

Chapter 428

(Senate Bill 180)

AN ACT concerning

Education – Robotics Grant Program – Alterations

FOR the purpose of expanding eligibility requirements for the Robotics Grant Program to include certain ~~nonprofit~~ organizations ~~and community clubs~~; ~~repealing the requirement for existing nonprofit robotics clubs to be associated with a public school to be eligible for the Program~~; requiring the Governor to increase a certain appropriation to the Program in the State budget; requiring the State Department of Education to award grants in a certain manner; defining a certain term; and generally relating to the Robotics Grant Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Education
Section 7–123
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

7–123.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION” MEANS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDES A MAJORITY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL:

(1) PROVIDES YOUTH WITH AN OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME EXPERIENCE THAT FOCUSES ON PERSONAL AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT; AND

(2) SERVES PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS AS A MAJORITY OF ITS PARTICIPATING YOUTH.

~~(a)~~ **(B)** (1) There is a Robotics Grant Program in the State.

(2) The purpose of the Program is to provide grants to public schools ~~and~~ ~~nonprofit~~ **ELIGIBLE [robotics] ORGANIZATIONS, AND COMMUNITY clubs** in the State to support existing robotics programs and to increase the number of robotics programs in the State.

~~(b)~~ **(C)** ~~[(1)]~~ A school, ~~A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, OR A COMMUNITY CLUB OR AN ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION~~ is eligible to receive a grant under this section if the school, ~~NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, OR ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION OR COMMUNITY CLUB~~ is proposing a new robotics program or club or has an existing robotics program or club.

~~[(2)]~~ An ~~existing nonprofit robotics club~~ ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION is eligible to receive a grant under this section ONLY if the ~~nonprofit robotics club~~ ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION is associated with a public school.~~]~~

~~(e)~~ **(D)** The Governor shall include in the State budget an annual appropriation of at least ~~[\$250,000] \$500,000~~ \$350,000 to the Program.

~~(d)~~ **(E)** **(1)** The Department shall implement and administer the Program in accordance with this section.

(2) *TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL AWARD GRANTS TO ENSURE GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY AMONG THE GRANTEES.*

~~(e)~~ **(F)** The Department may adopt regulations to implement the requirements of this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2019.

Approved by the Governor, May 13, 2019.