

## S 2376

### Witness Security and Protection Grant Program Act of 2015

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Crime and Law Enforcement

**Introduced:** Dec 9, 2015

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Dec 9, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2376>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** MD • **Chamber:** Senate

## Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Dec 9, 2015

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 4194	Identical bill	Jan 15, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

## **Witness Security and Protection Grant Program Act of 2015**

This bill directs the Department of Justice (DOJ) to award competitive matching grants to state, local, and tribal governments to establish or maintain witness protection programs in cases related to: (1) a homicide, serious violent felony, or serious drug offense; or (2) gangs or organized crime.

DOJ must evaluate grant applications based on certain criteria, including the prevalence of witness intimidation, the presence of organized crime, and the per capita number of homicides, violent felonies, or serious drug offenses.

The bill also requires DOJ to: (1) consider urban and rural applicants and ensure equitable geographic distribution of grant awards; and (2) develop and disseminate best practice models to help state, local, and tribal governments address witness protection and assistance issues.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Dec 9, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Dec 9, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.