

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

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MAY 21, 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:

CHAPTER 12

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.

1 1206. Reports.

2 § 1201. Definitions.

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

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

8 "Eligible applicant." Any of the following:

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

11 (2) A Commonwealth agency or instrumentality.

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

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

15 ~~(5) An association representing public transit~~ <--
16 ~~employees.~~

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

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

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

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

29 "SAFETY COMMITTEE." AS DEFINED UNDER 49 CFR 673.5 (RELATING <--
30 TO DEFINITIONS).

1 § 1202. Grant program.

2 (a) Establishment.--The Public Transit Security Grant
3 Program is established as a competitive grant program within the
4 department.

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

10 (c) Administration.--The department shall administer the
11 program.

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

15 § 1203. Public Transit Security Grant Program Fund.

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

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

24 § 1204. Applications.

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

29 (1) The name, address and contact information of the
30 applicant.

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

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

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

6 (5) IF APPLICABLE, A WRITTEN LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE <--
7 APPLICATION FROM THE SAFETY COMMITTEE.

8 ~~(5)~~ (6) Any other information that the department deems <--
9 necessary and appropriate.

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

16 § 1205. Award of program grants.

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

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

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

27 (1) Give preference to applicants whose program grant
28 proposals demonstrate the greatest likelihood of preventing,
29 reducing or mitigating the effects of crime relating to
30 public transit operations or of improving the safety of

1 public transit employees.

2 (2) Consider the scope of the applicant's proposal and
3 the applicant's demonstrated need for additional resources to
4 effectively prevent or reduce crime relating to public
5 transit operations or improve the safety of public transit
6 employees.

7 (3) GIVE PREFERENCE TO APPLICANTS WHO CAN DEMONSTRATE <--
8 THE SUPPORT AND CONSENT OF THE ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTING THE
9 MAJORITY OF PUBLIC TRANSIT EMPLOYEES IN THE TRANSIT
10 AUTHORITY.

11 (d) Time periods.--

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

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

17 (e) Notice.--

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

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

21 (i) If awarded, the amount of the program grant and
22 any conditions or restrictions on the use of the program
23 grant money.

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

26 § 1206. Reports.

27 No less than once every three years, the department shall
28 prepare and submit a report to the General Assembly on ~~safety~~ <--
29 and security event data relating to public transit funded by
30 program grants. THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING, <--

1 BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

2 (1) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PROGRAM GRANTS AWARDED UNDER
3 THIS CHAPTER;

4 (2) THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF EACH APPLICANT THAT WAS
5 AWARDED A PROGRAM GRANT UNDER THIS CHAPTER; AND

6 (3) THE USE AND THE AMOUNT OF EACH PROGRAM GRANT AWARDED
7 TO EACH APPLICANT UNDER THIS CHAPTER.

8 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.