

Chapter 355

(Senate Bill 490)

AN ACT concerning

Capital Grant Program for Local School Systems With Significant Enrollment Growth or Relocatable Classrooms

FOR the purpose of establishing the Capital Grant Program for Local School Systems With Significant Enrollment Growth or Relocatable Classrooms; providing for the purpose of the Program and requiring the Interagency Committee on Public School Construction to implement and administer the Program; specifying certain requirements for grants awarded under the Program; requiring the Interagency Committee to award certain grants to certain county boards of education under the Program; requiring the Interagency Committee to develop certain eligibility requirements and certain procedures and processes for grants awarded under the Program; requiring the Interagency Committee to adopt certain procedures; requiring the Governor, beginning in a certain fiscal year, to provide a certain amount of money in the State budget for the Program each fiscal year; specifying that funding provided under the Program is supplemental to public school construction funding from other sources; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the Capital Grant Program for Local School Systems With Significant Enrollment Growth or Relocatable Classrooms.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 5–313

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2014 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

5–313.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE CAPITAL GRANT PROGRAM FOR LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS WITH SIGNIFICANT ENROLLMENT GROWTH OR RELOCATABLE CLASSROOMS.

(3) “SIGNIFICANT ENROLLMENT GROWTH” MEANS ~~STUDENT~~ FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT ENROLLMENT GROWTH IN A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM THAT HAS EXCEEDED 150% OF THE STATEWIDE AVERAGE OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS.

(4) “SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF RELOCATABLE CLASSROOMS” MEANS AN AVERAGE OF MORE THAN 300 RELOCATABLE CLASSROOMS IN A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS.

(B) (1) THERE IS A CAPITAL GRANT PROGRAM FOR LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS WITH SIGNIFICANT ENROLLMENT GROWTH OR RELOCATABLE CLASSROOMS.

(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION IN LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS THAT ARE EXPERIENCING SIGNIFICANT ENROLLMENT GROWTH OR A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF RELOCATABLE CLASSROOMS.

(C) (1) THE PROGRAM SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED AND ADMINISTERED BY THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

(2) GRANTS AWARDED BY THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE UNDER THE PROGRAM:

~~(I) MAY NOT COVER MORE THAN 50% OF THE COSTS OF A PROJECT;~~

~~(H) (I)~~ SHALL BE MATCHED BY LOCAL FUNDS EQUAL TO THE REQUIRED LOCAL COST-SHARE ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 5-301(D)(3) OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

~~(H) (II)~~ SHALL BE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS.

(D) THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE SHALL:

(1) PROVIDE GRANTS FROM STATE FUNDS DEDICATED FOR THE PROGRAM TO COUNTY BOARDS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION IN LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS THAT ARE EXPERIENCING SIGNIFICANT ENROLLMENT GROWTH OR A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF RELOCATABLE CLASSROOMS;

(2) DEVELOP A PROCEDURE FOR A COUNTY BOARD TO APPLY FOR A GRANT UNDER THE PROGRAM;

(3) DEVELOP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR A COUNTY BOARD TO RECEIVE A GRANT UNDER THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING A REQUIREMENT FOR A COUNTY BOARD TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO MATCH A GRANT AWARD; AND

(4) DEVELOP A PROCESS TO ALLOCATE GRANT AWARDS UNDER THE PROGRAM THAT ALLOCATE FUNDS BASED ON EACH ELIGIBLE COUNTY BOARD'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE TOTAL FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT ENROLLMENT OF THE COUNTY BOARDS THAT ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.

(E) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, IN ADDITION TO THE ANNUAL AMOUNT OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM, THE GOVERNOR SHALL PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL \$20,000,000 ANNUALLY IN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM THAT MAY BE USED ONLY TO AWARD GRANTS UNDER THE PROGRAM.

(F) THE STATE FUNDING PROVIDED UNDER THE PROGRAM IS SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND IS NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF FUNDING THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE APPROPRIATED FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES TO A COUNTY BOARD FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE.

(G) THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE SHALL ADOPT PROCEDURES NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2015.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.