

**H J R**

**82**

## FISCAL NOTE

**REQUEST:**

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: Supporting a Police Corps Program  
 Sponsor: Rep. Ellis  
 Requestor: House HESS Committee

Agency Affected: \_\_\_\_\_  
 BRU: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Components: \_\_\_\_\_

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:** (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CAPITAL</b>						
<b>REVENUE</b>						

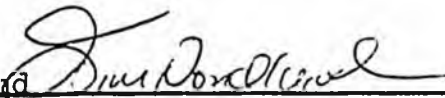
**FUNDING:** (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
<b>TOTAL</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

**ANALYSIS :** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Jim Nordlund  Phone: 465-3759  
 Division: HESS Committee staff Date: 3/9/90

Approved by Commissioner: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution (by preparer):  
 Legislative Finance  
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 Impacted Agency(ies)

# From College To Cops

*The Police Corps would trade tuition for four years on patrol*

By MICHAEL KRAMER

**M**ore cops! Everyone wants them, and everyone believes they are too expensive. Or almost everyone.

An idea that has been kicking around for nearly a decade is at last heading for a vote in the Senate. Called the Police Corps, it could dramatically increase the number of men and women patrolling America's cities.

The Police Corps is the brainchild of Adam Walinsky, a former top aide to Robert Kennedy. Its congressional sponsors run the ideological gamut. In the House the chief proponents are liberal Democrat John Lewis of Atlanta, who views the legislation as "vital" for his fellow blacks, and conservative Republican Robert Dornan of Orange County, Calif., who insists that "there is nothing partisan here because we're talking about survival."

In a simple notion reminiscent of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, the Police Corps would offer a swap: each year 25,000 competitively selected high school students would win federal financing for their college education (at an annual cost of approximately \$10,000 a student); in exchange, they would agree to serve four years as local police officers after graduation. Fully funded, the program would set the feds back about \$1.2 billion a year. Once sworn in, the four-year cops would be a bargain. The localities they serve would pay their salaries but in most cases could avoid paying their pension benefits and seniority raises down the line.

Over the long term, corps members would cost far less than career officers—perhaps a third less in union-strong cities like New York.

The Police Corps promises three other benefits. Many urban police departments have trouble attracting qualified black and Hispanic recruits. A Justice Department survey has concluded that many inner-city minority youths would be attracted to the corps's service-for-college trade. Second, the infusion of college graduates would improve the overall educational level of local police forces. Finally, over time a sizable number of civilians would gain a better appreciation of police

work because they would have been cops themselves.

The need for more police has never been greater, as one chilling statistic reveals: the ratio of police officers to reported felonies has reversed since the late 1940s. Then there were 3.3 cops for every violent crime reported in big cities. By 1988 there were about 2.2 reported serious crimes for each cop nationwide. In large cities the ratio is even worse—so bad, in fact, that many police departments lack the manpower to respond to all 911 calls. The Police Corps would put cops where they are most needed: on the street. Because rookies begin their careers on patrol, it is estimated that the number of beat pounders could increase by 40%.

Police-union opposition stymied Walinsky's idea for years, but most of that has faded away. Which leaves the Bush Administration. During his 1988 presidential campaign, candidate Bush was prepared to support the corps in a late-October speech. "But after the second debate," says a White House aide, "we were so far ahead of Dukakis that we shied away from proposing anything new."



Cadets in training in Washington

Where is President Bush now? Some Administration officials cry poverty. Others, like drug czar William Bennett, want scarce crime-fighting dollars targeted for increased prison space and more prosecutors. "Bennett's crazy," says California State Senator Ed Davis, a former Los Angeles police chief. "The truth is we can't begin to confront violent crime unless we have more police on patrol as a deterrent. The trick is to front-load the system, to be there *before* the crime takes place."

The Police Corps is an idea George Bush almost stole—and should have stolen—in '88. If he acts fast, he can still claim partial credit. ■

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## REPRESENTATIVE JOHNNY ELLIS

### HJR 82: SUPPORTING A POLICE CORPS PROGRAM Questions and Answers

**Q: What is the Police Corps?**

The Police Corps is modeled after the R.O.T.C. program. It would give loans to pay for the college education of participants who agree to be full-time members of the local police forces after graduation. After the graduates complete four years of full-time police duty, the government would assume repayment of the loans.

**Q: How will this help fight crime?**

It would help fight crime by putting 100,000 new police officers on the streets -- an increase of 40 percent. This not only provides a significant deterrent to committing crimes, but also results in a higher number of arrests.

**Q: How will it work?**

Participants would be selected competitively by the Office of the Police Corps, which would be established as a part of the Justice Department. During their college summer vacations, the Police Corps students would be given special physical and police training. After graduation, they would join state or local police departments as regular duty officers for four years.

**Q: Who would participate?**

The Police Corps will recruit students into an extremely competitive application process, which will ensure that the program attracts young men and women who are among the brightest and most talented in the country. Bringing these students, many of whom would not have considered police service before, into the war against crime will be one of the biggest benefits that this program will give to society.

Over time, the Police Corps will become a routine point of entry into the law-enforcement community. Students with ambition to become judges, prosecutors, or criminal lawyers will vie for spots in the Corps, adding to the competitiveness of the program and ensuring that in the future, these professions will attract more people who understand and sympathize with the complexities, dangers, and difficulties of police work. This will help to unify society's efforts to win back our streets.

Q: Who will benefit from the Police Corps?

There are several beneficiaries of this program. The simplest answer to the question, though, is that everyone will gain. Our streets will be safer, our lives less constricted by the terrifying fear of crime, and our society filled with people who understand the realities of law enforcement.

Members of minority communities in particular will benefit from this program. Poor, black neighborhoods have been the ones hardest hit by crime.

Obviously, the students who enroll in this program will stand to gain from it also. Police Corps students will have their lives changed in a profoundly positive way by having their tuition paid and through service to their country and community.

Q: How will the Police Corps impact Alaska law enforcement?

In addition to urban police officers, passage of the Police Corps legislation, if amended as HJR 82 suggests, will help to increase the number of Village Patrol Safety Officers and State Troopers in our rural areas.

Q: How has this idea been received?

The Police Corps has been welcomed by law enforcement officials across the country, including representatives of some police unions. In the news media, support has come from such divergent sources as William F. Buckley and The Progressive. Newspapers like the New York Times, The New York Daily News, The Philadelphia Inquirer, and the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner have all given their editorial endorsement.

In short, this is a concept that all Americans can get behind, which is a great part of its value and appeal. This widespread support sends a clear message: that America is ready to take on crime and to reward those who choose to join that fight.

## On the Beat: ROTC for Cops

Can a hybrid of a domestic Peace Corps and ROTC help bring peace to city streets? Next month the Senate will consider the Police Corps Act, a program in which 25,000 participants a year would commit to two summers of training and four years of police work after college. In return, the government would repay up to \$10,000 a year in student loans. Developed by lawyer Adam Walinsky, a former aide to Robert Kennedy, the program appeals to both liberals and conservatives. "It will accomplish two high national

priorities—stronger law enforcement and improved education," says Pennsylvania GOP Sen. Arlen Specter.

Not all police professionals like the idea. Some see it as a costly (an estimated \$1.7 billion by the year 2000) way for college kids to try police work for personal gain. But New York City Police Commissioner Lee Brown says it could bolster a profession in which the average educational level is two years of community college. It might also broaden civilian understanding of cops. If more policymakers walked a beat, says American Uni-



ROBERT MAAS FOR NEWSWEEK

*Brown, once head Roosevelt*

versity professor James Fyfe, "maybe we wouldn't be discussing inner-city crime on a fifth-grade level."

WSWEEK: MARCH 5, 1990

## Police departments can't find enough qualified recruits

By DEAN CONGBALAY  
San Francisco Chronicle

Police departments across the nation have issued all-points bulletins for more officers, but not enough qualified candidates are answering the call.

Thousands of openings in

law enforcement are going unfilled. The culprits are an aging population, increased drug use among young people and a generation that never experienced military service.

"One problem is universal

with police departments, whether they're small or large, urban or rural, and that's trying to get good, qualified recruits," said Jerold Vaughn, director of the National Law Enforcement Leadership Institute near Tampa, Fla.

"Everyone is experiencing it."

The San Francisco Police Department has 221 openings — more than 11 percent of its allotted force.

Seattle is looking for 138 officers. The figure is 370 in Los Angeles, 500 in Chicago

and 1,000 in Washington.

"It's just tough to find anybody good these days," said Alameda (Calif.) County Sheriff Charlie Plummer, whose department is down by 35 deputies.

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### POLICE: Not enough

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"We can only recruit from the human race. Sometimes we wish we could recruit from Mars and Jupiter."

It has never been easy to become a cop. Police departments have traditionally hired fewer than 10 percent of their applicants. In years past, it was not uncommon for many large departments to have lists of dozens of qualified candidates waiting.

This is no longer the case. Some departments now say they hire fewer than 1 percent of the people who apply for officer's jobs.

In an effort to prevent the situation from becoming worse, California law enforcement departments are scrambling to devise innovative methods to find good officers.

• Contra Costa County sheriff's officials placed billboards along freeways in Emeryville and Benicia with a telephone number for prospective recruits to call if they want a job

• In San Francisco, officers scour health clubs to search for "active" and fit people, recruiting director Kathleen Hurley said.

• Los Angeles police have a recruiter whose beat is to work with church pastors and to encourage them to preach from the pulpit about the benefits of being a police officer, Sergeant Joseph Peyton said.

• Fremont police hope they will soon become the first department in the Bay Area to reward officers with bonuses of \$500 for each police recruit they find who is hired by the city.

Whatever recruiters do, the likelihood remains that it will be difficult to find good recruits. The problem stems from a myriad of demographic and social factors:

• As population increases, so does crime, causing some law enforcement agencies to hire by the hundreds.

Recruiters also say there are fewer people today in their 20s, their target age group.

• Greater drug use among youth. Although most departments will consider someone who has experimented with illegal drugs, few if any will accept anyone who used the drugs on a

• No military experience. The discipline and outlook that people acquire through serving in the armed forces is lacking in many potential officers today, recruiters say.