



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET
AND MANAGEMENT

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HOUSE BILL 1390 Public Schools – School Safety Grant Program – Extension

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: February 21, 2024

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

SUMMARY OF BILL: House Bill 1390 extends the School Safety Grant Program and its \$10 million mandate, which is set to expire after fiscal 2026. The mandate can be funded in either the capital or operating budget, and the intent is to supplement and not supplant funding the Public School Construction Program.

EXPLANATION: HB 458 of 2023 repealed the School Safety Grant Program (SSGP) after FY 2026. Per HB 1 of 2020, it is the intent that the SSGP be incorporated into the Nancy K. Kopp Public School Facilities Priority Fund (“Priority Fund”). The Priority Fund is to be implemented beginning in FY 2027 with an \$80 million annual funding mandate. Extending the School Safety Grant Program in addition to implementing the Priority Fund mandate would conflict with the intent of HB 458 of 2023 and HB 1 of 2020. Under current statute, capital school safety projects that are part of a larger renovation will be addressed through other ongoing programs after FY 2026, such as the Public School Construction Program and the Priority Fund

The FY 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Program includes \$2.9 billion in the CIP for school construction, including \$2.2 billion in GO bonds. At least \$450 million is provided for public schools annually in FY 2027-2029, meeting the legislative intent outlined in HB 1290 of 2022. In FY 2025-2026, \$10 million for the School Safety Grant Program is planned in the operating budget each year. Extending the funding mandate for this program per the proposed legislation would likely not increase funding for school construction overall, rather it would require the redirection of funds from other critical capital projects or operating programs. The SSGP would likely be funded in the operating budget, as many projects typically requested by schools are not capital eligible.

**For additional information, contact Laura Vykol-Gray at
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