

# SENATE BILL 893

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CF HB 1013

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By: **Senator Smith**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2022

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings and Budget and Taxation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Safer Communities Fund and Task Force – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Safer Communities Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund  
4 to provide grant assistance to local governments for investments in noncarceral  
5 safety; establishing the Safer Communities Task Force to promote noncarceral  
6 strategies for safety; and generally relating to the Safer Communities Fund and the  
7 Safer Communities Task Force.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Public Safety

10 Section 4–1601 through 4–1604 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 16. Safer  
11 Communities Fund”

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Public Safety**

17 **SUBTITLE 16. SAFER COMMUNITIES FUND.**

18 **4–1601.**

19 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
20 INDICATED.

21 (B) “EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR” MEANS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE  
22 GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (C) "FUND" MEANS THE SAFER COMMUNITIES FUND.

2 4-1602.

3 (A) THERE IS A SAFER COMMUNITIES FUND.

4 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE GRANT ASSISTANCE TO  
5 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE ROBUST AND HOLISTIC INVESTMENTS IN  
6 NONCARCERAL SAFETY.

7 (C) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

8 (D) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT  
9 SUBJECT TO REVERSION UNDER § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND  
10 PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

11 (2) THE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY, AND THE  
12 COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

13 (E) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

14 (1) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND; AND

15 (2) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR  
16 THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.

17 (F) THE FUND MAY BE USED TO SUPPORT:

18 (1) MENTAL HEALTH RESPONSE CRISIS TEAMS;

19 (2) SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING LIGHTING;

20 (3) PILOT PROGRAMS THAT SHIFT THE RESPONSE TO LOW-LEVEL  
21 CRIMES OR NONCRIMINAL INCIDENCES FROM POLICE; AND

22 (4) OTHER PROGRAMS AIMED AT PREVENTING A POLICE RESPONSE  
23 TO LOW-LEVEL CRIMES AND NONCRIMINAL INCIDENCES.

24 (G) THE FUND MAY NOT BE USED TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF A POLICE  
25 FORCE OR INCREASE THE USE OF POLICE OR SURVEILLANCE OF COMMUNITIES.

26 4-1603.

1           **(A) EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT THAT APPLIES FOR A GRANT FROM THE**  
2 **FUND SHALL APPOINT A SAFER COMMUNITIES ADVISORY BOARD.**

3           **(B) THE ADVISORY BOARD SHALL INCLUDE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE**  
4 **DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY CRIMINAL AND LEGAL HARM AND REPRESENT THE**  
5 **DIVERSITY OF THE LOCAL JURISDICTION.**

6           **(C) THE ADVISORY BOARD SHALL ENGAGE THE PUBLIC, HOLD PUBLIC**  
7 **HEARINGS, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT RELATING**  
8 **TO THE FUNDING OF COMMUNITY SAFETY PROJECTS.**

9           **(D) BEFORE A LOCAL GOVERNMENT USES ANY GRANT FUNDS, THE**  
10 **ADVISORY BOARD SHALL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE INPUT FROM THE**  
11 **COMMUNITY ON SPECIFIC USES FOR THE GRANT FUNDS.**

12 **4-1604.**

13           **ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31 EACH YEAR, EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT THAT**  
14 **RECEIVES GRANT FUNDS FROM THE FUND SHALL, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE**  
15 **SAFER COMMUNITIES ADVISORY BOARD OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SUBMIT TO**  
16 **THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES**  
17 **A REPORT ON:**

18           **(1) HOW FUNDS ARE USED;**

19           **(2) GOALS RELATED TO THE FUND; AND**

20           **(3) OTHER METRICS DETERMINED AS RELEVANT TO THE FUND.**

21           **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:**

22           **(a) There is a Safer Communities Task Force.**

23           **(b) The Task Force consists of members selected by the Executive Director of the**  
24 **Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services, or the Executive**  
25 **Director's designee.**

26           **(c) The Task Force shall elect the chair of the Task Force from among its members**  
27 **by a majority vote at the first meeting.**

28           **(d) The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services shall**  
29 **provide staff for the Task Force.**

30           **(e) A member of the Task Force:**

1 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

2 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
3 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

4 (f) The Task Force shall:

5 (1) study holistic, non–carceral approaches to community safety statewide,  
6 including across the State government and State agencies;

7 (2) research non–carceral strategies to increase safety; and

8 (3) make recommendations relating to non–carceral approaches to  
9 community safety, including recommendations to assist relevant local programs.

10 (g) On or before December 31, 2022, the Task Force shall report its findings and  
11 recommendations to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State  
12 Government Article.

13 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
14 1, 2022. Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and,  
15 at the end of July 31, 2023, Section 2 of this Act, with no further action required by the  
16 General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.