

HR 5395

Back the Blue Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Dec 11, 2019

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. (Jan 30, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5395>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Bacon, Don [R-NE-2]

Party: Republican • **State:** NE • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Graves, Garret [R-LA-6]	R · LA		Dec 11, 2019
Rep. Johnson, Bill [R-OH-6]	R · OH		Dec 11, 2019
Rep. Stivers, Steve [R-OH-15]	R · OH		Dec 11, 2019
Rep. Cook, Paul [R-CA-8]	R · CA		Jan 14, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Jan 30, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 1480	Identical bill	May 15, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S2888-2889)

Back the Blue Act of 2019

This bill establishes new criminal offenses for killing, assaulting, and fleeing to avoid prosecution for killing a judge, law enforcement officer, or public safety officer.

Additionally, the bill

- expands the list of statutory aggravating factors in death penalty determinations to also include the killing or attempted killing of a law enforcement officer, judge, prosecutor, or firefighter or other first responder;
- broadens the authority of federal law enforcement officers to carry firearms;
- limits federal court review of challenges to state court convictions for killing a public safety officer or judge; and
- limits the recovery of compensatory damages and prohibits the recovery of attorney's fees by an individual for a violation of rights that occurred as a result of (or in the course of) conduct that constitutes a felony or crime of violence.

Finally, it directs the Department of Justice to make grants to law enforcement agencies and nongovernmental organizations to promote trust and improve relations between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 30, 2020:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
- **Dec 11, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Dec 11, 2019:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.