

HOUSE BILL 1241

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HB 1813/18 – HRU

9lr0817

By: **Delegates Howard, Krebs, and Saab**
Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Health – Grants Advisor**
3 **(Fair and Accessible Grant Funding Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Inspector General in the Maryland Department of Health
5 to appoint a Grants Advisor who serves at the pleasure of the Inspector General;
6 providing for the duties of the Grants Advisor; requiring that the Grants Advisor
7 have access to certain information to the extent authorized under certain laws for a
8 certain purpose; and generally relating to a Grants Advisor within the Maryland
9 Department of Health.

10 BY adding to
11 Article – Health – General
12 Section 2–506
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Health – General**
18 **2–506.**

19 **(A) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL APPOINT A GRANTS ADVISOR WHO**
20 **SERVES AT THE PLEASURE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.**

21 **(B) THE GRANTS ADVISOR SHALL:**

22 **(1) EXAMINE ALL GRANTS AWARDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OR**
23 **DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 AS TO THE APPROPRIATENESS OF EACH GRANT AWARD, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON
2 WHETHER THE GRANTS ARE BEING AWARDED TO APPLICANTS THAT PROPOSE TO:

3 (I) DELIVER SERVICES EFFICIENTLY; AND

4 (II) PROVIDE SERVICES WITH MEASURABLE OUTCOMES;

5 (2) PREVENT AND DETECT FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE IN THE
6 AWARDING OF GRANTS;

7 (3) CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS INTO GRANT AWARDING POLICIES,
8 PRACTICES, AND PROCEDURES, AS APPROPRIATE;

9 (4) INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS MADE BY STATE EMPLOYEES
10 CONCERNING FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE IN THE PROCESSES FOR AWARDING
11 GRANTS AND ANY ALLEGED VIOLATION OF LAW OR REGULATIONS;

12 (5) INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS MADE BY APPLICANTS FOR GRANTS
13 AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES CONCERNING FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE IN THE
14 PROCESSES FOR AWARDING GRANTS AND ANY ALLEGED VIOLATION OF LAW OR
15 REGULATIONS;

16 (6) IF APPARENT CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS ARE FOUND IN THE COURSE
17 OF AN INVESTIGATION, REPORT FINDINGS TO THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, THE
18 DEPARTMENT, THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE UNITED STATES
19 ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND, AND STATE OR LOCAL
20 PROSECUTORS, AS APPROPRIATE;

21 (7) IF OTHER APPARENT VIOLATIONS OF LAW OR REGULATIONS ARE
22 FOUND IN THE COURSE OF AN INVESTIGATION, REPORT FINDINGS TO THE
23 INSPECTOR GENERAL, THE DEPARTMENT, AND ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE BODY
24 FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION;

25 (8) PRODUCE AND SUBMIT TO THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, THE
26 DEPARTMENT, AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF
27 THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, AN ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF
28 THE GRANTS ADVISOR, INCLUDING:

29 (I) ALL FINDINGS ON AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
30 IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PROCESSES FOR AWARDING GRANTS;

31 (II) THE IDENTIFICATION OF BARRIERS TO OBTAINING GRANTS
32 FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR PROJECTS THAT DELIVER EFFICIENT SERVICES AND

1 PROVIDE MEASURABLE OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE
2 ELIMINATION OF THE BARRIERS; AND

3 (III) A SUMMARY AND DESCRIPTION OF ALL GRANT ACTIVITY BY
4 THE DEPARTMENT DURING THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR;

5 (9) ASSIST AGENCIES AND THE PUBLIC WITH QUESTIONS REGARDING
6 POLICIES FOR AWARDED GRANTS;

7 (10) ESTABLISH POLICIES FOR THE EFFECTIVE TRAINING OF
8 EMPLOYEES INVOLVED IN AWARDED GRANTS TO ENSURE THAT THE PROCESSES
9 FOR AWARDED GRANTS PRIORITIZE GRANTS TO APPLICANTS WITH PROPOSALS
10 THAT DELIVER EFFICIENT SERVICES AND PROVIDE MEASURABLE OUTCOMES;

11 (11) REVIEW ANY INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS AND COMMENT AS
12 APPROPRIATE; AND

13 (12) NOTIFY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL WHEN THE GRANTS ADVISOR
14 UNDERTAKES AN INVESTIGATION UNDER ITEM (4) OR (5) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

15 (C) THE GRANTS ADVISOR SHALL HAVE ACCESS TO ALL APPLICATIONS,
16 ACCOUNTS, RECORDS, REPORTS, AND ANY OTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO THE
17 AWARDED GRANTS TO THE EXTENT AUTHORIZED UNDER APPLICABLE FEDERAL
18 AND STATE PRIVACY LAWS TO CARRY OUT THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GRANTS
19 ADVISOR.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 2019.