

# SENATE BILL 774

E4

4r2782  
CF 4r2784

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By: **Senator Ferguson**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Maryland Entertainment District Security Grant Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Entertainment District Security Grant  
4 Program; establishing the Maryland Entertainment District Security Grant  
5 Program Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; and generally relating to the Maryland  
6 Entertainment District Security Grant Program.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Public Safety

9 Section 4–1701 through 4–1703 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 17. Maryland  
10 Entertainment District Security Grant Program”

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Public Safety**

16 **SUBTITLE 17. MARYLAND ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT SECURITY GRANT**  
17 **PROGRAM.**

18 **4–1701.**

19 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
20 **INDICATED.**

21 **(B) “COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION” MEANS A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**  
22 **RECOGNIZED BY THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION IN WHICH IT IS LOCATED.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (C) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE MARYLAND ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT  
2 SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.

3 4-1702.

4 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
5 INDICATED.

6 (2) "ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT" MEANS A ONE-HALF SQUARE MILE  
7 AREA IN THE STATE IN WHICH EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING ARE PRESENT:

8 (I) A HIGH DENSITY OF ESTABLISHMENTS LICENSED TO SERVE  
9 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR ON-SITE CONSUMPTION; OR

10 (II) A HIGH DENSITY OF ESTABLISHMENTS THAT REGULARLY  
11 HOST LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FOR THEIR PATRONS OR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

12 (3) "EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR" MEANS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
13 THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES.

14 (B) THERE IS A MARYLAND ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT SECURITY GRANT  
15 PROGRAM.

16 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO ASSIST COMMUNITY  
17 ORGANIZATIONS, NONPROFIT ENTITIES, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO FUND  
18 SECURITY OPERATIONS DURING TIMES OF HIGH PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC IN  
19 ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS FROM WHICH A HIGHER THAN AVERAGE NUMBER OF  
20 CALLS FOR POLICE ASSISTANCE IN RESPONSE TO REPORTED CRIME ARE PLACED.

21 (D) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL ESTABLISH:

22 (1) AN APPLICATION PROCESS FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND  
23 NONPROFIT ENTITIES LOCATED IN ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS, AND LOCAL  
24 GOVERNMENTS WITH ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS LOCATED WITHIN THE  
25 JURISDICTION, TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDING FROM THE PROGRAM;

26 (2) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SELECTING RECIPIENTS FOR GRANT  
27 FUNDING FROM THE PROGRAM; AND

28 (3) MINIMUM CRITERIA FOR AN ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT FOR THE  
29 PURPOSE OF DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANT FUNDING FROM THE  
30 PROGRAM, INCLUDING:

1           **(I) THE DENSITY OF ESTABLISHMENTS LICENSED TO SERVE**  
2 **ALCOHOL FOR ON-SITE CONSUMPTION OR THAT REGULARLY HOST LIVE**  
3 **ENTERTAINMENT FOR THEIR PATRONS OR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC;**

4           **(II) THE AMOUNT OF PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC; AND**

5           **(III) THE NUMBER OF CALLS FOR POLICE ASSISTANCE IN**  
6 **RESPONSE TO REPORTED CRIMES.**

7 **4-1703.**

8           **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “FUND” MEANS THE MARYLAND ENTERTAINMENT**  
9 **DISTRICT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM FUND.**

10           **(B) THERE IS A MARYLAND ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT SECURITY GRANT**  
11 **PROGRAM FUND.**

12           **(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR GRANTS**  
13 **AWARDED UNDER THE PROGRAM.**

14           **(D) THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND**  
15 **VICTIM SERVICES SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.**

16           **(E) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT**  
17 **SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.**

18           **(2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,**  
19 **AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.**

20           **(F) (1) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:**

21                   **(I) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE**  
22 **FUND; AND**

23                   **(II) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED**  
24 **FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.**

25           **(2) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR**  
26 **THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR MAY ANNUALLY APPROPRIATE UP TO \$1,000,000 TO**  
27 **THE FUND.**

28           **(G) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY:**

1                   **(1) TO FUND GRANTS TO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, NONPROFIT**  
2 **ENTITIES, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS THROUGH THE PROGRAM; AND**

3                   **(2) FOR COSTS TO ADMINISTER THE FUND.**

4           **(H) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND**  
5 **IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.**

6                   **(2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO**  
7 **THE GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE.**

8           **(I) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE**  
9 **WITH THE STATE BUDGET.**

10           **(J) MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE FUND FOR THE PROGRAM IS**  
11 **SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND IS NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF FUNDING THAT**  
12 **OTHERWISE WOULD BE APPROPRIATED FOR THE PROGRAM.**

13           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
14 October 1, 2024.