
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1964 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY HOHENSTEIN, KHAN, DELLOSO, WAXMAN, SCHLOSSBERG,
MADDEN, HARKINS, McNEILL, GIRAL, BRENNAN, KINKEAD, HADDOCK,
RABB, SANCHEZ, DONAHUE, CERRATO, CIRESI, MAYES, McANDREW,
GILLEN, DALEY, GREEN, KENYATTA, GUENST, KINSEY, FLEMING,
BOROWSKI AND CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, JANUARY 31, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, JANUARY 31, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 74 (Transportation) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for Public Transit Security
3 Grant Program; establishing the Public Transit Security Grant
4 Program Fund; and imposing duties on the Department of
5 Transportation.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Title 74 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
9 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

10 CHAPTER 12

11 PUBLIC TRANSIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

12 Sec.

13 1201. Definitions.

14 1202. Grant program.

15 1203. Public Transit Security Grant Program Fund.

16 1204. Applications.

17 1205. Award of program grants.

18 1206. Reports.

1 § 1201. Definitions.

2 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
3 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
4 context clearly indicates otherwise:

5 "Department." The Department of Transportation of the
6 Commonwealth.

7 "Eligible applicant." Any of the following:

8 (1) The governing body of a municipality or an
9 instrumentality of a municipality.

10 (2) A Commonwealth agency or instrumentality.

11 (3) A local or regional public transit authority.

12 (4) An association representing public transit
13 providers.

14 (5) An association representing public transit
15 employees.

16 "Fund." The Public Transit Security Grant Program Fund
17 established under section 1203 (relating to Public Transit
18 Security Grant Program Fund).

19 "Municipality." A county, city, borough, incorporated town
20 or township or home rule, optional plan or optional charter
21 municipality, any other general purpose unit of government
22 established by the General Assembly, a municipal authority and
23 any entity formed under 53 Pa.C.S. Ch. 23 Subch. A (relating to
24 intergovernmental cooperation).

25 "Program." The Public Transit Security Grant Program
26 established under section 1202 (relating to grant program).

27 "Program grant." A grant awarded under the program.

28 § 1202. Grant program.

29 (a) Establishment.--The Public Transit Security Grant
30 Program is established as a competitive grant program within the

1 department.

2 (b) Purpose.--The purpose of the program is to award grants
3 to eligible applicants for the prevention, reduction or
4 mitigation of the effects of crime relating to public transit
5 operations or for the improvement of public transit employee
6 safety.

7 (c) Administration.--The department shall administer the
8 program.

9 (d) Public notice.--The department shall provide information
10 regarding the availability and award of program grant money on
11 the department's publicly accessible Internet website.

12 § 1203. Public Transit Security Grant Program Fund.

13 (a) Establishment.--The Public Transit Security Grant
14 Program Fund is established in the State Treasury. The fund
15 shall be used for the purpose of awarding grants under this
16 chapter.

17 (b) Continuing appropriation.--All money deposited into the
18 fund and interest earned on the money in the fund is
19 appropriated to the department on a continuing basis to award
20 grants under this chapter.

21 § 1204. Applications.

22 (a) Forms.--The department shall develop annual grant
23 application forms for an eligible applicant to apply for a
24 program grant. At a minimum, the forms shall contain the
25 following information:

26 (1) The name, address and contact information of the
27 applicant.

28 (2) The amount of program grant money requested.

29 (3) The proposed use for the requested program grant
30 money.

1 (4) If applicable, a detailed maintenance plan for any
2 equipment used or installed with money from the program.

3 (5) Any other information that the department deems
4 necessary and appropriate.

5 (b) Application period.--Beginning no later than 180 days
6 after the effective date of this subsection, the department
7 shall begin accepting and processing applications. For all
8 subsequent years, the department shall establish an application
9 period during which applications for grants under this chapter
10 are accepted.

11 § 1205. Award of program grants.

12 (a) Review.--After review of the information provided under
13 each applicant's submitted application form, the department
14 shall determine whether to award a program grant to the
15 applicant and, if so, the amount of the program grant.

16 (b) Allocation.--The department shall determine the
17 allocation limit for program grant awards, which may not be in
18 excess of the amount in the fund.

19 (c) Competitive nature of awards.--Program grants shall be
20 awarded on a competitive basis to eligible applicants. In
21 awarding program grants, the department shall:

22 (1) Give preference to applicants whose program grant
23 proposals demonstrate the greatest likelihood of preventing,
24 reducing or mitigating the effects of crime relating to
25 public transit operations or of improving the safety of
26 public transit employees.

27 (2) Consider the scope of the applicant's proposal and
28 the applicant's demonstrated need for additional resources to
29 effectively prevent or reduce crime relating to public
30 transit operations or improve the safety of public transit

1 employees.

2 (d) Time periods.--

3 (1) The department shall approve or deny an application
4 no later than 60 days after the receipt of the application.

5 (2) If the department fails to approve or deny an
6 application within 60 days after the receipt of the
7 application, the application shall be deemed denied.

8 (e) Notice.--

9 (1) The department shall provide written notice to the
10 applicant of the award or denial of the program grant.

11 (2) The notice under paragraph (1) shall include:

12 (i) If awarded, the amount of the program grant and
13 any conditions or restrictions on the use of the program
14 grant money.

15 (ii) If denied in full or in part, the reasons for
16 the full or partial denial.

17 § 1206. Reports.

18 No less than once every three years, the department shall
19 prepare and submit a report to the General Assembly on safety
20 and security event data relating to public transit funded by
21 program grants.

22 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.