
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 176 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY GROVE, PASHINSKI, COHEN, SAYLOR, HAHN, JAMES,
SCHLOSSBERG, MURT, BARRAR, A. HARRIS, MAHER, MENTZER, O'NEILL
AND D. COSTA, JANUARY 23, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, JANUARY 23, 2015

AN ACT

1 Providing for grants to regional police departments; imposing
2 powers and duties on the Center for Local Government Services
3 and the Department of Community and Economic Development;
4 providing for transfers from the State Gaming Fund; and
5 repealing provisions in Title 4 relating to transfers from
6 State Gaming Fund.

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

9 Section 1. Short title.

10 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Law
11 Enforcement Grant Program Act.

12 Section 2. Declaration of policy.

13 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

14 (1) Regional police are the future of local law
15 enforcement.

16 (2) Regional police provide professional, efficient and
17 local police service to multiple municipalities across this
18 Commonwealth.

19 (3) An increased number of regional police departments

1 would ease the strain on the Pennsylvania State Police, which
2 is overtaxed by the growing number of municipalities it
3 serves.

4 (4) The Commonwealth has chosen to support regional
5 police departments by investing in start-up grants for
6 regional police departments.

7 (5) The Commonwealth has a vested interest in providing
8 grants to existing regional police departments to increase
9 their financial strength and sustain them after their initial
10 start-up period.

11 (6) By strengthening regional police departments, the
12 Commonwealth improves the safety and security of our
13 communities.

14 Section 3. Definitions.

15 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
16 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
17 context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 "Center." The Center for Local Government Services within
19 the Department of Community and Economic Development of the
20 Commonwealth.

21 "Department." The Department of Community and Economic
22 Development of the Commonwealth.

23 "Grant." A grant awarded to a law enforcement agency in
24 accordance with this act.

25 "Law enforcement agency." A regional police department.

26 "Law enforcement officer." A police officer employed on a
27 full-time or part-time basis by a law enforcement agency.

28 "Program." The Law Enforcement Grant Program established
29 under section 4.

30 "Regional police department." A regional police force

1 created by two or more municipal corporations under 53 Pa.C.S.
2 Ch. 23 Subch. A (relating to intergovernmental cooperation).
3 Section 4. Law Enforcement Grant Program.

4 (a) Establishment.--The Law Enforcement Grant Program is
5 established and shall be administered by the center.

6 (b) Purpose of grants.--The center shall award grants to
7 eligible law enforcement agencies. Grant funds may be used for
8 the following:

- 9 (1) Vehicle acquisition.
- 10 (2) Cameras, including cameras to be placed in vehicles.
- 11 (3) Speed timing devices.
- 12 (4) Uniforms.
- 13 (5) Police and emergency equipment.
- 14 (6) Training.
- 15 (7) Personnel costs.
- 16 (8) Community law enforcement efforts.

17 Section 5. Application and review.

18 (a) Notice.--The center shall notify law enforcement
19 agencies of the availability of the program by July 1 for fiscal
20 years beginning after June 30, 2015.

21 (b) Application form.--The center shall develop and
22 distribute a uniform application for applicants to submit for
23 grants under the program. The center shall provide the
24 application form and accompanying instructions to law
25 enforcement agencies annually by September 1.

26 (c) Submission of application.--To be considered, an
27 application must be submitted to the center no later than
28 November 30 of each fiscal year. The center shall approve or
29 disapprove an application within 60 days of the application
30 being filed.

1 (d) Review.--The center shall review applications submitted
2 for grants under the program and shall approve them if they meet
3 the requirements of subsection (e) and the applicant agrees to
4 the terms and conditions for the grant as determined by the
5 center. A law enforcement agency must submit a signed agreement
6 to the center prior to the release of grant funds to the law
7 enforcement agency.

8 (e) Basis of award.--

9 (1) Grants shall be awarded based upon the demonstrated
10 need of the law enforcement agency requesting the grant.

11 (2) Need shall be calculated based on the total number
12 of law enforcement officers employed by the law enforcement
13 agency as of July 1 of each fiscal year.

14 Section 6. Conditions.

15 (a) Claim.--An applicant for a grant that fails to return a
16 signed agreement for the preceding fiscal year is ineligible for
17 grant funding in the current fiscal year unless the applicant
18 provides to the center a reasonable written explanation as to
19 why the applicant failed to claim its grant.

20 (b) Compliance.--An applicant for a grant that fails to
21 demonstrate that it complied with all the terms of its agreement
22 for the preceding fiscal year is ineligible for grant funding in
23 the current fiscal year.

24 Section 7. Funding.

25 (a) Funding.--Annually, the sum of \$2,000,000 shall be
26 transferred from the State Gaming Fund to the department for the
27 purpose of issuing grants.

28 (b) Administration.--No money from the transfer under
29 subsection (a) may be used for expenses or costs incurred by the
30 department for the administration of the program.

1 Section 8. Report.

2 Within six months of receiving a grant, a law enforcement
3 agency shall submit a report to the center. The report shall
4 document the use of the grant funds by the law enforcement
5 agency.

6 Section 9. Guidelines.

7 The department shall adopt guidelines necessary to implement
8 and administer the provisions of this act.

9 Section 10. Repeal.

10 (a) Intent.--The General Assembly declares that the repeal
11 under subsection (b) is necessary to effectuate this act.

12 (b) Repeal.--The provisions of 4 Pa.C.S. § 1408(c) are
13 repealed.

14 Section 11. Applicability.

15 This act shall apply to fiscal years beginning on or after
16 July 1, 2015.

17 Section 12. Effective date.

18 This act shall take effect immediately.