserting `and imprisoned not less than 10 years nor more than 30 years'.

(b) Clarification of Illegal Gun Transfers to Commit Drug Trafficking Crime or Crimes of Violence- Section 924(g) of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

`(g) Whoever knowingly transfers a firearm, knowing or intending that the firearm will be used to commit, or possessed in furtherance of, a crime of violence or drug trafficking crime, shall be fined under this title and imprisoned not less than 5 years nor more than 20 years.'

(c) Amendment of Special Sentencing Provision Relating to Limitations on Criminal Association- Section 3582(d) of title 18, United States Code, is amended--

- (1) by inserting `section 521 (criminal street gang prosecutions), in' after `felony set forth in';
- (2) by striking `specified person, other than his attorney, upon' and inserting `specified person upon'; and
- (3) by inserting `a criminal street gang or' before `an illegal enterprise'.

(d) Conspiracy Penalty- Section 371 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking `five' and inserting `20'.

SEC. 104. INCREASED PENALTIES FOR USE OF INTERSTATE COMMERCE FACILITIES IN THE COMMISSION OF MURDER-FOR-HIRE AND OTHER FELONY CRIMES OF VIOLENCE.

Section 1958 of title 18, United States Code, is amended--

- (1) by striking the section heading and inserting the following:

`Sec. 1958. Use of interstate commerce facilities in the Commission of murder-for-hire and other felony crimes of violence';

- (2) by inserting `or other crime of violence, punishable by imprisonment for more than one

year,' after `intent that a murder'; and

(3) by striking `shall be fined' the first place it appears and inserting the following:

`shall, in addition to being subject to a fine under this title

`(1) if the crime of violence results in the death of any person, be sentenced to death or life in prison;

`(2) if the crime of violence is kidnapping, aggravated sexual abuse (as defined in section 521), or maiming, be imprisoned for life or any term of years not less than 30;

`(3) if the crime of violence is assault resulting in serious bodily injury (as defined in section 1365), be imprisoned for life or any term of years not less than 20; and

`(4) in any other case, be imprisoned for life or for any term of years not less than 10.'.

SEC. 105. INCREASED PENALTIES FOR VIOLENT CRIMES IN AID OF RACKETEERING ACTIVITY.

Section 1959(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

`(a) Whoever commits, or conspires, threatens, or attempts to commit, a crime of violence in order to further the activities of an enterprise engaged in racketeering activity, or in order to gain entrance to or maintain or increase position in, such an enterprise, shall, unless the death penalty is otherwise imposed, in addition and consecutive to the punishment provided for any other violation of this chapter and in addition to being subject to a fine under this title--

`(1) if the crime of violence results in the death of any person, be sentenced to death or life in prison;

`(2) if the crime of violence is kidnapping, aggravated sexual abuse (as defined in section 521), or maiming, be imprisoned for life or any term of years not less than 30;

`(3) if the crime of violence is assault resulting in serious bodily injury (as defined in section 1365), be imprisoned for life or for any term of years not less than 20; and

`(4) in any other case, be imprisoned for life or for any term of years not less than 10.'.

SEC. 106. MURDER AND OTHER VIOLENT CRIMES COMMITTED DURING AND IN RELATION TO A DRUG TRAFFICKING CRIME.

(a) In General- Part D of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

`MURDER AND OTHER VIOLENT CRIMES COMMITTED DURING AND IN RELATION TO A DRUG TRAFFICKING CRIME

`SEC. 424. (a) In General- Whoever commits, or conspires, or attempts to commit, a crime of violence during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime, shall, unless the death penalty is otherwise imposed, in addition and consecutive to the punishment provided for the drug trafficking crime and in

addition to being subject to a fine under this title--

`(1) if the crime of violence results in the death of any person, be sentenced to death or life in prison;

`(2) if the crime of violence is kidnapping, aggravated sexual abuse (as defined in section 521), or maiming, be imprisoned for life or any term of years not less than 30;

`(3) if the crime of violence is assault resulting in serious bodily injury (as defined in section 1365), be imprisoned for life or any term of years not less than 20; and

`(4) in any other case, be imprisoned for life or for any term of years not less than 10.

`(b) Venue- A prosecution for a violation of this section may be brought in--

`(1) the judicial district in which the murder or other crime of violence occurred; or

`(2) any judicial district in which the drug trafficking crime may be prosecuted.

`(c) Definitions- As used in this section--

`(1) the term `crime of violence' has the meaning given that term in section 16 of title 18, United States Code; and

`(2) the term `drug trafficking crime' has the meaning given that term in section 924(c)(2) of title 18, United States Code.'

(b) Clerical Amendment- The table of contents for the Controlled Substances Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 423, the following:

`Sec. 424. Murder and other violent crimes committed during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime.'

SEC. 107. MULTIPLE INTERSTATE MURDER.

Part I of chapter 51 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

`Sec. 1123. Use of interstate commerce facilities in the Commission of multiple murder

`(a) In General- Whoever travels in or causes another (including the intended victim) to travel in interstate or foreign commerce, or uses or causes another (including the intended victim) to use the mail or any facility of interstate or foreign commerce, or who conspires or attempts to do so, with intent that 2 or more intentional homicides be committed in violation of the laws of any State or the United States shall, in addition to being subject to a fine under this title--

`(1) if the offense results in the death of any person, be sentenced to death or life in prison;

`(2) if the offense results is assault resulting in serious bodily injury (as defined in section 1365), be imprisoned for life or any term of years not less than 20; and

`(3) in any other case, be imprisoned for life or for any term of years not less than 10.

`(b) Definition- The term `State' means each of the several States of the United States, the District of

Columbia, and any commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.'

SEC. 108. ADDITIONAL RACKETEERING ACTIVITY.

Section 1961(1) of title 18, United States Code, is amended--

(1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ` , or would have been so chargeable if the act or threat had not been committed in Indian country (as defined in section 1151) or in any other area of exclusive Federal jurisdiction,' after `chargeable under State law'; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting `section 1123 (relating to interstate murder),' after `section 1084 (relating to the transmission of wagering information),'

SEC. 109. EXPANSION OF REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION AGAINST RELEASE OF PERSONS CHARGED WITH FIREARMS OFFENSES.

Section 3142 of title 18, United States Code, is amended--

(1) in subsection (e), in the matter following paragraph (3)--

(A) by inserting `an offense under section 922(g)(1) where the underlying conviction is a drug trafficking crime (as defined in section 924(c)) or a crime of violence,' after `that the person committed'; and

(B) by inserting `or' before `the Maritime'; and

(2) in subsection (g), by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

`(1) the nature and circumstances of the offense charged, including whether the offense is a crime of violence, or involves a controlled substance, firearm, explosive, or destructive devise;'

SEC. 110. VENUE IN CAPITAL CASES.

Section 3235 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

`Sec. 3235. Venue in capital cases

`(a) The trial for any offense punishable by death shall be held in the district where the offense was committed or in any district in which the offense began, continued, or was completed.

`(b) If the offense, or related conduct, under subsection (a) involves activities which affect interstate or foreign commerce, or the importation of an object or person into the United States, such offense may be prosecuted in any district in which those activities occurred.'

SEC. 111. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR VIOLENT CRIME.

(a) In General- Chapter 214 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

`Sec. 3296. Violent crime offenses

`No person shall be prosecuted, tried, or punished for any noncapital felony, crime of violence,

including any racketeering activity or gang crime which involves any crime of violence, unless the indictment is found or the information is instituted not later than 15 years after the date on which the alleged violation occurred or the continuing offense was completed.'

(b) Clerical Amendment- The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 214 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

`3296. Violent crime offenses.'

SEC. 112. MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF CRIME OF VIOLENCE.

Section 16(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

`(b) any other offense that is an offense punishable by imprisonment for more than one year and that, by its nature, involves a substantial risk that physical force may be used against the person or property of another, or is an offense punishable under subparagraphs (A), (B), or (C) of section 401(b)(1) of the Controlled Substances Act.'

SEC. 113. CLARIFICATION TO HEARSAY EXCEPTION FOR FORFEITURE BY WRONGDOING.

Rule 804(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Evidence is amended to read as follows:

`(6) FORFEITURE BY WRONGDOING- A statement offered against a party who has engaged or acquiesced in wrongdoing, or who could reasonably foresee such wrongdoing would take place, if the wrongdoing was intended to, and did, procure the unavailability of the declarant as a witness.'

SEC. 114. INCREASED PENALTIES FOR CRIMINAL USE OF FIREARMS IN CRIMES OF VIOLENCE AND DRUG TRAFFICKING.

(a) In General- Section 924(c)(1)(A) of title 18, United States Code, is amended--

(1) in paragraph (1)(A)--

(A) by striking `shall' and inserting `or conspires to commit any of the above acts, shall, for each instance in which the firearm is used, carried, or possessed';

(B) in clause (i), by striking `5 years' and inserting `7 years'; and

(C) by striking clauses (ii) and (iii) and inserting the following:

`(ii) if the firearm is discharged, be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 15 years; and

`(iii) if the firearm is used to wound, injure, or maim another person, be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 20 years.'; and

(2) by striking paragraph (4).

(b) Conforming Amendment- Section 924 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (o).

SEC. 115. TRANSFER OF JUVENILES.

The 4th undesignated paragraph of section 5032 of title 18, United States Code, is amended--

- (1) by striking `A juvenile' where it appears at the beginning of the paragraph and inserting `Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a juvenile' ;
- (2) by striking `as an adult, except that, with' and inserting `as an adult. With'; and
- (3) by striking `However, a juvenile' and all that follows through `criminal prosecution.' at the end of the paragraph and inserting `The Attorney General may prosecute as an adult a juvenile who is alleged to have committed an act after that juvenile's 16th birthday which if committed by an adult would be a crime of violence that is a felony, an offense described in subsection (d), (i), (j), (k), (o), (p), (q), (u), or (x) of section 922 (relating to unlawful acts), or subsection (b), (c), (g), (h), (k), (l), (m), or (n) of section 924 (relating to penalties), section 930 (relating to possession of firearms and dangerous weapons in Federal facilities), or section 931 (relating to purchase, ownership, or possession of body armor by violent felons). The decision whether or not to prosecute a juvenile as an adult under the immediately preceding sentence is not subject to judicial review in any court. In a prosecution under that sentence, the juvenile may be prosecuted and convicted as an adult for any other offense which is properly joined under the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, and may also be convicted as an adult of any lesser included offense.'

**TITLE II--INCREASED FEDERAL RESOURCES TO DETER AND PREVENT AT-RISK
YOUTH FROM JOINING ILLEGAL STREET GANGS**

**SEC. 201. DESIGNATION OF AND ASSISTANCE FOR `HIGH INTENSITY'
INTERSTATE GANG ACTIVITY AREAS.**

(a) Definitions- In this section the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) GOVERNOR- The term `Governor' means a Governor of a State or the Mayor of the District of Columbia.
- (2) HIGH INTENSITY INTERSTATE GANG ACTIVITY AREA- The term `high intensity interstate gang activity area' means an area within a State that is designated as a high intensity interstate gang activity area under subsection (b)(1).
- (3) STATE- The term `State' means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, and any commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

(b) High Intensity Interstate Gang Activity Areas-

- (1) DESIGNATION- The Attorney General, after consultation with the Governors of appropriate States, may designate as high intensity interstate gang activity areas, specific areas that are located within 1 or more States.
- (2) ASSISTANCE- In order to provide Federal assistance to high intensity interstate gang activity areas, the Attorney General shall--
 - (A) establish criminal street gang enforcement teams, consisting of Federal, State, and local law enforcement authorities, for the coordinated investigation, disruption, apprehension, and prosecution of criminal street gangs and offenders in each high intensity interstate gang activity area;

(B) direct the reassignment or detailing from any Federal department or agency (subject to the approval of the head of that department or agency, in the case of a department or agency other than the Department of Justice) of personnel to each criminal street gang enforcement team;

(C) provide all necessary funding for the operation of the criminal street gang enforcement team in each high intensity interstate gang activity area; and

(D) provide all necessary funding for national and regional meetings of criminal street gang enforcement teams, and all other related organizations, as needed, to ensure effective operation of such teams through the sharing of intelligence, best practices and for any other related purpose.

(3) COMPOSITION OF CRIMINAL STREET GANG ENFORCEMENT TEAM- The team established pursuant to paragraph (2)(A) shall consist of agents and officers, where feasible, from--

(A) the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

(B) the Drug Enforcement Administration;

(C) the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives;

(D) the United States Marshals Service;

(E) the Directorate of Border and Transportation Security of the Department of Homeland Security;

(F) the Department of Housing and Urban Development;

(G) State and local law enforcement; and

(H) Federal, State, and local prosecutors.

(4) CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION- In considering an area for designation as a high intensity interstate gang activity area under this section, the Attorney General shall consider--

(A) the current and predicted levels of gang crime activity in the area;

(B) the extent to which violent crime in the area appears to be related to criminal street gang activity, such as drug trafficking, murder, robbery, assaults, carjacking, arson, kidnapping, extortion, and other criminal activity;

(C) the extent to which State and local law enforcement agencies have committed resources to--

(i) respond to the gang crime problem; and

(ii) participate in a gang enforcement team;

(D) the extent to which a significant increase in the allocation of Federal resources would enhance local response to the gang crime activities in the area; and

(E) any other criteria that the Attorney General considers to be appropriate.

(c) Additional Assistant U.S. Attorneys- The Attorney General is authorized to hire 94 additional Assistant United States attorneys to carry out the provisions of this section. Each attorney hired under this subsection shall be assigned to a high intensity interstate gang activity area.

(d) Authorization of Appropriations- There are authorized to be appropriated--

- (1) \$50,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2010 to carry out subsection (b); and
- (2) \$7,500,000 for each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2010 to carry out subsection (c).

SEC. 202. GRANTS TO STATE AND LOCAL PROSECUTORS TO COMBAT VIOLENT CRIME AND TO PROTECT WITNESSES AND VICTIMS OF CRIMES.

(a) In General- Section 31702 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13862) is amended --

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking `and' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

`(5) to hire additional prosecutors to--

 `(A) allow more cases to be prosecuted; and

 `(B) reduce backlogs;

`(6) to fund technology, equipment, and training for prosecutors and law enforcement in order to increase accurate identification of gang members and violent offenders, and to maintain databases with such information to facilitate coordination among law enforcement and prosecutors; and

`(7) to fund technology, equipment, and training for prosecutors to increase the accurate identification and successful prosecution of young violent offenders.'.

(b) Authorization of Appropriations- Section 31707 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13867) is amended to read as follows:

`SEC. 31707. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

`There are authorized to be appropriated \$20,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2010 to carry out this subtitle.'.

END