

visitors, staff, and the Office of the Majority Whip of the House of Representatives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the United States Capitol Police headquarters building located at 119 D Street, Northeast, Washington, D.C., shall be known and designated as the "Eney, Chestnut, Gibson Memorial Building".

VITIATION OF PASSAGE OF S. 777

Mr. JEFFORDS. I ask unanimous consent that Senate passage of S. 777 be vitiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill will be returned to the calendar.

NONCITIZEN BENEFIT CLARIFICATION AND OTHER TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1998

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4558, just received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4558) to make technical amendments to clarify the provision of benefits for noncitizens, and to improve the provision of unemployment insurance, child support, and supplemental security income benefits.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, the bill now before the Senate contains seven technical amendments. Although each provision may seem minor, every one serves a larger, more important purpose. Also, as I will describe, the legislation is time sensitive, which is why the Senate is considering this bill in an expedited manner. Let me also note that the bill has bipartisan support and passed the House on a voice vote on September 23rd. Also, the small cost of the bill is fully paid for.

The first provision would ensure that every elderly or disabled noncitizen dependent on SSI and Medicaid benefits when welfare reform was enacted in August 1996 will remain eligible. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 grandfathered most legal aliens receiving SSI. However, at that time, a small number—about 22,000—received only a temporary extension, until September 30, 1998, pending a study of their legal status. That issue has been largely resolved, and this provision would complete the work of BBA.

The bill also makes a number of common sense changes that encourage work and personal responsibility in several programs under the jurisdiction of the Finance Committee.

Finally, I would like to highlight an important humanitarian provision in this legislation. Many members are undoubtedly aware of the Make-A-Wish

Foundation and similar organizations that help fulfill the dreams of children with life-threatening or terminal illnesses. For example, the child with cancer who gets a trip to Disney World. Yet, a sick child could lose SSI and Medicaid benefits if the cash value of their "wish" exceed current law income limits. This bill would fix that problem.

I urge the support of all Members of this legislation.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I ask unanimous consent the bill be considered read the third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4558) was deemed read the third time and passed.

CRIME IDENTIFICATION TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives on the bill (S.2022) to provide for the improvement of interstate criminal justice identification, information, communications, and forensics.

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 2022) entitled "An Act to provide for the improvement of interstate criminal justice identification, information, communications, and forensics", do pass with the following amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Table of contents.

TITLE I—CRIME IDENTIFICATION TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998

Sec. 101. Short title.

Sec. 102. State grant program for criminal justice identification, information, and communication.

TITLE II—NATIONAL CRIMINAL HISTORY ACCESS AND CHILD PROTECTION ACT

Sec. 201. Short title.

Subtitle A—Exchange of Criminal History Records for Noncriminal Justice Purposes

Sec. 211. Short title.

Sec. 212. Findings.

Sec. 213. Definitions.

Sec. 214. Enactment and consent of the United States.

Sec. 215. Effect on other laws.

Sec. 216. Enforcement and implementation.

Sec. 217. National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact.

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Sec. 221. Short title.

Sec. 222. Facilitation of fingerprint checks.

TITLE I—CRIME IDENTIFICATION TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Crime Identification Technology Act of 1998".

SEC. 102. STATE GRANT PROGRAM FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE IDENTIFICATION, INFORMATION, AND COMMUNICATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts, the Office of Justice Programs relying principally on the expertise of the Bureau of Justice Statistics shall make a grant to each State, in a manner consistent with the national criminal history improvement program, which shall be used by the State, in conjunction with units of local government, State and local courts, other States, or combinations thereof, to establish or upgrade an integrated approach to develop information and identification technologies and systems to—

(1) upgrade criminal history and criminal justice record systems, including systems operated by law enforcement agencies and courts;

(2) improve criminal justice identification;

(3) promote compatibility and integration of national, State, and local systems for—

(A) criminal justice purposes;

(B) firearms eligibility determinations;

(C) identification of sexual offenders;

(D) identification of domestic violence offenders; and

(E) background checks for other authorized purposes unrelated to criminal justice; and

(4) capture information for statistical and research purposes to improve the administration of criminal justice.

(b) USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.—Grants under this section may be used for programs to establish, develop, update, or upgrade—

(1) State centralized, automated, adult and juvenile criminal history record information systems, including arrest and disposition reporting;

(2) automated fingerprint identification systems that are compatible with standards established by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and interoperable with the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

(3) finger imaging, live scan, and other automated systems to digitize fingerprints and to communicate prints in a manner that is compatible with standards established by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and interoperable with systems operated by States and by the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

(4) programs and systems to facilitate full participation in the Interstate Identification Index of the National Crime Information Center;

(5) systems to facilitate full participation in any compact relating to the Interstate Identification Index of the National Crime Information Center;

(6) systems to facilitate full participation in the national instant criminal background check system established under section 103(b) of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (18 U.S.C. 922 note) for firearms eligibility determinations;

(7) integrated criminal justice information systems to manage and communicate criminal justice information among law enforcement agencies, courts, prosecutors, and corrections agencies;

(8) noncriminal history record information systems relevant to firearms eligibility determinations for availability and accessibility to the national instant criminal background check system established under section 103(b) of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (18 U.S.C. 922 note);

(9) court-based criminal justice information systems that promote—

(A) reporting of dispositions to central State repositories and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

(B) compatibility with, and integration of, court systems with other criminal justice information systems;

(10) ballistics identification and information programs that are compatible and integrated with the National Integrated Ballistics Network (NIBN);

(11) the capabilities of forensic science programs and medical examiner programs related to the administration of criminal justice, including programs leading to accreditation or certification of individuals or departments, agencies, or laboratories, and programs relating to the identification and analysis of deoxyribonucleic acid;

(12) sexual offender identification and registration systems;

(13) domestic violence offender identification and information systems;

(14) programs for fingerprint-supported background checks capability for noncriminal justice purposes, including youth service employees and volunteers and other individuals in positions of responsibility, if authorized by Federal or State law and administered by a government agency;

(15) criminal justice information systems with a capacity to provide statistical and research products including incident-based reporting systems that are compatible with the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) and uniform crime reports; and

(16) multiagency, multijurisdictional communications systems among the States to share routine and emergency information among Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies.

(c) ASSURANCES.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a State shall provide assurances to the Attorney General that the State has the capability to contribute pertinent information to the national instant criminal background check system established under section 103(b) of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (18 U.S.C. 922 note).

(2) **INFORMATION SHARING.**—Such assurances shall include a provision that ensures that a statewide strategy for information sharing systems is underway, or will be initiated, to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, with an emphasis on integration of all criminal justice components, law enforcement, courts, prosecution, corrections, and probation and parole. The strategy shall be prepared after consultation with State and local officials with emphasis on the recommendation of officials whose duty it is to oversee, plan, and implement integrated information technology systems, and shall contain—

(A) a definition and analysis of “integration” in the State and localities developing integrated information sharing systems;

(B) an assessment of the criminal justice resources being devoted to information technology;

(C) Federal, State, regional, and local information technology coordination requirements;

(D) an assurance that the individuals who developed the grant application took into consideration the needs of all branches of the State Government and specifically sought the advice of the chief of the highest court of the State with respect to the application;

(E) State and local resource needs;

(F) the establishment of statewide priorities for planning and implementation of information technology systems; and

(G) a plan for coordinating the programs funded under this title with other federally funded information technology programs, including directly funded local programs such as the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant program (described under the heading ‘Violent Crime Reduction Programs, State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance’ of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998 (Public Law 105-119)) and the M.O.R.E. program established pursuant to part Q of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968.

(d) **MATCHING FUNDS.**—The Federal share of a grant received under this title may not exceed 90 percent of the costs of a program or proposal funded under this title unless the Attorney General waives, wholly or in part, the requirements of this subsection.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$250,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2003.

(2) **LIMITATIONS.**—Of the amount made available to carry out this section in any fiscal year—

(A) not more than 3 percent may be used by the Attorney General for salaries and administrative expenses;

(B) not more than 5 percent may be used for technical assistance, training and evaluations, and studies commissioned by Bureau of Justice Statistics of the Department of Justice (through discretionary grants or otherwise) in furtherance of the purposes of this section;

(C) not less than 20 percent shall be used by the Attorney General for the purposes described in paragraph (1) of subsection (b); and

(D) the Attorney General shall ensure the amounts are distributed on an equitable geographic basis.

(f) **GRANTS TO INDIAN TRIBES.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the Attorney General may use amounts made available under this section to make grants to Indian tribes for use in accordance with this section.

TITLE II—NATIONAL CRIMINAL HISTORY ACCESS AND CHILD PROTECTION ACT

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “National Criminal History Access and Child Protection Act”.

Subtitle A—Exchange of Criminal History Records for Noncriminal Justice Purposes

SEC. 211. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact Act of 1998”.

SEC. 212. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and State criminal history record repositories maintain fingerprint-based criminal history records;

(2) these criminal history records are shared and exchanged for criminal justice purposes through a Federal-State program known as the Interstate Identification Index System;

(3) although these records are also exchanged for legally authorized, noncriminal justice uses, such as governmental licensing and employment background checks, the purposes for and procedures by which they are exchanged vary widely from State to State;

(4) an interstate and Federal-State compact is necessary to facilitate authorized interstate

criminal history record exchanges for noncriminal justice purposes on a uniform basis, while permitting each State to effectuate its own dissemination policy within its own borders; and

(5) such a compact will allow Federal and State records to be provided expeditiously to governmental and nongovernmental agencies that use such records in accordance with pertinent Federal and State law, while simultaneously enhancing the accuracy of the records and safeguarding the information contained therein from unauthorized disclosure or use.

SEC. 213. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) **ATTORNEY GENERAL.**—The term “Attorney General” means the Attorney General of the United States.

(2) **COMPACT.**—The term “Compact” means the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact set forth in section 217.

(3) **COUNCIL.**—The term “Council” means the Compact Council established under Article VI of the Compact.

(4) **FBI.**—The term “FBI” means the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(5) **PARTY STATE.**—The term “Party State” means a State that has ratified the Compact.

(6) **STATE.**—The term “State” means any State, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

SEC. 214. ENACTMENT AND CONSENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

The National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact, as set forth in section 217, is enacted into law and entered into by the Federal Government. The consent of Congress is given to States to enter into the Compact.

SEC. 215. EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.

(a) **PRIVACY ACT OF 1974.**—Nothing in the Compact shall affect the obligations and responsibilities of the FBI under section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Privacy Act of 1974”).

(b) **ACCESS TO CERTAIN RECORDS NOT AFFECTED.**—Nothing in the Compact shall interfere in any manner with—

(1) access, direct or otherwise, to records pursuant to—

(A) section 9101 of title 5, United States Code;

(B) the National Child Protection Act;

(C) the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (Public Law 103-159; 107 Stat. 1536);

(D) the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-322; 108 Stat. 2074) or any amendment made by that Act;

(E) the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.); or

(F) the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.); or

(2) any direct access to Federal criminal history records authorized by law.

(c) **AUTHORITY OF FBI UNDER DEPARTMENTS OF STATE, JUSTICE, AND COMMERCE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATION ACT, 1973.**—Nothing in the Compact shall be construed to affect the authority of the FBI under the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 1973 (Public Law 92-544 (86 Stat. 1115)).

(d) **FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.**—The Council shall not be considered to be a Federal advisory committee for purposes of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

(e) **MEMBERS OF COUNCIL NOT FEDERAL OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES.**—Members of the Council (other than a member from the FBI or any at-large member who may be a Federal official or employee) shall not, by virtue of such membership, be deemed—

(1) to be, for any purpose other than to effect the Compact, officers or employees of the United States (as defined in sections 2104 and 2105 of title 5, United States Code); or

(2) to become entitled by reason of Council membership to any compensation or benefit payable or made available by the Federal Government to its officers or employees.

SEC. 216. ENFORCEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION.

All departments, agencies, officers, and employees of the United States shall enforce the Compact and cooperate with one another and with all Party States in enforcing the Compact and effectuating its purposes. For the Federal Government, the Attorney General shall make such rules, prescribe such instructions, and take such other actions as may be necessary to carry out the Compact and this subtitle.

SEC. 217. NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION AND PRIVACY COMPACT.

The Contracting Parties agree to the following:

OVERVIEW

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—This Compact organizes an electronic information sharing system among the Federal Government and the States to exchange criminal history records for noncriminal justice purposes authorized by Federal or State law, such as background checks for governmental licensing and employment.

(b) **OBLIGATIONS OF PARTIES.**—Under this Compact, the FBI and the Party States agree to maintain detailed databases of their respective criminal history records, including arrests and dispositions, and to make them available to the Federal Government and to Party States for authorized purposes. The FBI shall also manage the Federal data facilities that provide a significant part of the infrastructure for the system.

ARTICLE I—DEFINITIONS

In this Compact:

(1) **ATTORNEY GENERAL.**—The term "Attorney General" means the Attorney General of the United States;

(2) **COMPACT OFFICER.**—The term "Compact officer" means—

(A) with respect to the Federal Government, an official so designated by the Director of the FBI; and

(B) with respect to a Party State, the chief administrator of the State's criminal history record repository or a designee of the chief administrator who is a regular full-time employee of the repository.

(3) **COUNCIL.**—The term "Council" means the Compact Council established under Article VI.

(4) **CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS.**—The term "criminal history records"—

(A) means information collected by criminal justice agencies on individuals consisting of identifiable descriptions and notations of arrests, detentions, indictments, or other formal criminal charges, and any disposition arising therefrom, including acquittal, sentencing, correctional supervision, or release; and

(B) does not include identification information such as fingerprint records if such information does not indicate involvement of the individual with the criminal justice system.

(5) **CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD REPOSITORY.**—The term "criminal history record repository" means the State agency designated by the Governor or other appropriate executive official or the legislature of a State to perform centralized recordkeeping functions for criminal history records and services in the State.

(6) **CRIMINAL JUSTICE.**—The term "criminal justice" includes activities relating to the detection, apprehension, detention, pretrial release, post-trial release, prosecution, adjudication, correctional supervision, or rehabilitation of accused persons or criminal offenders. The administration of criminal justice includes criminal identification activities and the collection, storage, and dissemination of criminal history records.

(7) **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCY.**—The term "criminal justice agency"—

(A) means—

(i) courts; and

(ii) a governmental agency or any subunit thereof that—

(1) performs the administration of criminal justice pursuant to a statute or Executive order; and

(II) allocates a substantial part of its annual budget to the administration of criminal justice; and

(B) includes Federal and State inspectors general offices.

(8) **CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES.**—The term "criminal justice services" means services provided by the FBI to criminal justice agencies in response to a request for information about a particular individual or as an update to information previously provided for criminal justice purposes.

(9) **CRITERION OFFENSE.**—The term "criterion offense" means any felony or misdemeanor offense not included on the list of nonserious offenses published periodically by the FBI.

(10) **DIRECT ACCESS.**—The term "direct access" means access to the National Identification Index by computer terminal or other automated means not requiring the assistance of or intervention by any other party or agency.

(11) **EXECUTIVE ORDER.**—The term "Executive order" means an order of the President of the United States or the chief executive officer of a State that has the force of law and that is promulgated in accordance with applicable law.

(12) **FBI.**—The term "FBI" means the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(13) **INTERSTATE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM.**—The term "Interstate Identification Index System" or "III System"—

(A) means the cooperative Federal-State system for the exchange of criminal history records; and

(B) includes the National Identification Index, the National Fingerprint File and, to the extent of their participation in such system, the criminal history record repositories of the States and the FBI.

(14) **NATIONAL FINGERPRINT FILE.**—The term "National Fingerprint File" means a database of fingerprints, or other uniquely personal identifying information, relating to an arrested or charged individual maintained by the FBI to provide positive identification of record subjects indexed in the III System.

(15) **NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION INDEX.**—The term "National Identification Index" means an index maintained by the FBI consisting of names, identifying numbers, and other descriptive information relating to record subjects about whom there are criminal history records in the III System.

(16) **NATIONAL INDICES.**—The term "National indices" means the National Identification Index and the National Fingerprint File.

(17) **NONPARTY STATE.**—The term "Nonparty State" means a State that has not ratified this Compact.

(18) **NONCRIMINAL JUSTICE PURPOSES.**—The term "noncriminal justice purposes" means uses of criminal history records for purposes authorized by Federal or State law other than purposes relating to criminal justice activities, including employment suitability, licensing determinations, immigration and naturalization matters, and national security clearances.

(19) **PARTY STATE.**—The term "Party State" means a State that has ratified this Compact.

(20) **POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION.**—The term "positive identification" means a determination, based upon a comparison of fingerprints or other equally reliable biometric identification techniques, that the subject of a record search is the same person as the subject of a criminal history record or records indexed in the III System. Identifications based solely upon a comparison of subjects' names or other nonunique identification characteristics or numbers, or combinations thereof, shall not constitute positive identification.

(21) **SEALED RECORD INFORMATION.**—The term "sealed record information" means—

(A) with respect to adults, that portion of a record that is—

(i) not available for criminal justice uses;

(ii) not supported by fingerprints or other accepted means of positive identification; or

(iii) subject to restrictions on dissemination for noncriminal justice purposes pursuant to a court order related to a particular subject or pursuant to a Federal or State statute that requires action on a sealing petition filed by a particular record subject; and

(B) with respect to juveniles, whatever each State determines is a sealed record under its own law and procedure.

(22) **STATE.**—The term "State" means any State, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

ARTICLE II—PURPOSES

The purposes of this Compact are—

(1) provide a legal framework for the establishment of a cooperative Federal-State system for the interstate and Federal-State exchange of criminal history records for noncriminal justice uses;

(2) require the FBI to permit use of the National Identification Index and the National Fingerprint File by each Party State, and to provide, in a timely fashion, Federal and State criminal history records to requesting States, in accordance with the terms of this Compact and with rules, procedures, and standards established by the Council under Article VI;

(3) require Party States to provide information and records for the National Identification Index and the National Fingerprint File and to provide criminal history records, in a timely fashion, to criminal history record repositories of other States and the Federal Government for noncriminal justice purposes, in accordance with the terms of this Compact and with rules, procedures, and standards established by the Council under Article VI;

(4) provide for the establishment of a Council to monitor III System operations and to prescribe system rules and procedures for the effective and proper operation of the III System for noncriminal justice purposes; and

(5) require the FBI and each Party State to adhere to III System standards concerning record dissemination and use, response times, system security, data quality, and other duly established standards, including those that enhance the accuracy and privacy of such records.

ARTICLE III—RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMPACT PARTIES

(a) **FBI RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The Director of the FBI shall—

(1) appoint an FBI Compact officer who shall—

(A) administer this Compact within the Department of Justice and among Federal agencies and other agencies and organizations that submit search requests to the FBI pursuant to Article V(c);

(B) ensure that Compact provisions and rules, procedures, and standards prescribed by the Council under Article VI are complied with by the Department of Justice and the Federal agencies and other agencies and organizations referred to in Article III(1)(A); and

(C) regulate the use of records received by means of the III System from Party States when such records are supplied by the FBI directly to other Federal agencies;

(2) provide to Federal agencies and to State criminal history record repositories, criminal history records maintained in its database for the noncriminal justice purposes described in Article IV, including—

(A) information from Nonparty States; and

(B) information from Party States that is available from the FBI through the III System, but is not available from the Party State through the III System;

(3) provide a telecommunications network and maintain centralized facilities for the exchange of criminal history records for both criminal justice purposes and the noncriminal justice purposes described in Article IV, and ensure that the exchange of such records for criminal justice purposes has priority over exchange for noncriminal justice purposes; and

(4) modify or enter into user agreements with Nonparty State criminal history record repositories to require them to establish record request procedures conforming to those prescribed in Article V.

(b) STATE RESPONSIBILITIES.—Each Party State shall—

(1) appoint a Compact officer who shall—

(A) administer this Compact within that State;

(B) ensure that Compact provisions and rules, procedures, and standards established by the Council under Article VI are complied with in the State; and

(C) regulate the in-State use of records received by means of the III System from the FBI or from other Party States;

(2) establish and maintain a criminal history record repository, which shall provide—

(A) information and records for the National Identification Index and the National Fingerprint File; and

(B) the State's III System-indexed criminal history records for noncriminal justice purposes described in Article IV;

(3) participate in the National Fingerprint File; and

(4) provide and maintain telecommunications links and related equipment necessary to support the services set forth in this Compact.

(c) COMPLIANCE WITH III SYSTEM STANDARDS.—In carrying out their responsibilities under this Compact, the FBI and each Party State shall comply with III System rules, procedures, and standards duly established by the Council concerning record dissemination and use, response times, data quality, system security, accuracy, privacy protection, and other aspects of III System operation.

(d) MAINTENANCE OF RECORD SERVICES.—

(1) Use of the III System for noncriminal justice purposes authorized in this Compact shall be managed so as not to diminish the level of services provided in support of criminal justice purposes.

(2) Administration of Compact provisions shall not reduce the level of service available to authorized noncriminal justice users on the effective date of this Compact.

ARTICLE IV—AUTHORIZED RECORD DISCLOSURES

(a) STATE CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD REPOSITORIES.—To the extent authorized by section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the "Privacy Act of 1974"), the FBI shall provide on request criminal history records (excluding sealed records) to State criminal history record repositories for noncriminal justice purposes allowed by Federal statute, Federal Executive order, or a State statute that has been approved by the Attorney General and that authorizes national indices checks.

(b) CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCIES AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL OR NONGOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES.—The FBI, to the extent authorized by section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the "Privacy Act of 1974"), and State criminal history record repositories shall provide criminal history records (excluding sealed records) to criminal justice agencies and other governmental or nongovernmental agencies for noncriminal justice purposes allowed by Federal statute, Federal Executive order, or a State statute that has been approved by the Attorney General, that authorizes national indices checks.

(c) PROCEDURES.—Any record obtained under this Compact may be used only for the official purposes for which the record was requested. Each Compact officer shall establish procedures, consistent with this Compact, and with rules, procedures, and standards established by the Council under Article VI, which procedures shall protect the accuracy and privacy of the records, and shall—

(1) ensure that records obtained under this Compact are used only by authorized officials for authorized purposes;

(2) require that subsequent record checks are requested to obtain current information whenever a new need arises; and

(3) ensure that record entries that may not legally be used for a particular noncriminal justice purpose are deleted from the response and, if no information authorized for release remains, an appropriate "no record" response is communicated to the requesting official.

ARTICLE V—RECORD REQUEST PROCEDURES

(a) POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION.—Subject fingerprints or other approved forms of positive identification shall be submitted with all requests for criminal history record checks for noncriminal justice purposes.

(b) SUBMISSION OF STATE REQUESTS.—Each request for a criminal history record check utilizing the national indices made under any approved State statute shall be submitted through that State's criminal history record repository. A State criminal history record repository shall process an interstate request for noncriminal justice purposes through the national indices only if such request is transmitted through another State criminal history record repository or the FBI.

(c) SUBMISSION OF FEDERAL REQUESTS.—Each request for criminal history record checks utilizing the national indices made under Federal authority shall be submitted through the FBI or, if the State criminal history record repository consents to process fingerprint submissions, through the criminal history record repository in the State in which such request originated. Direct access to the National Identification Index by entities other than the FBI and State criminal history records repositories shall not be permitted for noncriminal justice purposes.

(d) FEES.—A State criminal history record repository or the FBI—

(1) may charge a fee, in accordance with applicable law, for handling a request involving fingerprint processing for noncriminal justice purposes; and

(2) may not charge a fee for providing criminal history records in response to an electronic request for a record that does not involve a request to process fingerprints.

(e) ADDITIONAL SEARCH.—

(1) If a State criminal history record repository cannot positively identify the subject of a record request made for noncriminal justice purposes, the request, together with fingerprints or other approved identifying information, shall be forwarded to the FBI for a search of the national indices.

(2) If, with respect to an request forwarded by a State criminal history record repository under paragraph (1), the FBI positively identifies the subject as having a III System-indexed record or records—

(A) the FBI shall so advise the State criminal history record repository; and

(B) the State criminal history record repository shall be entitled to obtain the additional criminal history record information from the FBI or other State criminal history record repositories.

ARTICLE VI—ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPACT COUNCIL

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established a council to be known as the "Compact Council", which shall have the authority to promulgate rules and procedures governing the use of the III System for noncriminal justice purposes, not to conflict with FBI administration of the III System for criminal justice purposes.

(2) ORGANIZATION.—The Council shall—

(A) continue in existence as long as this Compact remains in effect;

(B) be located, for administrative purposes, within the FBI; and

(C) be organized and hold its first meeting as soon as practicable after the effective date of this Compact.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Council shall be composed of 15 members, each of whom shall be appointed by the Attorney General, as follows:

(1) Nine members, each of whom shall serve a 2-year term, who shall be selected from among the Compact officers of Party States based on the recommendation of the Compact officers of all Party States, except that, in the absence of the requisite number of Compact officers available to serve, the chief administrators of the criminal history record repositories of Nonparty States shall be eligible to serve on an interim basis.

(2) Two at-large members, nominated by the Director of the FBI, each of whom shall serve a 3-year term, of whom—

(A) 1 shall be a representative of the criminal justice agencies of the Federal Government and may not be an employee of the FBI; and

(B) 1 shall be a representative of the noncriminal justice agencies of the Federal Government.

(3) Two at-large members, nominated by the Chairman of the Council, once the Chairman is elected pursuant to Article VI(c), each of whom shall serve a 3-year term, of whom—

(A) 1 shall be a representative of State or local criminal justice agencies; and

(B) 1 shall be a representative of State or local noncriminal justice agencies.

(4) One member, who shall serve a 3-year term, and who shall simultaneously be a member of the FBI's advisory policy board on criminal justice information services, nominated by the membership of that policy board.

(5) One member, nominated by the Director of the FBI, who shall serve a 3-year term, and who shall be an employee of the FBI.

(c) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—From its membership, the Council shall elect a Chairman and a Vice Chairman of the Council, respectively. Both the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council—

(A) shall be a Compact officer, unless there is no Compact officer on the Council who is willing to serve, in which case the Chairman may be an at-large member; and

(B) shall serve a 2-year term and may be re-elected to only 1 additional 2-year term.

(2) DUTIES OF VICE CHAIRMAN.—The Vice Chairman of the Council shall serve as the Chairman of the Council in the absence of the Chairman.

(d) MEETINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall meet at least once each year at the call of the Chairman. Each meeting of the Council shall be open to the public. The Council shall provide prior public notice in the Federal Register of each meeting of the Council, including the matters to be addressed at such meeting.

(2) QUORUM.—A majority of the Council or any committee of the Council shall constitute a quorum of the Council or of such committee, respectively, for the conduct of business. A lesser number may meet to hold hearings, take testimony, or conduct any business not requiring a vote.

(e) RULES, PROCEDURES, AND STANDARDS.—The Council shall make available for public inspection and copying at the Council office within the FBI, and shall publish in the Federal Register, any rules, procedures, or standards established by the Council.

(f) ASSISTANCE FROM FBI.—The Council may request from the FBI such reports, studies, statistics, or other information or materials as the Council determines to be necessary to enable the Council to perform its duties under this Compact. The FBI, to the extent authorized by law, may provide such assistance or information upon such a request.

(g) COMMITTEES.—The Chairman may establish committees as necessary to carry out this Compact and may prescribe their membership, responsibilities, and duration.

ARTICLE VII—RATIFICATION OF COMPACT

This Compact shall take effect upon being entered into by 2 or more States as between those

States and the Federal Government. Upon subsequent entering into this Compact by additional States, it shall become effective among those States and the Federal Government and each Party State that has previously ratified it. When ratified, this Compact shall have the full force and effect of law within the ratifying jurisdictions. The form of ratification shall be in accordance with the laws of the executing State.

ARTICLE VIII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

(a) **RELATION OF COMPACT TO CERTAIN FBI ACTIVITIES.**—Administration of this Compact shall not interfere with the management and control of the Director of the FBI over the FBI's collection and dissemination of criminal history records and the advisory function of the FBI's advisory policy board chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) for all purposes other than noncriminal justice.

(b) **NO AUTHORITY FOR NONAPPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES.**—Nothing in this Compact shall require the FBI to obligate or expend funds beyond those appropriated to the FBI.

(c) **RELATING TO PUBLIC LAW 92-544.**—Nothing in this Compact shall diminish or lessen the obligations, responsibilities, and authorities of any State, whether a Party State or a Nonparty State, or of any criminal history record repository or other subdivision or component thereof, under the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 1973 (Public Law 92-544), or regulations and guidelines promulgated thereunder, including the rules and procedures promulgated by the Council under Article VI(a), regarding the use and dissemination of criminal history records and information.

ARTICLE IX—RENUNCIATION

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—This Compact shall bind each Party State until renounced by the Party State.

(b) **EFFECT.**—Any renunciation of this Compact by a Party State shall—

(1) be effected in the same manner by which the Party State ratified this Compact; and

(2) become effective 180 days after written notice of renunciation is provided by the Party State to each other Party State and to the Federal Government.

ARTICLE X—SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this Compact shall be severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision of this Compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any participating State, or to the Constitution of the United States, or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this Compact and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If a portion of this Compact is held contrary to the constitution of any Party State, all other portions of this Compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining Party States and in full force and effect as to the Party State affected, as to all other provisions.

ARTICLE XI—ADJUDICATION OF DISPUTES

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Council shall—

(1) have initial authority to make determinations with respect to any dispute regarding—

(A) interpretation of this Compact;

(B) any rule or standard established by the Council pursuant to Article V; and

(C) any dispute or controversy between any parties to this Compact; and

(2) hold a hearing concerning any dispute described in paragraph (1) at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Council and only render a decision based upon a majority vote of the members of the Council. Such decision shall be published pursuant to the requirements of Article VI(e).

(b) **DUTIES OF FBI.**—The FBI shall exercise immediate and necessary action to preserve the

integrity of the III System, maintain system policy and standards, protect the accuracy and privacy of records, and to prevent abuses, until the Council holds a hearing on such matters.

(c) **RIGHT OF APPEAL.**—The FBI or a Party State may appeal any decision of the Council to the Attorney General, and thereafter may file suit in the appropriate district court of the United States, which shall have original jurisdiction of all cases or controversies arising under this Compact. Any suit arising under this Compact and initiated in a State court shall be removed to the appropriate district court of the United States in the manner provided by section 1446 of title 28, United States Code, or other statutory authority.

Subtitle B—Volunteers for Children Act

SEC. 221. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the "Volunteers for Children Act".

SEC. 222. FACILITATION OF FINGERPRINT CHECKS.

(a) **STATE AGENCY.**—Section 3(a) of the National Child Protection Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 5119a(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(3) In the absence of State procedures referred to in paragraph (1), a qualified entity designated under paragraph (1) may contact an authorized agency of the State to request national criminal fingerprint background checks. Qualified entities requesting background checks under this paragraph shall comply with the guidelines set forth in subsection (b) and with procedures for requesting national criminal fingerprint background checks, if any, established by the State."

(b) **FEDERAL LAW.**—Section 3(b)(5) of the National Child Protection Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 5119a(b)(5)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: "except that this paragraph does not apply to any request by a qualified entity for a national criminal fingerprint background check pursuant to subsection (a)(3)".

(c) **AUTHORIZATION.**—Section 4(b)(2) of the National Child Protection Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 5119b(b)(2)) is amended by striking "1994, 1995, 1996, and 1997" and inserting "1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002".

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, final passage of this bill—S. 2022, comprising the Crime Identification Technology Act of 1998 and the National Criminal History Access and Child Protection Act of 1998—is truly a historic achievement. I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and in both Houses of Congress, for their hard work on this legislation. S. 2022 is based on the principle that technology is the future of police work. It is the number one edge our law enforcement officers are going to have in the struggle against criminals, well into the 21st century.

The Crime Identification Technology Act (CETA) authorizes \$1.25 billion over the next five years in grants administered by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) in the Department of Justice, with reliance upon the expertise of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), also in the Department of Justice, to help every state to establish or upgrade its use of information and identification and forensics technologies across the entire criminal justice system. Title II of the Act, the National Criminal History Access and Child Protection Act, establishes an Interstate Compact which binds the Federal Bureau of Investigation and,

upon approval by the state legislatures, the states to participate in the non-criminal justice access program of the Interstate Identification Index (III) in accordance with the Compact and established system policies.

I would like, first, to address Title I of this legislation.

NATIONAL CRIMINAL HISTORY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

In a certain sense, Title I of the Act, The Crime Identification Technology Act, replaces the National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) which expired at the end of fiscal year 1998. NCHIP monies, totaling almost 200 million dollars, were provided to the states by BJS and the Department of Justice and have been enormously successful in helping states to enhance their automated criminal history records and to identify and develop other relevant information systems for instantaneous firearms eligibility determinations. Because more needs to be done and because it is important not to lose momentum in building a fast, comprehensive and reliable National Instant Check System for firearms eligibility, S. 2022 will permit the federal government and the states to continue to build upon this important work.

SYSTEMS INTEGRATION

S. 2022, however, does much more. In particular, Title I provides for systems integration, permitting all components of criminal justice (law enforcement, courts, correction and prosecution) to share information and communicate more effectively and on a real-time basis. Revolutionary improvements in information and identification and communications technologies have created opportunities and, indeed, responsibilities, for all of our nation's criminal justice agencies to build integrated information and identification systems. This bill will provide leadership and, in partnership with state and local governments, the resources necessary to build these important systems. S. 2022 will also support the courts and their use of information and identification technology. The courts are a critical part of the criminal justice information system. Not only are the courts a supplier of information on disposition, they are also an all-important consumer of information on arrest and conviction. The courts require state-of-the-art, integrated information identification systems for both functions. Until now, the courts have lagged behind in their use of technology—and this bill will help them to catch up.

INTERSTATE IDENTIFICATION INDEX

S. 2022 addresses virtually every technology-based, information identification and forensics need of state and local criminal justice agencies. Title I of S. 2022, for example, will support participation by all states in the Interstate Identification Index, which is the decentralized federal system that permits state, local and federal criminal justice agencies to exchange arrest and

conviction information on a reliable, national and real-time basis.

IAFIS AND NCIC 2000

S. 2022 will also help state and local agencies to take advantage of two important FBI initiatives which are nearing completion. The FBI's Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS) and the FBI's NCIC 2000 (National Criminal Information Center) will create a platform for the FBI to use state-of-the-art identification and information and technology, both internally and to communicate with state and local agencies. Obviously, state and local agencies must also be able to upgrade their information identification technologies in a way that is compatible with the FBI's new systems if the FBI and the Nation are to obtain full benefit from these FBI initiatives for which the Congress has appropriated several hundred million dollars over the last few years.

EMPLOYMENT AND LICENSING

S. 2022 will also support faster, more complete and more reliable state and local responses to employment and licensing background check requests. Over the last decade, employers and non-criminal justice government agencies have emerged as the largest group of consumers of arrest and conviction record information for background checks for child care workers, school bus drivers, private security guards and a host of other individuals seeking employment and licensing in sensitive positions of trust. We simply must do a better job of providing appropriate arrest and conviction information on a fast and reliable basis. S. 2022 will go a long way toward helping our state and local law enforcement agencies to achieve this capability.

AGGREGATE STATISTICAL DATA

S. 2022 will also support statistical and research systems, which can together provide community-relevant information to support smarter decisions and more cost efficient and effective administration of criminal justice resources.

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRIES

S. 2022 will permit state and local criminal justice agencies to continue to build more useful and effective sexual offender identification registration systems, as well as domestic violence identification and information systems.

COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES

S. 2022 will also help our criminal justice agencies to acquire and implement communications systems which are compatible with neighboring police systems, compatible with systems operated by other components of the criminal justice system and compatible among federal, state and local criminal justice agencies. Every criminal justice agency should be able to communicate with other criminal justice agencies in an instantaneous and reliable way in order to respond to emergency situations and to promote the routine and appropriate sharing of information.

FORENSICS

Finally, S. 2022 provides a 20 percent set-aside for forensic science and Medical Examiner programs. New forensics technologies are creating a truly remarkable potential to solve crimes that previously could not have been solved and to convict offenders who previously could not have been convicted. Implementing and using this technology across the nation takes leadership and resources. S. 2022 will provide both. The 20 percent set-aside applies to the amount actually funded under S. 2022 and is not a requirement which is made mandatory for each state. In other words, a state which does not wish to draw down 20 percent of its funding under this Act for forensic science and medical examiner purposes is not required to do so. We will be monitoring the states' use of funding for forensic science and Medical Examiner purposes, with an eye to re-examining whether this kind of earmark is necessary and, if so, at what level.

OVERALL IMPACT

The Crime Identification Technology Act does more than provide support for critical information, identification, communications and forensic technology applications. S. 2022 creates a vision and makes a commitment. The Act envisions a criminal justice system in which all parts of the system—law enforcement, courts, prosecution and correction—use state-of-the-art, information, identification, communication and forensics technologies in a compatible and integrated manner, so as to mount the most effective and cost efficient challenge yet to crime. The Act also represents a federal commitment that every criminal justice agency in this country should have the resources, in partnership with state and local funding, to obtain and use state-of-the-art technology in the war against crime.

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

In this regard, the Act requires a 10 percent match to be borne by the states. As a practical matter, we expect that the states will spend state monies far in excess of 10 percent of the funding under this Act in the acquisition, implementation and use of crime fighting technologies. Because of this, it is expected that OJP will take into account all relevant costs borne by the state, regardless of the nature or character of these costs, so long as they truly support the application of technology for the administration of criminal justice. Furthermore, it is expected that OJP, working through the Bureau of Justice Statistics, will publish guidelines regarding the criteria for waiving a match, which will assure that states or components of the criminal justice system within a state which are deserving of a grant but which cannot meet the match requirement, are not disadvantaged. It is further expected that the match will not apply to grants made pursuant to Subparagraph (2)(B) of Subsection (d) which provides

grants and funding for technical assistance, training, evaluations and other support for this technology initiative.

BJS EXPERTISE

Title I, while vesting grant administration authority in the Office of Justice Programs, directs the Office to rely principally upon the expertise of BJS in administering the program. This is important because the structure of the grant program is modeled after the National Criminal History Improvement Program, which was very successfully administered by BJS. Under that program, every state was required to receive a grant. Moreover, while the program was discretionary, it was administered by BJS in a manner that has permitted the states wide discretion in the purposes for which NCHIP grant monies were applied. A similar approach should be taken in the S. 2022 grant program. The identification, information, communications and forensics programs which are identified in S. 2022 are purposefully broad, so that each state can use grant monies for its own particular technology needs.

At the same time, the discretionary approach and requirements in the bill that each state develop a statewide strategy for information sharing, with an emphasis on the integration of all criminal justice components, assures that the needs of all components of criminal justice, including the courts, are taken into account and assures that adequate planning and implementation strategies have been developed so that the use of technology is compatible and integrated.

OJP's role is important because the Department of Justice administers several justice assistance programs which can be and are being used for important, criminal justice identification, information and communications purposes. None of these programs are repealed, and funding should and will continue under these programs. Accordingly, coordination is important and OJP is expected to provide that coordination.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NICs

S. 2022 also requires, by way of assurances, that states assure the Attorney General that the state "has the capability to contribute pertinent information to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System." This language does not mean that states are required to operate their own Instant Check Systems or to otherwise be a "point-of-contact" or intermediary between licensed firearms dealers and the FBI's National Instant Background Check System. Rather, this assurance requires that states are contributing criminal history information and, if practicable and required by the FBI, other pertinent information to the national system. States which are participating in III or working actively toward participating in III are presumed to meet this assurance.

INTERSTATE IDENTIFICATION INDEX SYSTEM
COMPACT

Finally, Title II, the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact of 1998, establishes a uniform standard for the interstate and federal-state exchange of criminal history records for non-criminal justice purposes. In addition, Title II permits each state to continue to enforce its own record dissemination laws within its own borders. The Compact facilitates the interstate and federal-state exchange of criminal history information by clarifying the obligations and responsibilities of participating parties, streamlining the processing of background search applications, and eliminating record maintenance duplication at federal and state levels. Finally, the Compact provides a mechanism for establishing and enforcing uniform standards for record accuracy and for the confidentiality and privacy interests of record subjects.

This is a landmark piece of legislation, and I thank my colleagues for helping to move it toward enactment.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am delighted that the Senate will pass the Crime Identification Technology Act of 1998, S. 2022, sending it to the President for his signature into law.

I am proud to join Senator DEWINE in supporting our bipartisan legislation to authorize comprehensive Department of Justice grants to every state for criminal justice identification, information and communications technologies and systems. I applaud the Senator from Ohio, Senator DEWINE, for his leadership. I also commend the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee and the Democratic Leader for their strong support of the Crime Identification Technology Act.

I know from my experience in law enforcement in Vermont over the last 30 years that access to quality, accurate information in a timely fashion is of vital importance. As we prepare to enter the 21st Century, we must provide our state and local law enforcement officers with the resources to develop the latest technological tools and communications systems to solve and prevent crime. I believe this bill accomplishes that goal.

The Crime Identification Technology Act authorizes \$250 million for each of the next five years in grants to states for crime information and identification systems. The Attorney General is directed to make grants to each state to be used in conjunction with units of local government, and other states, to use information and identification technologies and systems to upgrade criminal history and criminal justice record systems.

Grants made under our legislation may include programs to establish, develop, update or upgrade—

State, centralized, automated criminal history record information systems, including arrest and disposition reporting;

Automated fingerprint identification systems that are compatible with the

Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

Finger imaging, live scan and other automated systems to digitize fingerprints and to communicate prints in a manner that is compatible with systems operated by states and the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

Systems to facilitate full participation in the Interstate Identification Index (III);

Programs and systems to facilitate full participation in the Interstate Identification Index National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact;

Systems to facilitate full participation in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) for firearms eligibility determinations;

Integrated criminal justice information systems to manage and communicate criminal justice information among law enforcement, courts, prosecution, and corrections;

Non-criminal history record information systems relevant to firearms eligibility determinations for availability and accessibility to the NICs;

Court-based criminal justice information systems to promote reporting of dispositions to central state repositories and to the FBI and to promote the compatibility with, and integration of, court systems with other criminal justice information systems;

Ballistics identification programs that are compatible and integrated with the ballistics programs of the National Integrated Ballistics Network (NIBN);

Information, identification and communications programs for forensic purposes;

DNA programs for forensic and identification purposes; Sexual offender identification and registration systems; Domestic violence offender identification and information systems;

Programs for fingerprint-supported background checks for non-criminal justice purposes including youth service employees and volunteers and other individuals in positions of trust, if authorized by federal or state law and administered by a government agency;

Criminal justice information systems with a capacity to provide statistical and research products including incident-based reporting systems and uniform crime reports;

Online and other state-of-the-art communications technologies and programs; and

Multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional communications systems to share routine and emergency information among federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

Let me just give a couple of examples from my home State of Vermont that illustrate how our comprehensive legislation will aid state and local law enforcement agencies across the country.

The future of law enforcement must focus on working together to harness the power of today's information age to prevent crime and catch criminals. One

way to work together is for State and local law enforcement agencies to band together to create efficiencies of scale. For example, together with New Hampshire and Maine, the State of Vermont has pooled its resources together to build a tri-State IAFIS system to identify fingerprints. Our bipartisan legislation would foster these partnerships by allowing groups of States to apply together for grants.

Another challenge for law enforcement agencies across the country is communication difficulties between Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials. In a recent report, the Department of Justice's National Institute of Justice concluded that law enforcement agencies throughout the Nation lack adequate communications systems to respond to crimes that cross State and local jurisdictions.

A 1997 incident along the Vermont and New Hampshire border underscored this problem. During a cross border shooting spree that left four people dead including two New Hampshire State Troopers, Vermont and New Hampshire officers were forced to park two police cruisers next to one another to coordinate activities between Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers because the two States' police radios could not communicate with one another.

The Vermont Department of Public Safety, the Vermont U.S. Attorney's Office and others have reacted to these communication problems by developing the Northern Lights proposal. This project will allow the northern borders States of Vermont, New York, New Hampshire, and Maine to integrate their law enforcement communications systems to better coordinate interdiction efforts and share intelligence data seamlessly.

Our legislation would provide grants for the development of integrated Federal, State, and local law enforcement communications systems to foster cutting edge efforts like the Northern Lights project.

In addition, our bipartisan legislation will help each of our States meet its obligations under national anti-crime initiatives. For instance, the FBI will soon bring online NCIC 2000 and IAFIS which will require States to update their criminal justice systems for the country to benefit. States are also being asked to participate in several other national programs such as sexual offender registries, national domestic violence legislation, Brady Act, and National Child Protection Act.

Currently, there are no comprehensive programs to support these national crime-fighting systems. Our legislation will fill this void by helping each State meet its obligations under these Federal laws.

The Crime Identification Technology Act provides a helping hand without the heavy hand of a top-down, Washington-knows-best approach. Unfortunately, some in Congress have pushed legislation mandating minute detail

changes that States must make in their laws to qualify for Federal funds. Our bill rejects this approach. Instead, we provide the States with Federal support to improve their criminal justice identification, information and communication systems without prescribing new Federal mandates.

Mr. President, I am also pleased we are passing, as title II of this bill, the Federal-State "III" Compact for exchange of criminal history records for noncriminal justice purposes. This Compact is the product of a decade-long effort by federal and state law enforcement officials to establish a legal framework for the exchange of criminal history records for authorized noncriminal justice purposes, such as security clearances, employment or licensing background checks.

Since 1924, the FBI has collected and maintained duplicate state and local fingerprint cards, along with arrest and disposition records. Today, the FBI has over 200 million fingerprint cards in its system. These FBI records are accessible to authorized government entities for both criminal and authorized noncriminal justice purposes.

Maintaining duplicate files at the FBI is costly and leads to inaccuracies in the criminal history records, since follow-up disposition information from the States is often incomplete. Such a large central database of routinely incomplete criminal history records raises significant privacy concerns.

In addition, the FBI releases these records for noncriminal justice purposes (as authorized by Federal law), to State agencies upon request, even if the State from which the records originated or the receiving State more narrowly restricts the dissemination of such records for noncriminal justice purposes.

The Compact is an effort to get the FBI out of the business of holding a duplicate copy of every State and local criminal history record, and instead to keep those records at the State level. Once fully implemented, the FBI will only need to hold the Interstate Identification Index (III), consisting of the national fingerprint file and a pointer index to direct the requestor to the correct State records repository. The Compact would eliminate the necessity for duplicate records at the FBI for those States participating in the Compact.

Eventually, when all the States become full participants in the Compact, the FBI's centralized files of state offender records will be discontinued and users of such records will obtain those records from the appropriate State's central repository (or from the FBI if the offender has a Federal record).

The Compact would establish both a framework for this cooperative exchange of criminal history records for noncriminal justice purposes, and create a Compact Council with representatives from the FBI and the States to monitor system operations and issue necessary rules and procedures for the

integrity and accuracy of the records and compliance with privacy standards. Importantly, this Compact would not in any way expand or diminish noncriminal justice purposes for which criminal history records may be used under existing State or Federal law.

Overall, I believe that the Compact would increase the accuracy, completeness and privacy protection for criminal history records.

In addition, the Compact would result in important cost savings from establishing a decentralized system. Under the system envisioned by the Compact, the FBI would hold only an "index and pointer" to the records maintained at the originating State. The FBI would no longer have to maintain duplicate State records. Moreover, States would no longer have the burden and costs of submitting arrest fingerprints and charge/disposition data to the FBI for all arrests. Instead, the State would only have to submit to the FBI the fingerprints and textual identification data for a person's first arrest.

With this system, criminal history records would be more up-to-date, or complete, because a decentralized system will keep the records closer to their point of origin in State repositories, eliminating the need for the States to keep sending updated disposition information to the FBI. To ensure further accuracy, the Compact would require requests for criminal history checks for noncriminal justice purposes to be submitted with fingerprints or some other form of positive identification, to avoid mistaken release of records.

Furthermore, under the Compact, the newly-created Council must establish procedures to require that the most current records are requested and that when a new need arises, a new record check is conducted.

Significantly, the newly-created Council must establish privacy enhancing procedures to ensure that requested criminal history records are only used by authorized officials for authorized purposes. Furthermore, the Compact makes clear that only the FBI and authorized representatives from the State repository may have direct access to the FBI index.

The Council must also ensure that only legally appropriate information is released and, specifically, that record entries that may not be used for noncriminal justice purposes are deleted from the response.

Thus, while the Compact would require the release of arrest records to a requesting State, the Compact would also ensure that if disposition records are available that the complete record be released. Also, the Compact would require States receiving records under the Compact to ensure that the records are disseminated in compliance with the authorized uses in that State. Consequently, under the Compact, a State that receives arrest-only information would have to give effect to disposition-only policies in that State and not

release that information for noncriminal justice purposes. Thus, in my view, the impact of the Compact for the privacy and accuracy of the records would be positive.

I am pleased to have joined with Senators HATCH and DEWINE to make a number of refinements to the Compact as transmitted by to us by the Administration. Specifically, we have worked to clarify that (1) the work of the Council includes establishing standards to protect the privacy of the records; (2) sealed criminal history records are not covered or subject to release for noncriminal justice purposes under the Compact; (3) the meetings of the Council are open to the public, and (4) the Council's decisions, rules and procedures are available for public inspection and copying and published in the Federal Register.

Commissioner Walton of the Vermont Department of Public Safety supports this Compact. He hopes that passage of the Compact will encourage Vermont to become a full participant in III for both criminal and noncriminal justice purposes, so that Vermont can "reap the benefits of cost savings and improved data quality." The Compact is also strongly supported by the FBI and SEARCH.

We all have an interest in making sure that the criminal history records maintained by our law enforcement agencies at the local, State and Federal levels, are complete, accurate and accessible only to authorized personnel for legally authorized purposes. This Compact is a significant step in the process of achieving that goal.

I know that the Justice Department, under Attorney General Reno's leadership, has made it a priority to modernize and automate criminal history records. Our legislation will continue that leadership by providing each State with the necessary resources to continue to make important efforts to bring their criminal justice systems up to date.

Mr. President, the Crime Identification Technology Act will ensure that each State has the resources to capture the power of emerging information, communications and record-keeping technologies to serve and protect all of our citizens.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate agree to the amendment of the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar 476, S. Res. 207.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 207) commemorating the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Vietnam Veterans of America.