
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL
No. 1793 Session of
1983

INTRODUCED BY FATTAH, LINTON, DEAL, RICHARDSON, LEVIN, KOSINSKI,
OLIVER, CARN, EVANS AND TRUMAN, DECEMBER 7, 1983

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON URBAN AFFAIRS, DECEMBER 7, 1983

AN ACT

1 Authorizing the Department of Community Affairs to make grants
2 directly to approved neighborhood crime watch groups;
3 establishing procedures for the application for and
4 utilization of grant moneys; and making an appropriation.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Neighborhood
9 Crime Watch Financial Aid Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

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

14 "Approved neighborhood crime watch group." A neighborhood
15 crime watch group which is organized and trained by and
16 operating in conjunction with a municipal police department, or
17 the Pennsylvania State Police, and which makes application
18 through the municipality for a grant.

1 "Department." The Department of Community Affairs of the
2 Commonwealth.

3 "Neighborhood crime watch group." An organization of
4 citizens and residents of a municipality or any part thereof
5 which is organized and trained by and operates in conjunction
6 with a municipal police department, or the Pennsylvania State
7 Police, and engages in active surveillance of a neighborhood or
8 municipality in an effort to prevent, deter or detect activities
9 of a criminal nature.

10 "Secretary." The Secretary of Community Affairs.

11 Section 3. Neighborhood Crime Watch Grant Program.

12 (a) Establishment.--There is hereby established in the
13 Department of Community Affairs a grant program to provide
14 monetary assistance to approved neighborhood crime watch groups
15 to assist these groups in fulfilling their crime prevention and
16 detection duties.

17 (b) Amount of grant.--No grant given by the department shall
18 exceed the amount of \$5,000. No approved neighborhood watch
19 group shall be eligible for more than one grant in any one
20 calendar year.

21 (c) Utilization of grant.--Any grant made pursuant to this
22 section shall be utilized for programs of crime prevention,
23 crime detection, crime deterrence, personal property
24 identification, public education on crime prevention and
25 deterrence and the purchase of communications equipment.

26 Section 4. Powers and duties of department.

27 The department shall have the following powers and duties:

28 (1) Develop a form for grant applications.

29 (2) Establish and update criteria for determining the
30 awarding of grants between competing applicants.

1 (3) Establish and update criteria for determining the
2 appropriateness and effectiveness of programs for which
3 grants may be utilized.

4 (4) Audit on an annual basis any approved neighborhood
5 crime watch group which receives a grant.

6 (5) Promulgate such rules and regulations as are
7 necessary for the administration of this act.

8 Section 5. Application for grants.

9 Any approved neighborhood watch group which desires a grant
10 shall submit an application on a form prescribed by the
11 department through the municipality in which the group operates.

12 Section 6. Dissolution of group.

13 Any neighborhood crime watch group which receives a grant and
14 later dissolves shall turn over any unexpended grant moneys and
15 all equipment and supplies purchased with the grant money to the
16 municipality in which the group operated.

17 Section 7. Appropriation.

18 The sum of \$500,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary,
19 is specifically appropriated to the Department of Community
20 Affairs for fiscal year July 1, 1983 to June 30, 1984 for
21 purposes of making grants as provided in this act.

22 Section 8. Effective date.

23 This act shall take effect in 60 days.