
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 175 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY KLUNK, TOOIL, PICKETT, SCHROEDER, HILL-EVANS,
READSHAW, MIZGORSKI, NEILSON, MIHALEK, GROVE, ECKER, MOUL AND
STEPHENS, JUNE 15, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JUNE 15, 2020

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in municipal police education and
3 training, further providing for powers and duties of
4 commission and establishing the Police Department Grant
5 Program; and making a related repeal.

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

8 Section 1. Section 2164 of Title 53 of the Pennsylvania
9 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a paragraph to read:

10 § 2164. Powers and duties of commission.

11 The powers and duties of the commission shall be as follows:

12 * * *

13 (17) To require minimum standards for training police
14 officers on domestic violence. The training shall include
15 standards for assessing the lethality risk of domestic
16 violence incidents. As used in this paragraph, the term
17 "police officer" also includes a member of the Pennsylvania
18 State Police or a county sheriff's office.

19 Section 2. Title 53 is amended by adding a section to read:

1 § 2172. Police Department Grant Program.

2 (a) Establishment.--The Police Department Grant Program is
3 established and shall be administered by the center.

4 (b) Purpose of grants.--The center shall award grants to
5 eligible police departments. Grant funds may be used for the
6 following:

7 (1) Vehicle acquisition.

8 (2) Cameras, including cameras to be placed in vehicles.

9 (3) Speed timing devices.

10 (4) Uniforms.

11 (5) Police and emergency equipment.

12 (6) Training, including domestic violence training.

13 (7) Personnel costs.

14 (8) Community law enforcement efforts.

15 (c) Pennsylvania State Police and county sheriff's
16 offices.--The Pennsylvania State Police and county sheriff's
17 offices shall be eligible for a grant under this section for
18 domestic violence training in order to fund the training
19 required under section 2164(17) (relating to powers and duties
20 of commission).

21 (d) Application and review.--

22 (1) The center shall notify police departments of the
23 availability of the program by July 1 for fiscal years
24 beginning after June 30, 2018.

25 (2) The center shall develop and distribute a uniform
26 application for police departments to submit for grants under
27 the program. The center shall provide the application form
28 and accompanying instructions to police departments annually
29 by September 1.

30 (3) To be considered, an application must be submitted

1 to the center no later than November 30 of each fiscal year.
2 The center shall approve or disapprove an application within
3 60 days of the application being filed.

4 (4) The center shall review applications submitted for
5 grants under the program and shall approve applications if
6 they meet the requirements of paragraph (5) and the police
7 department agrees to the terms and conditions for the grant
8 as determined by the center. A police department must submit
9 a signed agreement to the center prior to the release of
10 grant funds to the police department.

11 (5) Grants shall be awarded based upon the demonstrated
12 need of the police department requesting the grant.

13 (e) Conditions.--

14 (1) A police department that fails to return a signed
15 agreement for the preceding fiscal year is ineligible for
16 grant funding in the current fiscal year unless the police
17 department provides to the center a reasonable written
18 explanation as to why the police department failed to claim
19 the police department's grant.

20 (2) A police department that fails to demonstrate
21 compliance with all the terms of the police department's
22 agreement for the preceding fiscal year is ineligible for
23 grant funding in the current fiscal year.

24 (f) Funding.--

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

28 (2) No money from the transfer under paragraph (1) may
29 be used for expenses or costs incurred by the department for
30 the administration of the program.

1 (g) Report.--Within six months of receiving a grant, a
2 police department shall submit a report to the center. The
3 report shall document the use of the grant funds by the police
4 department.

5 (h) Guidelines.--The department shall adopt guidelines
6 necessary to implement and administer the provisions of this
7 section.

8 (i) Applicability.--This section shall apply to fiscal years
9 beginning on or after July 1, 2018.

10 (j) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
11 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
12 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Center." The Center for Local Government Services within
14 the Department of Community and Economic Development of the
15 Commonwealth.

16 "Department." The Department of Community and Economic
17 Development of the Commonwealth.

18 "Grant." A grant awarded to a police department in
19 accordance with this section.

20 "Program." The Police Department Grant Program established
21 under this section.

22 Section 3. Repeals are as follows:

23 (1) The General Assembly declares that the repeal under
24 paragraph (2) is necessary to effectuate the addition of 53
25 Pa.C.S. § 2172.

26 (2) The provisions of 4 Pa.C.S. § 1408(c) are repealed.

27 Section 4. This act shall take effect as follows:

28 (1) The following shall take effect immediately:

29 (i) This section.

30 (ii) The addition of 53 Pa.C.S. § 2172.

1 (2) The remainder of this act shall take effect in 60
2 days.