

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 First Reader

House Bill 494 (Delegates Jackson and Bhandari)
 Appropriations

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 \$1.0 million for the fund. The fund may be used only to provide grants to local governments and organizations, as specified.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: No effect in FY 2023. Beginning in FY 2024, general fund expenditures increase by \$1.0 million annually due to the bill’s mandated appropriation, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation beginning in FY 2024.**

(in dollars)	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Net Effect	\$0	(\$1,000,000)	(\$1,000,000)	(\$1,000,000)	(\$1,000,000)

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 operated by local governments or organizations that are 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.

PAL programs are not referenced in the Maryland Annotated Code.

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 \$700,000 to PAL programs in the State. The fiscal 2022 budget for GOCPYVS included \$450,000 in general funds for grants to the Boys and Girls Clubs and PAL programs in Baltimore City.

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 \$1.0 million annually beginning in fiscal 2024 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 \$550,000 annually.

Although GOCPYVS advises that one full-time grants manager is needed to develop the required procedures and to administer the fund, the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) disagrees. GOCPYVS already partners with and funds PAL programming in several jurisdictions; thus, DLS advises that the office can likely implement the bill’s requirements with existing staff.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 463 of 2021, a similar bill, received a hearing in the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, but no further action was taken. Its cross file, HB 91, received a hearing in the House Appropriations Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: SB 127 (Senator West) - Budget and Taxation.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City; City of College Park; Harford, Montgomery, and Talbot counties; Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services; Department of Legislative Services

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js/lgc

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