

HOUSE BILL 290

By Gant

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49
and Chapter 944 of the Public Acts of 2024,
relative to school safety alert grants.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-225, is amended by deleting the section and substituting the following:

(a) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Fund" means the school safety alert grant fund for First Alert Systems, as created by this section; and

(2) "Local education agency" or "LEA" means a county, city, or special school district, unified school district, or school district of a metropolitan government.

(b)

(1) The department of education shall establish and administer a school safety alert grant pilot program. The purpose of the pilot program is to award school safety grants to LEAs, public charter schools, private schools, and church-related schools for the purchase of mobile panic alert systems described in § 49-6-804(a). The alert systems funded through the pilot program must be approved by the department of education, in consultation with the department of safety.

(2) Effective July 1, 2025, the school safety alert grant pilot program created pursuant to subdivision (b)(1) is renamed the school safety alert grant program. The department of education shall continue to administer the grant

program for the same purpose, and subject to the same approval requirement, as described in subdivision (b)(1).

(c)

(1) There is created a separate fund within the general fund to be known as the school safety alert grant pilot fund.

(2) There is created a separate fund within the general fund to be known as the school safety alert grant fund. Effective July 1, 2025, funds remaining in the school safety alert grant pilot fund must be transferred to the school safety alert grant fund, at which time the school safety alert grant pilot fund ceases to exist.

(d)

(1) Subject to appropriations and the availability of funds, the department shall allocate and disperse grants for fiscal years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027, to LEAs, public charter schools, private schools, and church-related schools.

(2) The grants must be awarded as follows:

(A) The first grant must be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to the first LEA or school that applies;

(B) The second grant must be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to an LEA or school that is located in a different grand division of this state than the recipient of the grant awarded under subdivision (d)(2)(B);

(C) The third grant must be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to an LEA or school that is located in a different grand division of this state than the recipients of the grants awarded under subdivisions (d)(2)(A) and (d)(2)(B); and

(D) The fourth and any subsequent grants must be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to an LEA or school that is located in a grand division of this state, following the order of awards as established under subdivisions (d)(2)(A)-(C).

(3) A grant awarded under this section is limited to eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) per school in a fiscal year.

(e) The commissioner of education may promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this section in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

(f) By July 1, 2026, and by July 1, 2027, the department shall prepare and submit to the general assembly a report detailing all funds received and payments made through the school safety alert grant fund.

(g) This section is deleted July 1, 2027.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2025, the public welfare requiring it.