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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the use of Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program funds to support State and local efforts to reduce crime and recidivism through the expansion and enhancement of pre-incarceration diversion and rehabilitation programs, and for other purposes.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. BELL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the use of Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program funds to support State and local efforts to reduce crime and recidivism through the expansion and enhancement of pre-incarceration diversion and rehabilitation 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Diversion and Reha-  
3 bilitation Transformation Act of 2025” or the “DART Act  
4 of 2025”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 The Congress finds the following:

7 (1) Drug addiction, mental health disorders,  
8 and systemic poverty are significant contributing  
9 factors to crime rates across the United States.

10 (2) Traditional criminal justice approaches,  
11 particularly incarceration, often fail to address the  
12 underlying causes of criminal behavior and can re-  
13 sult in negative collateral consequences for individ-  
14 uals, families, and communities, including—

15 (A) loss of employment and housing;

16 (B) disruption of family relationships;

17 (C) increased risk of future criminal be-  
18 havior; and

19 (D) strain on State and local resources.

20 (3) Pre-incarceration diversion and rehabilita-  
21 tion programs offer a cost-effective and evidence-  
22 based alternative to incarceration by connecting indi-  
23 viduals with appropriate treatment, life-skills train-  
24 ing, support services, and increasing connectivity to  
25 behavioral health services, thereby addressing the

1 root causes of crime and promoting long-term public  
2 safety.

3 (4) Many States and local jurisdictions, includ-  
4 ing St. Louis County, Missouri, have successfully  
5 implemented diversion and rehabilitation programs,  
6 demonstrating their effectiveness in reducing recidi-  
7 vism and improving community outcomes.

8 (5) The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice As-  
9 sistance Grant Program (JAG) is a critical source of  
10 Federal funding for State and local criminal justice  
11 initiatives.

12 (6) Expanding the allowable uses of JAG funds  
13 to specifically include pre-arrest diversion, specialty  
14 courts, and post-release rehabilitation will enhance  
15 the effectiveness of the JAG program and promote  
16 a more comprehensive approach to criminal justice  
17 reform.

18 (7) The implementation of evidence-based and  
19 trauma-informed practices within diversion and re-  
20 habilitation programs is essential for ensuring posi-  
21 tive outcomes and reducing recidivism rates.

22 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

23 The purposes of this Act area as follows:

24 (1) To reduce crime and recidivism rates na-  
25 tionwide by supporting the expansion and enhance-

1       ment of pre-arrest diversion, court-based interven-  
2       tion, and post-release rehabilitation at the State and  
3       local levels.

4           (2) To promote a more effective and equitable  
5       criminal justice system that addresses the under-  
6       lying causes of crime and provides opportunities for  
7       individuals to turn their lives around.

8           (3) To minimize the negative collateral con-  
9       sequences associated with incarceration and the  
10      criminal justice process.

11          (4) To encourage the adoption of evidence-  
12      based and trauma-informed practices in diversion  
13      and rehabilitation programs.

14          (5) To leverage the existing infrastructure of  
15      the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance  
16      Grant Program to efficiently and effectively support  
17      diversion and rehabilitation efforts.

18          (6) To prioritize funding for programs that in-  
19      corporate mental health services, peer support, and  
20      restorative justice practices.

1 **SEC. 4. EXPANSION OF PROGRAM PURPOSE AREAS UNDER**  
2 **THE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE AS-**  
3 **SISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM.**

4 Section 501(a)(1) of the Omnibus Crime Control and  
5 Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10152(a)(1)) is  
6 amended—

7 (1) in subparagraph (H)—

8 (A) by striking “and corrections pro-  
9 grams” and inserting “, corrections, and diver-  
10 sion and rehabilitation programs”; and

11 (B) by inserting before the period at the  
12 end the following: “implemented at any phase  
13 of the criminal justice process (including pre-ar-  
14 rest and pre-trial)”; and

15 (2) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(I) Specialty courts and judicial interven-  
17 tion programs, including restorative justice pro-  
18 grams focusing on victim-involvement or com-  
19 munity-based resolutions.”.

20 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL DIVERSION AND REHABILITATION**  
21 **CLEARINGHOUSE.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Attorney General is au-  
23 thorized to establish a National Diversion and Rehabilita-  
24 tion Clearinghouse to centralize information on evidence-  
25 based practices related to diversion and rehabilitation pro-  
26 grams.

1 (b) FUNCTIONS.—The Clearinghouse established  
2 under subsection (a) is authorized to—

3 (1) collect and disseminate research on effective  
4 diversion and rehabilitation programs;

5 (2) provide technical assistance to States, local  
6 governments, and non-profits related to imple-  
7 menting a diversion and rehabilitation program;

8 (3) conduct research and develop training mate-  
9 rials on diversion and rehabilitation programs;

10 (4) identify and promote best practices for  
11 trauma-informed and restorative justice approaches  
12 to implementing a diversion and rehabilitation pro-  
13 gram; and

14 (5) provide technical assistance to recipients of  
15 grants under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice  
16 Assistance Grant Program under subpart 1 of part  
17 E of the title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and  
18 Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10151 et seq.)  
19 that are using such funds for a diversion and reha-  
20 bilitation program.

21 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
22 authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General  
23 such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section  
24 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031.

25 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) The term “diversion and rehabilitation pro-  
2           gram” means a program that—

3                   (A) places individuals who come into con-  
4                   tact with the criminal justice system into alter-  
5                   native processes outside the standard scope of  
6                   criminal justice processing; and

7                   (B) reduces an individual’s involvement in  
8                   the criminal justice system in both the short  
9                   and long term.

10          (2) The term “trauma-informed practice”  
11          means, with respect to criminal justice and rehabili-  
12          tation, an approach that recognizes the impact of  
13          trauma on individuals and seeks to create safe, sup-  
14          portive, and empowering environments that promote  
15          healing and reduce re-traumatization.

16          (3) The term “evidence-based practice” means  
17          a program or practice that—

18                   (A) is demonstrated to be effective when  
19                   implemented with fidelity;

20                   (B) is based on a clearly articulated and  
21                   empirically supported theory;

22                   (C) has measurable outcomes relevant to  
23                   reducing incarceration; and

24                   (D) has been scientifically tested and prov-  
25                   en effective through randomized control studies

- 1 or comparison group studies and with the abil-
- 2 ity to replicate and scale.