

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

Senate Bill 665

(Senator Bates, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

---

Education – Robotics Grant Program – Nonprofit Robotics Clubs

---

This bill makes a nonprofit robotics club that is not associated with a public school eligible for a grant through the Robotics Grant Program. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2018.**

---

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Local school systems may receive marginally less funding through the Robotics Grant Program, beginning in FY 2019.

**Small Business Effect:** Nonprofits that are small businesses may benefit marginally.

---

Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** Chapters 681 and 682 of 2016 established the Robotics Grant Program. The program is intended to increase the number of robotics programs in the State. A school is eligible to receive a grant through the program if the school is proposing a new robotics program or club or has an existing robotics program or club. An existing nonprofit robotics club is eligible to receive a grant if it is associated with a public school.

The Maryland State Department of Education advises that there are 25 grant recipients through the program during the 2017-2018 school year. The Governor must appropriate at least \$250,000 in the annual State budget for the program. However, the Governor's proposed fiscal 2019 budget removes the funding contingent on the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2018 (Senate Bill 187 and House Bill 161), which removes the funding mandate for the program.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** By making more nonprofit organizations eligible for grant funding, the bill may result in marginally less funding to local school systems via the Robotics Grant Program, beginning with fiscal 2019.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 26, 2018  
nb/rhh Third Reader - March 20, 2018

---

Analysis by: Scott P. Gates

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510