A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Restorative Schools Fund and Grants – Establishment

FOR the purpose of establishing the Restorative Schools Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; specifying the purpose of the Fund; requiring the State Department of Education to administer the Fund; requiring the State Treasurer to hold the Fund and the Comptroller to account for the Fund; specifying the contents of the Fund; specifying the purpose for which the Fund may be used; specifying the purpose for which certain grants may be used; requiring the Department, under certain circumstances, to develop processes and procedures for a local school system or an individual school to apply for a certain grant and for awarding the grant; providing for the investment of money in and expenditures from the Fund; requiring interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund; providing that a distribution from the Fund is supplemental to and is not intended to take the place of certain funding; exempting the Fund from a certain provision of law requiring interest earnings on State money to accrue to the General Fund of the State; defining a certain term; and generally relating to the Restorative Schools Fund and grants to develop and support restorative approaches in local school systems and schools.

BY adding to

Article – Education
Section 7–304.2
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2015 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

7–304.2.

(A) In this section, “Fund” means the Restorative Schools Fund.

(B) There is a Restorative Schools Fund.

(C) The purpose of the Fund is to provide grants to local school systems and individual schools for training on and implementation and evaluation of restorative approaches that build and sustain positive learning communities.

(D) The Department shall administer the Fund.

(E) (1) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7–302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(2) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

(F) The Fund consists of:

(1) Money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund;

(2) Interest earnings of the Fund; and

(3) Any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the Fund.

(G) The Fund may be used only to provide grants to local school
SYSTEMS AND INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS FOR TRAINING ON AND IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF RESTORATIVE APPROACHES THAT BUILD AND SUSTAIN POSITIVE LEARNING COMMUNITIES.

(H) (1) GRANTS TO LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS SHALL BE USED TO DEVELOP AND SUPPORT RESTORATIVE APPROACHES, INCLUDING:

   (I) SUPPORTING SYSTEM–LEVEL STAFF IN THEIR WORK PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO SCHOOLS THAT IMPLEMENT RESTORATIVE APPROACHES;

   (II) ESTABLISHING TEACHER AND ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP TRACKS THAT PROMOTE COMPETENCY IN RESTORATIVE APPROACHES;

   (III) CONDUCTING ANNUAL SYSTEMWIDE TRAINING ON RESTORATIVE APPROACHES FOR ALL SCHOOL PERSONNEL WHO INTERACT WITH CHILDREN, INCLUDING TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS, SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS, CAFETERIA WORKERS, OFFICE STAFF, AIDES, AND VOLUNTEERS;

   (IV) SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL PRACTITIONERS WITHIN LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS AND INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS WHO ARE QUALIFIED TO OFFER TRAINING IN RESTORATIVE APPROACHES;

   (V) GATHERING AND ANALYZING SCHOOL DISCIPLINE DATA AND CONDUCTING A ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS;

   (VI) ASSISTING SCHOOLS WITH ANALYZING THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES;

   (VII) DEVELOPING INCENTIVES FOR SCHOOLS TO IMPROVE THEIR STUDENT OUTCOMES;

   (VIII) IDENTIFYING ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES THAT SCHOOLS CAN USE FOR TRAINING, COACHING, AND MENTORING IN RESTORATIVE APPROACHES;

   (IX) OVERSEEING SCHOOL–LEVEL PLANS THAT PROMOTE RESTORATIVE APPROACHES FOR POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE AND DISCIPLINE;

   (X) PROVIDING TRAINING FOR ALL SCHOOL PERSONNEL ON IMPLICIT BIAS AND CULTURAL COMPETENCY;

   (XI) ADDRESSING DISPROPORTIONATE APPLICATION OF DISCIPLINE;
(XII) Promoting racially equitable practices;

(XIII) Developing community partnerships that support restorative approaches; and

(XIV) Promoting student and family engagement in restorative approaches.

(2) If the Governor makes an appropriation in the annual State budget to the Fund, the Department shall develop processes and procedures for:

(I) A local school system or an individual school to apply for a grant under this section; and

(II) Awarding a grant under this section.

(I) (1) The State Treasurer shall invest the money of the Fund in the same manner as other State money may be invested.

(2) Any interest earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the Fund.

(J) Expenditures from the Fund may be made only in accordance with the State budget.

(K) Money expended from the Fund for training on and implementation and evaluation of restorative approaches is supplemental to and is not intended to take the place of funding that otherwise would be appropriated for training on and implementation and evaluation of restorative approaches.

Article – State Finance and Procurement

6–226.

(a) (2) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General Fund of the State.

(ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply
to the following funds:

121. the Markell Hendricks Youth Crime Prevention and Diversion Parole Fund; [and]

122. the Federal Government Shutdown Employee Assistance Loan Fund; AND

123. THE RESTORATIVE SCHOOLS FUND.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2020.