

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 1890

AN ACT

To establish a grant program for certain State and local forensic activities, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Carla Walker Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO IMPROVE FORENSIC ACTIVITIES.**

4 Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe
5 Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.) is amended
6 by adding at the end the following:

7 **“PART PP—GRANTS TO IMPROVE FORENSIC**
8 **ACTIVITIES**

9 **“SEC. 3061. DEFINITIONS.**

10 “In this part:

11 “(1) ACCREDITED FORENSIC LABORATORY.—

12 The term ‘accredited forensic laboratory’ means a
13 forensic laboratory that—

14 “(A) is accredited by an accrediting body
15 that is a signatory to an internationally recog-
16 nized arrangement and that offers accreditation
17 to forensic science conformity assessment bodies
18 using an accreditation standard that is recog-
19 nized by that internationally recognized ar-
20 rangement; or

21 “(B) attests, in a legally binding and en-
22 forceable manner, to prepare and apply for an
23 accreditation described in subparagraph (A) not
24 later than 2 years after date on which the fo-
25 rensic laboratory—

1 “(i) first receives a grant under this
2 part; or

3 “(ii) first receives a request for anal-
4 ysis from an eligible entity receiving a
5 grant under this part.

6 “(2) FGG DNA ANALYSIS AND SEARCHING.—
7 The term ‘FGG DNA analysis and searching’
8 means—

9 “(A) forensic genetic genealogical DNA
10 analysis of a forensic or reference sample of bi-
11 ological material by an accredited forensic lab-
12 oratory to develop a forensic genetic genealogy
13 profile; and

14 “(B) the subsequent search of that genetic
15 genealogy profile in a genetic genealogy service.

16 “(3) FORENSIC ANALYSIS.—The term ‘forensic
17 analysis’ means an expert examination, interpreta-
18 tion, or test—

19 “(A) requested by a law enforcement agen-
20 cy, a coroner or medical examiner’s office, a
21 prosecutor, a criminal suspect or defendant, or
22 a court; and

23 “(B) performed on physical or biological
24 evidence for—

1 “(i) investigative purposes, including
2 to determine the identity of unidentified
3 human remains; or

4 “(ii) prosecutorial, defense, or court-
5 ordered judicial purposes.

6 “(4) FORENSIC GENETIC GENEALOGY PRO-
7 FILE.—The term ‘forensic genetic genealogy profile’
8 means a single nucleotide polymorphisms-based ge-
9 netic profile generated from a forensic or reference
10 sample by an accredited forensic laboratory for the
11 purpose of conducting FGG DNA analysis and
12 searching.

13 “(5) FORENSIC LABORATORY.—The term ‘fo-
14 rensic laboratory’ means a facility, entity, or site
15 that—

16 “(A) offers or performs forensic analysis;
17 and

18 “(B) follows appropriate evidentiary, docu-
19 mentation, and quality assurance requirements
20 for use in judicial proceedings.

21 “(6) GENETIC GENEALOGY SERVICE.—The
22 term ‘genetic genealogy service’ means a repository
23 of genetic data containing genetic profiles submitted
24 by individuals that permits search by a law enforce-
25 ment agency for forensic genetic genealogy purposes.

1 “(7) INTERIM POLICY.—The term ‘Interim Pol-
2 icy’ means the ‘Interim Policy on Forensic Genetic
3 Genealogical DNA Analysis and Searching’ of the
4 Department of Justice dated November 1, 2019, or
5 any successor policy.

6 “(8) LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The term
7 ‘law enforcement agency’ means an agency of the
8 United States, a State, a political subdivision of a
9 State, or an Indian Tribe authorized by law or by
10 a government agency to engage in or supervise the
11 prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of
12 any violation of criminal law.

13 **“SEC. 3062. DNA ANALYSIS GRANTS.**

14 “(a) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this section,
15 the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

16 “(1) a State;

17 “(2) a Tribal, county, or local law enforcement
18 agency;

19 “(3) a publicly funded accredited forensic lab-
20 oratory;

21 “(4) a State, Tribal, county, or local prosecu-
22 tor’s office with a forensic laboratory capability;

23 “(5) a medical examiner’s office; and

24 “(6) a coroner’s office.

1 “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF GRANTS.—The Attorney
2 General may award a competitive grant to an eligible enti-
3 ty for the purpose of using any technology used in a foren-
4 sic laboratory—

5 “(1) to conduct whole genome sequencing tech-
6 nology to assess not less than 100,000 genetic mark-
7 ers; and

8 “(2) that is compatible with genealogical data-
9 bases.

10 “(c) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity seeking a
11 grant under this section shall submit to the Attorney Gen-
12 eral an application at such time and in such form as the
13 Attorney General may require.

14 “(d) USE OF GRANT.—An eligible entity that receives
15 a grant under this section shall use funds from the grant
16 for any of the following purposes:

17 “(1) To carry out DNA analyses of physical
18 evidence collected under applicable legal authority
19 using the technology described in subsection (b) if
20 the submission of such physical evidence to the Com-
21 bined DNA Index System has failed to produce an
22 investigative lead.

23 “(2) To carry out DNA analyses of unidentified
24 human remains using the technology described in
25 subsection (b) if submission of such samples to the

1 Combined DNA Index System has failed to produce
2 an investigative lead.

3 “(3) To outsource an activity described in para-
4 graph (1) or (2) for the use of technology described
5 in subsection (b) and searching to—

6 “(A) an accredited publicly funded forensic
7 laboratory;

8 “(B) a medical examiner or coroner’s of-
9 fice;

10 “(C) a State, Tribal, county, or local pros-
11 ecutor’s office with a forensic laboratory capa-
12 bility; or

13 “(D) a nongovernmental accredited foren-
14 sic laboratory.

15 “(e) REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS WITH RE-
16 SPECT TO GENETIC GENEALOGY.—An eligible entity that
17 receives a grant under this section—

18 “(1) with respect to a forensic profile derived
19 from a candidate forensic sample for which a suffi-
20 cient quantity of DNA exists and which meets the
21 eligibility requirements of the Combined DNA Index
22 System, before attempting to use FGG DNA anal-
23 ysis and searching with respect to the forensic pro-
24 file—

1 “(A) shall upload the forensic profile to the
2 Combined DNA Index System; and

3 “(B) may only proceed with FGG DNA
4 analysis and searching if a search of the
5 uploaded forensic profile in the Combined DNA
6 Index System fails to produce a probative and
7 confirmed DNA match;

8 “(2) with respect to an eligible entity that is a
9 law enforcement agency, may not arrest a suspect
10 based solely on a genetic association generated by a
11 genetic genealogy service;

12 “(3) with respect to an eligible entity that is a
13 law enforcement agency or an entity conducting ge-
14 netic genealogical research on behalf of a law en-
15 forcement agency or to inform a criminal investiga-
16 tion, shall—

17 “(A) identify as a law enforcement agency
18 to any genetic genealogy service; and

19 “(B) enter and search forensic genetic gen-
20 ealogy profiles only in a genetic genealogy serv-
21 ice that provides explicit notice to users of the
22 genetic genealogy service and the public that
23 law enforcement may use the genetic genealogy
24 service to investigate crimes or identify uniden-
25 tified human remains;

1 “(4) shall seek informed consent from third
2 parties before collecting reference samples directly
3 from an individual that will be used for FGG DNA
4 analysis and searching, unless case-specific cir-
5 cumstances provide reasonable grounds to believe
6 that this requirement would compromise the integ-
7 rity of an investigation;

8 “(5) shall treat all forensic genetic genealogy
9 profiles and genetic genealogy service account infor-
10 mation and data as confidential government infor-
11 mation consistent with any applicable laws, regula-
12 tions, policies, and procedures;

13 “(6) shall use biological samples and forensic
14 genetic genealogy profiles only for law enforcement
15 identification purposes;

16 “(7) shall take all reasonable and necessary
17 steps and precautions to ensure that others who
18 have authorized access to biological samples and fo-
19 rensic genetic genealogy profiles follow the same lim-
20 itation of use of those samples required under para-
21 graph (6);

22 “(8) whenever possible, shall use only genetic
23 genealogy services that configure service site user
24 settings that control access to forensic genetic gene-
25 alogy profile data and associated account informa-

1 tion in a manner that will prevent that data and in-
2 formation from being viewed by other service users;

3 “(9) shall conduct covert collection of a DNA
4 sample for the purpose of performing FGG DNA
5 analysis and searching in accordance with applicable
6 State and Federal law; and

7 “(10) may not use a biological sample or a fo-
8 rensic genetic genealogy profile to determine the ge-
9 netic predisposition for disease or any other medical
10 condition or psychological trait of the donor of the
11 sample or profile.

12 “(f) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the
13 date of enactment of this section, the Attorney General
14 shall promulgate regulations to promote the reasoned ex-
15 ercise of investigative, scientific, and prosecutorial discre-
16 tion in cases that involve forensic genetic genealogical
17 DNA analysis and searching. Such regulations shall incor-
18 porate the requirements and limitations set forth under
19 subsection (e).

20 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
22 appropriated to the Attorney General to carry out
23 this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
24 through 2031.

25 “(2) LIMITATIONS ON USE.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts appropriated
2 to carry out this section—

3 “(i) subject to subparagraph (B),
4 shall only be made available to carry out
5 forensic genetic genealogical analysis; and

6 “(ii) shall not be made available for
7 staffing, training, travel, or equipment.

8 “(B) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Attor-
9 ney General may use not more than 10 percent
10 of amounts appropriated to carry out this sec-
11 tion for administrative costs.

12 **“SEC. 3063. GRANTS FOR FORENSIC EQUIPMENT AND DATA-**
13 **BASE SEARCHING.**

14 “(a) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this section,
15 the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

16 “(1) a publicly funded accredited forensic lab-
17 oratory;

18 “(2) a State, county, local, or Tribal prosecu-
19 tor’s office with a forensic laboratory capability;

20 “(3) a medical examiner’s office; and

21 “(4) a coroner’s office.

22 “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF GRANTS.—The Attorney
23 General may award a grant to an eligible entity for the
24 purpose of—

1 “(1) purchasing equipment for FGG DNA anal-
2 ysis and searching; or

3 “(2) funding searches to generate investigative
4 leads for criminal investigations or unidentified
5 human remains.

6 “(c) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity seeking a
7 grant under this section shall submit to the Attorney Gen-
8 eral an application at such time and in such form as the
9 Attorney General may require.

10 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
11 a grant under this section shall use funds from the
12 grant—

13 “(1) to purchase forensic equipment, including
14 supplies, reagents, consumables, and validation ex-
15 penses, for genetic genealogy techniques to generate
16 investigative leads for criminal investigations or un-
17 identified human remains; and

18 “(2) for genealogical database searching.

19 “(e) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE POLICY.—Other than
20 an activity involving unidentified human remains, an activ-
21 ity carried out using funding from a grant under this sec-
22 tion shall be carried out in compliance with—

23 “(1) the Interim Policy; and

24 “(2) the regulations promulgated under section
25 3062(f).

1 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General
3 to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal
4 years 2027 through 2031.

5 **“SEC. 3064. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

6 “(a) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney General may pro-
7 mulgate guidelines, regulations, and procedures to carry
8 out this part, including guidelines, regulations, and proce-
9 dures relating to the submission and review of applications
10 for grants under sections 3062 and 3063.

11 “(b) ACCOUNTABILITY.—

12 “(1) RECORDS.—An eligible entity that receives
13 a grant under this part shall maintain such records
14 as the Attorney General may require to facilitate an
15 effective audit relating to the receipt of the grant,
16 the use of amounts from the grant, outsourcing ac-
17 tivities, and compliance with—

18 “(A) section VIII, entitled ‘Sample and
19 Data Control and Disposition’, of the Interim
20 Policy; and

21 “(B) the regulations promulgated under
22 section 3062(f).

23 “(2) ACCESS.—For the purpose of conducting
24 audits and examinations, the Attorney General shall
25 have access to any book, document, or record of an

1 eligible entity that receives a grant under this part,
 2 a State or unit of local government within which the
 3 eligible entity operates, and any entity to which the
 4 eligible entity outsources work using amounts from
 5 the grant if the Attorney General determines that
 6 the book, document, or record relates to—

7 “(A) the receipt of the grant;

8 “(B) the use of funds from the grant; or

9 “(C) compliance with—

10 “(i) section VIII, entitled ‘Sample and
 11 Data Control and Disposition’, of the In-
 12 terim Policy; or

13 “(ii) the regulations promulgated
 14 under section 3062(f).

15 “(3) **SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT.**—In car-
 16 rying out this part, the Attorney General shall com-
 17 ply with part 180 of title 2, Code of Federal Regula-
 18 tions, or any successor regulation.

19 **“SEC. 3065. REPORTS.**

20 “Not later than 1 year after the date on which an eli-
 21 gible entity receives the final disbursement of funds from
 22 a grant under section 3062 or 3063, the eligible entity
 23 shall submit to the Attorney General a report that in-
 24 cludes—

1 “(1) the amount of funding the eligible entity
2 received from the grant for each fiscal year for
3 which the grant was awarded;

4 “(2) the number of cases for which the eligible
5 entity submitted for testing using FGG DNA anal-
6 ysis and searching during the previous year;

7 “(3) the number of cases for which the eligible
8 entity performed testing using FGG DNA analysis
9 and searching during the previous year;

10 “(4) the type of testing relating to FGG DNA
11 analysis and searching performed by the eligible en-
12 tity during each year for which the grant was award-
13 ed, including—

14 “(A) the name of any laboratory to which
15 the eligible entity outsourced the testing;

16 “(B) the type of sequencing equipment and
17 method used for the testing; and

18 “(C) the results of the testing, such as
19 whether the testing resulted in successful victim
20 or perpetrator identification, no identification,
21 ongoing analysis, or incomplete analysis, and
22 the time it took to obtain a result;

23 “(5) during each year for which the grant was
24 awarded, the number of cases in which FGG DNA
25 analysis and searching—

1 “(A) resulted in a searchable profile in a
2 publicly available genetic genealogy service;

3 “(B) generated a lead resulting in a victim
4 or perpetrator identification;

5 “(C) generated a lead but did not generate
6 a victim or perpetrator identification; and

7 “(D) did generate a lead and resulted in a
8 victim or perpetrator identification by the end
9 of the grant period directly resulting in an ar-
10 rest; and

11 “(6) during each year for which the grant was
12 awarded, the average number of days it took to
13 make any identification between the date of sample
14 submission for FGG DNA analysis and searching
15 and the date of delivery of test results to the re-
16 questing office or agency.

17 **“SEC. 3066. NO PREEMPTION.**

18 “Nothing in this part shall be construed to preempt
19 any law (including a regulation) of a State, or a political
20 subdivision of a State, containing requirements that pro-
21 vide equivalent or greater protection than the require-
22 ments of this part.”.

23 **SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REPORT.**

24 Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment
25 of this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with the

1 Forensic Laboratory Needs Working Group of the Na-
2 tional Institute of Justice, shall submit to Congress a re-
3 port—

4 (1) on the awards and practices reported to the
5 Attorney General under section 3065 of title I of the
6 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of
7 1968, as added by this Act;

8 (2) on forensic genetic genealogy analysis tech-
9 nologies and how best to implement forensic genetic
10 genealogy analysis for eligible entities (as defined in
11 section 3063(a) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Con-
12 trol and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by this
13 Act); and

14 (3) that includes any recommendations relating
15 to—

16 (A) expected funding needs; and

17 (B) whether regulations are needed for the
18 use of forensic genetic genealogy analysis tech-
19 nology.

Passed the Senate June 10, 2026.

Attest:

Secretary.

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AN ACT

To establish a grant program for certain State and local forensic activities, and for other purposes.