

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 463 (Senator West)
 Budget and Taxation

Public Safety - Police Athletic League Grant Fund - Establishment

This bill establishes the Police Athletic League Grant Fund to provide grant assistance to local governments and organizations to create and support police athletic league (PAL) programs. The Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (GOCPYVS) must administer the fund and establish grant application procedures. For each fiscal year, the Governor must include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$500,000 for the fund. The fund may be used only to provide grants to local governments, as specified.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: No effect in FY 2022. Beginning in FY 2023, general fund expenditures increase by \$500,000 annually due to the bill’s mandated appropriation, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation beginning in FY 2023.**

(in dollars)	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Net Effect	\$0	(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: Local government revenues and expenditures increase to the extent that local governments apply for and receive additional grant funding as a result of the bill.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: “Police athletic league programs” means programs (1) operated by local governments or organizations in conjunction with National Police Athletic Activities Leagues, Inc., or any of its membership chapters and (2) designed to build relationships among youth, police, and the community by offering educational and extracurricular activities to participating youth with the goal of preventing juvenile crime.

Current Law: GOCPYVS serves as a coordinating office that advises the Governor on criminal justice strategies. The office plans, promotes, and funds efforts with government entities, private organizations, and the community to advance public policy, enhance public safety, reduce crime and juvenile delinquency, and serve victims.

State Expenditures: Although a Police Athletic League Grant Fund does not exist in statute, GOCPYVS advises that it currently partners with and funds PAL programming in several jurisdictions, and that since 2018, it has provided more than \$600,000 to PAL programs in the State. The fiscal 2021 budget for GOCPYVS included \$500,000 in general funds for grants to the Boys and Girls Clubs and PALs in Baltimore City, and the Governor’s proposed fiscal 2022 budget for GOCPYVS includes \$450,000 in general funds for such grants.

Although PAL programs are eligible to be (and have been) funded through the existing grant program, which has typically been funded between \$450,000 and \$500,000 annually, this analysis assumes that *additional* funding is sought to be used exclusively for PAL programs. Accordingly, general fund expenditures increase by \$500,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2023 due to the bill’s mandated appropriation. To the extent the intent of the bill is that *current* grant funding be used for this purpose instead, other organizations may not be eligible for funding, and general fund expenditures increase by as much as \$50,000 annually.

GOCPYVS advises the office can develop the required procedures and administer the fund with existing staff.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 91 (Delegate C. Jackson) - Appropriations.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City; Caroline, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties; City of Bowie; Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services; Department of Budget and Management; Department of Legislative Services

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