

SENATE BILL 708

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CF HB 822

By: **Senator Carter**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2020

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings and Budget and Taxation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 11, 2020

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund and Advisory**
3 **Council – Alterations**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~requiring the Governor to include a certain appropriation to the~~
5 ~~Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund in the annual budget~~
6 ~~bill~~, altering the required uses for certain funds appropriated for Safe Streets
7 Initiatives in Baltimore City; altering the maximum amount of a grant for a certain
8 Safe Streets Initiative; requiring ~~that the~~ the Governor to include a certain
9 appropriation ~~be~~ composed of certain types of funds to the Maryland Violence
10 Intervention and Prevention Program Fund in the annual budget bill; altering the
11 amount of the Fund that may be used for certain evaluations; authorizing the Fund
12 to be used for certain administrative costs; altering certain duties of the Maryland
13 Violence Intervention and Prevention Advisory Council; requiring the Executive
14 Director of the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention to provide a certain
15 notice regarding grant application availability; altering the minimum grant
16 application requirements; requiring the Executive Director to forward all
17 applications for grant awards to the Council for review and comment within a certain
18 time period; altering the preferences for the award of funds; requiring the Executive
19 Director, in consultation with the Council, to order a certain evaluation of certain
20 grantee programs and retain a sufficient number of evaluators to maintain
21 compliance with the evaluation requirement; providing for certain evaluation
22 requirements; defining a certain term; making conforming and technical changes;
23 and generally relating to the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention
24 Program Fund and Advisory Council.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 2 Article – Public Safety
 3 Section ~~4–801~~ and 4–901 through 4–905
 4 Annotated Code of Maryland
 5 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

6 BY adding to
 7 Article – Public Safety
 8 Section 4–907
 9 Annotated Code of Maryland
 10 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Public Safety**

14 4–801.

15 (a) In this section, “Safe Streets Initiative” means a violence prevention or
 16 intervention program operated by a community–based organization in a neighborhood that
 17 is disproportionately affected by violent crime.

18 (b) (1) Each year the Governor shall appropriate \$3,600,000 in the annual
 19 State budget for Baltimore City to be used only to:

20 (I) provide grants to community–based organizations to operate
 21 Safe Streets Initiatives in Baltimore City; AND

22 (II) COVER EXPENSES INCURRED BY BALTIMORE CITY THAT
 23 ARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE SAFE STREETS INITIATIVE, INCLUDING PERSONNEL
 24 HIRED BY BALTIMORE CITY AND ASSIGNED TO A SAFE STREETS INITIATIVE.

25 (2) The funds appropriated under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be
 26 used solely to supplement, and not supplant, funds otherwise available for Safe Streets
 27 Initiatives in Baltimore City.

28 (c) A grant made with funds appropriated under subsection (b)(1) of this section
 29 may not:

30 (1) require a matching fund;

31 (2) exceed ~~[\$300,000]~~ \$600,000 per Safe Streets Initiative; or

32 (3) supplant grant funding otherwise available for Safe Streets Initiatives.

1 (d) On or before December 31 each year, the Mayor of Baltimore City shall report
2 to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee,
3 in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, on:

4 (1) the effectiveness of Safe Streets Initiatives in Baltimore City;

5 (2) the status of all Safe Streets Initiatives in Baltimore City, including a
6 summary of grants awarded with the following information about each grant:

7 (i) the name of the awardee;

8 (ii) the amount of the grant; and

9 (iii) a summary of the program for which the grant was awarded; and

10 (3) any other information considered necessary by the Mayor of Baltimore
11 City.

12 4–901.

13 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

14 (b) “Council” means the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Advisory
15 Council established under § 4–903 of this subtitle.

16 (c) “Evidence–based health program” means a program or an initiative that:

17 (1) is developed and evaluated through scientific research and data
18 collection;

19 (2) uses public health principles that demonstrate measurable positive
20 outcomes in preventing gun violence; and

21 (3) is implemented by a nonprofit organization or public agency.

22 (d) “Evidence–informed health program” means a program, an approach, or an
23 initiative that is:

24 (1) based on public health principles;

25 (2) capable of being studied and evaluated through research and data
26 collection;

27 (3) for the purpose of reducing gun violence;

28 (4) directed to influence factors determined to affect gun violence; and

1 (5) implemented by a nonprofit organization or public agency.

2 (e) “Executive Director” means the Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of
3 Crime Control and Prevention.

4 (f) “Fund” means the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program
5 Fund.

6 (g) **“HOSPITAL–BASED VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM” MEANS A**
7 **VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM THAT:**

8 **(1) IS OPERATED BY:**

9 **(I) A HOSPITAL; OR**

10 **(II) AN INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY IN COLLABORATION WITH A**
11 **HOSPITAL; AND**

12 **(2) PROVIDES INTENSIVE COUNSELING, CASE MANAGEMENT, AND**
13 **SOCIAL SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE RECOVERING FROM INJURIES**
14 **RESULTING FROM VIOLENCE.**

15 **(H)** “Local government” means a county or municipality.

16 4–902.

17 (a) There is a Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund.

18 (b) The purpose of the Fund is to:

19 (1) support effective violence reduction strategies by providing competitive
20 grants to local governments and nonprofit organizations to fund evidence–based health
21 programs or evidence–informed health programs; and

22 (2) evaluate the efficacy of evidence–based health programs or
23 evidence–informed health programs funded through the Fund.

24 (c) The Executive Director shall administer the Fund in consultation with the
25 Council.

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

28 (2) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately and the
29 Comptroller, in conjunction with the Executive Director, shall account for the Fund.

1 (e) (1) The Fund consists of:

- 2 (i) money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund;
- 3 (ii) investment earnings of the Fund; and
- 4 (iii) money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the Fund.

5 (2) (I) [The] **SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS**
6 **PARAGRAPH, THE** Governor ~~may annually appropriate up to~~ ~~SHALL INCLUDE IN THE~~
7 ~~ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF~~ \$10,000,000 to the Fund.

8 (II) ~~THE APPROPRIATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH~~
9 ~~(I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE~~ **GOVERNOR SHALL ANNUALLY INCLUDE IN THE**
10 **ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION COMPOSED OF AT LEAST \$5,000,000**
11 **\$3,000,000 IN GENERAL FUNDS TO THE FUND.**

12 (f) (1) The Fund shall be used in the following manner:

13 (i) to support effective violence reduction strategies by providing
14 competitive grants to local governments and nonprofit organizations to fund
15 evidence-based health programs or evidence-informed health programs; [and]

16 (ii) in an amount **NOT LESS THAN 5% BUT** not greater than [5%]
17 **10%** of the Fund, for the evaluation of the efficacy of evidence-based health programs or
18 evidence-informed health programs awarded grants through the Fund; **AND**

19 (III) **IN AN AMOUNT NOT GREATER THAN 4% OF THE FUND, FOR**
20 **THE FOLLOWING ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS:**

21 1. **OVERSIGHT OF THE FUND;**

22 2. **PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION ABOUT THE**
23 **FUND; AND**

24 3. **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND BEST PRACTICE**
25 **EDUCATION FOR GRANTEES.**

26 (2) The Fund may not be used to:

27 (i) supplant funding that would otherwise be available for violence
28 intervention or prevention programs; or

29 (ii) fund suppression activities by law enforcement.

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

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

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

6 (i) The accounts and transactions of the Fund shall be subject to audit by the
7 Legislative Auditor as provided in § 2–1220 of the State Government Article.

8 4–903.

9 (a) There is a Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Advisory Council
10 in the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

11 (b) The Council consists of the following members:

12 (1) the Executive Director;

13 (2) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
14 the Senate;

15 (3) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
16 House;

17 (4) one individual from a higher education institution who studies public
18 health, appointed by the Executive Director;

19 (5) one individual who has been affected by gun violence, appointed by the
20 Executive Director; and

21 (6) subject to subsection (c) of this section, eight individuals appointed as
22 follows:

23 (i) four individuals from community–based or hospital–based
24 [organizations] **VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAMS** that use evidence–based health
25 programs or evidence–informed health programs, two appointed by the President of the
26 Senate and two appointed by the Speaker of the House;

27 (ii) two individuals from local police departments or the Department
28 of State Police, one appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the
29 Speaker of the House; and

30 (iii) two individuals from local health departments that are
31 implementing violence prevention strategies, one appointed by the President of the Senate
32 and one appointed by the Speaker of the House.

1 (c) In making appointments under subsection (b)(6) of this section, the President
2 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall ensure the inclusion of members from
3 multiple cities and counties affected by violence.

4 (d) [(1)] The Council shall:

5 [(i)] (1) advise the Executive Director on:

6 (I) the allocation of funds for the evaluation of the efficacy of
7 evidence-based health programs or evidence-informed health programs [that receive
8 funding in accordance with paragraph (2) of this subsection] **IN ACCORDANCE WITH §**
9 **4-907 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

10 (II) **THE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING AWARDS;**

11 [(ii)] (2) provide input to the Executive Director on the
12 administration of the Fund;

13 [(iii)] (3) assist the Executive Director in establishing procedures
14 for local governments and nonprofit organizations to apply for funding;

15 [(iv)] (4) assist the Executive Director in establishing procedures
16 for the distribution of funding;

17 [(v)] (5) create guidelines for funding eligibility;

18 [(vi)] (6) review and publish reports regarding the [success and
19 failure] **EFFICACY** of nonsuppression-based violence intervention and prevention
20 programs;

21 [(vii)] (7) advise the Governor and the Executive Director on the
22 implementation of gun violence prevention programs in the State; [and]

23 (8) **ADVISE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON PUBLIC OUTREACH AND**
24 **COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING THE FUND; AND**

25 [(viii)] (9) be governed by a majority vote.

26 [(2)] An evaluation of the efficacy of evidence-based health programs or
27 evidence-informed health programs that receive funding under paragraph (1)(i) of this
28 subsection shall be undertaken by an independent, third-party researcher selected by the
29 Council.

1 (3) The results of the evaluation under paragraph (2) of this subsection
2 shall be posted to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention's website.]

3 (e) A member of the Council:

4 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Council; but

5 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
6 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

7 4-904.

8 (a) The Executive Director shall[,]:

9 (1) in accordance with subsection (b) of this section and in consultation
10 with the Council, establish procedures for local governments and nonprofit organizations
11 to use in applying for money from the Fund; AND

12 (2) AT LEAST 60 DAYS BEFORE THE APPLICATION BECOMES
13 AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, POST A
14 NOTICE OF THE APPLICATION'S AVAILABILITY ON A PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE
15 WEBSITE.

16 (b) An application shall require a local government or nonprofit organization to
17 provide, at a minimum:

18 (1) clearly defined and measureable objectives;

19 (2) evidence that the proposed evidence-based health programs or
20 evidence-informed health programs would likely reduce gun violence; [and]

21 (3) a description of how the local government or nonprofit organization
22 proposes to use the funding to reduce rates of gun violence by:

23 (i) establishing or enhancing evidence-based health programs or
24 evidence-informed health programs; and

25 (ii) enhancing coordination of existing violence intervention and
26 prevention programs, if any, to minimize duplication of services; AND

27 (4) A PLAN FOR THE COLLECTION OF RELEVANT DATA.

28 4-905.

29 (a) The Executive Director shall[,]:

1 **(1)** in accordance with subsection (b) of this section and in consultation
2 with the Council, establish procedures for the distribution of money from the Fund; **AND**

3 **(2) FORWARD ALL APPLICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL FOR REVIEW AND**
4 **COMMENT AT LEAST 30 DAYS BEFORE DECISIONS REGARDING THE DISTRIBUTION**
5 **OF FUNDING AWARDS.**

6 (b) (1) Funding awards shall be made to local governments and nonprofit
7 organizations for a minimum duration of 3 consecutive fiscal years.

8 (2) Preference shall be given to local governments or nonprofit
9 organizations:

10 (i) that [are] **SERVE AN AREA** disproportionately affected by
11 violence, as determined by the Council; [and]

12 (ii) whose grant proposals demonstrate the greatest likelihood of
13 reducing gun violence in their communities; **AND**

14 **(III) THAT SERVE A POPULATION IDENTIFIED AS HAVING THE**
15 **HIGHEST RISK OF PERPETRATING OR BEING VICTIMIZED BY VIOLENCE IN THE NEAR**
16 **FUTURE.**

17 (c) Funding awards shall be commensurate with:

18 (1) the levels of gun violence in the jurisdiction served by the local
19 government or nonprofit organization; and

20 (2) the strength of the local government or nonprofit organization's
21 application.

22 **4-907.**

23 **(A) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE**
24 **COUNCIL:**

25 **(1) ORDER AN ONGOING EVALUATION OF THE EFFICACY OF EACH**
26 **EVIDENCE-BASED HEALTH PROGRAM OR EVIDENCE-INFORMED HEALTH PROGRAM**
27 **THAT RECEIVES FUNDING UNDER THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

28 **(2) RETAIN A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF INDEPENDENT, THIRD-PARTY**
29 **EVALUATORS TO MAINTAIN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION.**

30 **(B) EVALUATIONS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE:**

1 **(1) GROUPED BY SIMILAR PROGRAM MODELS, AS DETERMINED BY**
2 **THE COUNCIL;**

3 **(2) CONDUCTED BY INDEPENDENT, THIRD-PARTY EVALUATORS; AND**

4 **(3) ONGOING FOR THE 3-YEAR GRANT PERIOD.**

5 **(C) AN EVALUATION OF AN EVIDENCE-BASED HEALTH PROGRAM OR**
6 **EVIDENCE-INFORMED HEALTH PROGRAM THAT RECEIVES FUNDING UNDER THIS**
7 **SUBTITLE MAY BE CONDUCTED ONLY BY AN EVALUATOR WITH SPECIALIZED**
8 **EXPERTISE IN THE SPECIFIC MODEL THAT THE EVALUATOR IS ASSIGNED TO**
9 **EVALUATE.**

10 **(D) THE RESULTS OF AN EVALUATION ORDERED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF**
11 **THIS SECTION SHALL BE POSTED TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL**
12 **AND PREVENTION'S WEBSITE.**

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
14 1, 2020.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.