

Chapter 17

(Senate Bill 98)

AN ACT concerning

Senior Citizen Activities Center Operating Fund – Distributions – Alteration

FOR the purpose of increasing the amount of funding required to be included in the annual State budget for the Senior Citizen Activities Operating Fund; requiring a certain amount of the Fund to be distributed based on each county's share of the statewide senior citizen population; requiring that each county receive a minimum amount of funding; defining a certain term; altering the qualification criteria for certain need-based distributions from the Senior Citizen Activities Center Operating Fund to certain counties; and generally relating to the administration of the Senior Citizen Activities Center Operating Fund.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 Article – Human Services
 Section 10–513 and 10–514
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2007 Volume and 2015 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Human Services
 Section 10–516
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2007 Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

Article – Human Services

10–513.

- (a) In this part the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (b) “Fund” means the Senior Citizen Activities Center Operating Fund.

(c) “Senior citizen activities center” means a community or neighborhood facility in which a broad spectrum of services are organized and provided to seniors and their spouses, including health, social, nutritional, educational, and recreational services.

10–514.

- (a) There is a Senior Citizen Activities Center Operating Fund.

(b) The Fund shall be used to supplement, but may not be used to supplant, any existing funding for senior citizen activities centers in the State budget.

10-516.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, "DISTRESSED COUNTY" MEANS A COUNTY:

(1) WITH AN AVERAGE RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT FOR THE MOST RECENT 24-MONTH PERIOD FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE THAT EXCEEDS:

(I) 150% OF THE AVERAGE RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT FOR THE STATE DURING THAT PERIOD; OR

(II) THE AVERAGE RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT FOR THE STATE DURING THAT PERIOD BY AT LEAST 2 PERCENTAGE POINTS;

(2) WITH AN AVERAGE PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME FOR THE MOST RECENT 24-MONTH PERIOD FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE THAT IS EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN 67% OF THE AVERAGE PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME FOR THE STATE DURING THAT PERIOD; OR

(3) THAT NO LONGER MEETS EITHER CRITERION STATED IN ITEM (1) OR (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION BUT HAS MET AT LEAST ONE OF THE CRITERIA AT SOME TIME DURING THE PRECEDING 24-MONTH PERIOD.

~~(a)~~ **(B)** The Fund is a continuing, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

~~(b)~~ **(C)** (1) The Fund consists of appropriations that are made to the Fund from the State budget.

(2) **(I)** For each fiscal year, the Governor shall include in the annual State budget an appropriation of ~~\$500,000~~ **\$750,000** for the Fund.

(II) IN ADDITION TO THE FUNDS PROVIDED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE GOVERNOR SHALL PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO ENSURE THAT EACH COUNTY RECEIVES AT LEAST \$5,000 UNDER ~~PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION~~ SUBSECTION (D)(2) OF THIS SECTION.

~~(e)~~ **(D)** (1) ~~Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, money from~~ **\$100,000** of the Fund shall be distributed to counties for senior citizen activities centers based on a competitive grant process administered by the Department.

(2) (I) \$400,000 OF THE FUND SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO COUNTIES BASED ON EACH COUNTY'S PROPORTIONAL SHARE OF THE STATEWIDE POPULATION OF SENIOR CITIZENS.

(II) A COUNTY SHALL RECEIVE AT LEAST \$5,000 UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH.

(3) At least ~~50%~~ \$250,000 of the Fund shall be distributed for senior citizen activities centers on the basis of need, as determined by the Department, to counties: TO DISTRESSED COUNTIES AS FOLLOWS:

(I) \$150,000 SHALL BE DIVIDED EVENLY; AND

(II) \$100,000 SHALL BE DIVIDED PROPORTIONATELY BY EACH COUNTY'S SHARE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION OF SENIOR CITIZENS IN DISTRESSED COUNTIES.

(i) that have developed and submitted a local strategic plan for economic development that has been approved by the Secretary of Commerce; and

(ii) for which:

1. the average rate of unemployment for the most recent 18-month period for which data is available is greater than 150% of the average rate of unemployment for the entire State during that same period; or

2. the average per capita personal income for the most recent 24-month period for which data is available is equal to or less than 67% of the average personal per capita income for the entire State during that same period.]

~~(I) WITH AN AVERAGE RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT FOR THE MOST RECENT 24 MONTH PERIOD FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE THAT EXCEEDS:~~

~~1. 150% OF THE AVERAGE RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT FOR THE STATE DURING THAT PERIOD; OR~~

~~2. THE AVERAGE RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT FOR THE STATE DURING THAT PERIOD BY AT LEAST 2 PERCENTAGE POINTS;~~

~~(II) WITH AN AVERAGE PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME FOR THE MOST RECENT 24 MONTH PERIOD FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE THAT IS EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN 67% OF THE AVERAGE PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME FOR THE STATE DURING THAT PERIOD; OR~~

~~(III) THAT NO LONGER MEET EITHER CRITERION STATED IN ITEM (I) OR (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH BUT HAVE MET AT LEAST ONE OF THE CRITERIA AT SOME TIME DURING THE PRECEDING 24 MONTH PERIOD.~~

~~(d)~~ **(E)** The Fund shall be invested and reinvested in the same manner as other State funds.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2016.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(b) of the Maryland Constitution, April 7, 2016.