



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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February 12, 2020

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 771: Policing and Strategic Planning Grants

Senate Bill 771 (SB 771) was introduced on February 3, 2020, and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety. On February 6, 2020, a public hearing was held.

CURRENT LAW

Under current law, the Department of Justice (DOJ) administers the Law Enforcement Officer Supplement Grant Program (Beat Patrol Grant). The program was created under 1993 Act 193. Through this program, DOJ provides grants to cities to support the salary and fringe benefits costs of employing additional uniformed law enforcement officers whose primary duty is beat patrol. The Department must make grant awards to the 10 eligible cities submitting applications that have the highest rates of violent crime offenses in the most recent full calendar year for which data is available from the FBI's uniform crime reporting (UCR) system. The Department may not award an annual grant in excess of \$150,000 to any one city, and grantees are required to provide a 25% local match to any grant funds received under the program. In order to receive a grant, a city must have a population of 25,000 or more. Cities may generally not utilize grant funding to pay for overtime costs (except in the first year of a city's initial grant under the program). Awards are made on a calendar year basis and a city may receive a grant for three consecutive years without submitting a new application each year. Grant funding provided under this program must result in a net increase in the number of uniformed law enforcement officers assigned to beat patrol duties, when compared to the number of uniformed law enforcement officers the city assigned to beat patrol in April, 1994.

At the beginning of the 2019-21 biennium, base funding for the law enforcement officer supplement grant program is \$1,224,900 PR. Program revenue for the grant program is derived from amounts received from the \$21.50 justice information system (JIS) surcharge that is assessed with a court fee for the commencement or filing of certain court proceedings. Under 2019 Act 9, \$1.0 million GPR annually was provided in one-time funding and PR funding for the beat patrol program was reduced by \$1.0 million PR annually during the 2019-21 biennium only.

Neither DOJ nor the Department of Administration (DOA) currently administer grant programs to support policing associated with automobile theft and carjacking, or strategic planning to combat crime.

SUMMARY OF BILL

Senate Bill 771 would require the Department of Administration to award one or more grants to a city, village, town, or county for costs associated with additional policing to address automobile theft and carjacking. The Department would be required to give priority to cities, villages, towns, or counties with a higher incidence of automobile theft or carjacking. Under the bill, grants could be used to cover up to four years of additional policing costs but could not be used to supplant funding available from other sources. Grant recipients would be required to report every two years on how funds were expended and the result, including the impact on arrests and charges for automobile theft and carjacking.

The Department would also be required to award one or more grants to a political subdivision for costs associated with strategic planning to combat crime. Under the bill, grants could be used to cover up to two years of strategic planning costs but could not be used to supplant funding available from other sources. Grant recipients would be required to report within two years how funds were expended and the result of such expenditures.

The bill would create two biennial GPR appropriations under DOA, each funded \$0 annually, one for additional policing and one for strategic planning. The bill would authorize DOA to submit plans for the grant programs to the Joint Committee on Finance. The plans would be required to ensure that grants be distributed throughout the state and in both urban and rural communities.

The bill would also provide one-time funding of \$10.0 million GPR to the Joint Committee on Finance's supplemental biennial appropriation [s. 20.865(4)(a)] in 2019-20. The Committee would be authorized to transfer funds to DOA upon approval or modification of the plans under s. 13.10 of the statutes without the finding of an emergency. Of the funds that would be reserved in the Committee's supplemental appropriation, \$5.0 million would be reserved for policing grants and \$5.0 million would be reserved for strategic planning grants.

FISCAL EFFECT

The bill would provide one-time funding of \$10.0 million GPR in 2019-20 to the Joint Committee on Finance's supplemental appropriation for policing and strategic planning grants. Upon submission of plans to implement the grant programs, DOA would be authorized to request the transfer of the funds from the Committee to its biennial appropriations for policing and strategic planning grants.

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