

SENATE BILL 774

E4

4lr2782
CF HB 1065

By: ~~Senator Ferguson~~ **Senators Ferguson, Smith, Waldstreicher, Sydnor, Muse, Folden, James, Carter, McKay, Kelly, and Charles**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 18, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Maryland Entertainment District Security Grant Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Entertainment District Security Grant
4 Program; establishing the Maryland Entertainment District Security Grant
5 Program Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; and generally relating to the Maryland
6 Entertainment District Security Grant Program.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Public Safety

9 Section 4–1701 through 4–1703 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 17. Maryland
10 Entertainment District Security Grant Program”

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Public Safety**

16 **SUBTITLE 17. MARYLAND ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT SECURITY GRANT**
17 **PROGRAM.**

18 **4–1701.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 (B) "COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION" MEANS A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
4 RECOGNIZED BY THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION IN WHICH IT IS LOCATED.

5 (C) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE MARYLAND ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT
6 SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.

7 4-1702.

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

10 (2) "ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT" MEANS A ONE-HALF SQUARE MILE
11 AREA IN THE STATE IN WHICH ~~EITHER~~ ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ~~ARE~~ IS PRESENT:

12 (I) A HIGH DENSITY OF ESTABLISHMENTS LICENSED TO SERVE
13 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR ON-SITE CONSUMPTION; ~~OR~~

14 (II) A HIGH DENSITY OF ESTABLISHMENTS THAT ARE HOOKAH
15 BARS; OR

16 ~~(II)~~ (III) A HIGH DENSITY OF ESTABLISHMENTS THAT
17 REGULARLY HOST LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FOR THEIR PATRONS OR MEMBERS OF THE
18 PUBLIC.

19 (3) "EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR" MEANS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
20 THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES.

21 (B) THERE IS A MARYLAND ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT SECURITY GRANT
22 PROGRAM.

23 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO ASSIST COMMUNITY
24 ORGANIZATIONS, NONPROFIT ENTITIES, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO FUND
25 SECURITY OPERATIONS DURING TIMES OF HIGH PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC IN
26 ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS FROM WHICH A HIGHER THAN AVERAGE NUMBER OF
27 CALLS FOR POLICE ASSISTANCE IN RESPONSE TO REPORTED CRIME ARE PLACED.

28 (D) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL ESTABLISH:

29 (1) AN APPLICATION PROCESS FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND
30 NONPROFIT ENTITIES LOCATED IN ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS, AND LOCAL

1 GOVERNMENTS WITH ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS LOCATED WITHIN THE
2 JURISDICTION, TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDING FROM THE PROGRAM;

3 (2) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SELECTING RECIPIENTS FOR GRANT
4 FUNDING FROM THE PROGRAM; AND

5 (3) MINIMUM CRITERIA FOR AN ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT FOR THE
6 PURPOSE OF DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANT FUNDING FROM THE
7 PROGRAM, INCLUDING:

8 (I) THE DENSITY OF ESTABLISHMENTS LICENSED TO SERVE
9 ALCOHOL FOR ON-SITE CONSUMPTION, HOOKAH BARS, OR ESTABLISHMENTS THAT
10 REGULARLY HOST LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FOR THEIR PATRONS OR MEMBERS OF THE
11 PUBLIC;

12 (II) THE AMOUNT OF PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC; AND

13 (III) THE NUMBER OF CALLS FOR POLICE ASSISTANCE IN
14 RESPONSE TO REPORTED CRIMES.

15 4-1703.

16 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "FUND" MEANS THE MARYLAND ENTERTAINMENT
17 DISTRICT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM FUND.

18 (B) THERE IS A MARYLAND ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT SECURITY GRANT
19 PROGRAM FUND.

20 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR GRANTS
21 AWARDED UNDER THE PROGRAM.

22 (D) THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND
23 VICTIM SERVICES SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

24 (E) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT
25 SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

26 (2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,
27 AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

28 (F) (1) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

29 (I) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE
30 FUND; AND

1 (II) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED
2 FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.

3 (2) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR
4 THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR MAY ANNUALLY APPROPRIATE UP TO \$1,000,000 TO
5 THE FUND.

6 (G) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY:

7 (1) TO FUND GRANTS TO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, NONPROFIT
8 ENTITIES, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS THROUGH THE PROGRAM; AND

9 (2) FOR COSTS TO ADMINISTER THE FUND.

10 (H) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND
11 IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.

12 (2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO
13 THE GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE.

14 (I) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE
15 WITH THE STATE BUDGET.

16 (J) MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE FUND FOR THE PROGRAM IS
17 SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND IS NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF FUNDING THAT
18 OTHERWISE WOULD BE APPROPRIATED FOR THE PROGRAM.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 October 1, 2024.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.