HOUSE BILL 942

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HB 1044/23 – JUD & APP

By: Delegate Young

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024 Assigned to: Judiciary and Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Criminal Procedure – Crime Solvers Reward Fund – Establishment

- FOR the purpose of establishing the Crime Solvers Reward Fund as a special, nonlapsing
 fund in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to provide grants
 to law enforcement agencies and county reward programs to be used as rewards
 offered to individuals for certain assistance in solving certain crimes; requiring
 interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund; and generally relating to
 the Crime Solvers Reward Fund.
- 9 BY adding to
- 10 Article Criminal Procedure
- 11Section 11–1201 through 11–1203 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 12. Crime12Solvers Reward Fund"
- 13 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 14 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)
- 15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
- 16 Article State Finance and Procurement
- 17 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)
- 18 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 19 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)
- 20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 21 Article State Finance and Procurement
- 22 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)189. and 190.
- 23 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 24 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)
- 25 BY adding to
- 26 Article State Finance and Procurement
- 27 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)191.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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$\frac{1}{2}$	Annotated Code of Maryland (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)
$\frac{3}{4}$	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
5	Article – Criminal Procedure
6	SUBTITLE 12. CRIME SOLVERS REWARD FUND.
7	11-1201.
8 9	(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.
$10 \\ 11 \\ 12 \\ 13$	(B) "COUNTY REWARD PROGRAM" MEANS A PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY A COUNTY THAT OFFERS REWARD MONEY TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PROVIDES QUALIFYING INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE INVESTIGATION OF A MURDER OR AN ATTEMPTED MURDER INVOLVING A FIREARM.
14	(C) "Fund" means the Crime Solvers Reward Fund.
$\begin{array}{c} 15\\ 16\end{array}$	(D) "LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 3–201 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.
17 18 19	(E) "QUALIFYING INFORMATION" MEANS INFORMATION PROVIDED TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT DIRECTLY LEADS TO THE IDENTIFICATION, ARREST, AND CONVICTION OF THE PERPETRATOR OF A CRIME.
20	11-1202.
21	(A) THERE IS A CRIME SOLVERS REWARD FUND IN THE DEPARTMENT.
$22 \\ 23 \\ 24 \\ 25 \\ 26$	(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OR COUNTY REWARD PROGRAMS TO ISSUE REWARDS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO PROVIDE QUALIFYING INFORMATION TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY RELEVANT TO THE INVESTIGATION OF A MURDER OR AN ATTEMPTED MURDER INVOLVING A FIREARM.
27	(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.
28 29	(D) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO § 7–302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

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

- 3 (E) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:
- 4 (1) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;

5 (2) MONEY MADE AVAILABLE TO THE FUND THROUGH FEDERAL 6 PROGRAMS OR PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS;

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(3) INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND; AND

8 (4) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR 9 THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.

10 (F) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND 11 IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.

12(2)ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO13THE FUND.

14 (G) (1) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY TO AWARD GRANTS TO A LAW 15 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR A COUNTY REWARD PROGRAM IN ORDER FOR THE LAW 16 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR THE COUNTY REWARD PROGRAM TO PROVIDE REWARD 17 MONEY TO INDIVIDUALS WHO PROVIDE A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY WITH 18 QUALIFYING INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE INVESTIGATION OF A MURDER OR AN 19 ATTEMPTED MURDER INVOLVING A FIREARM.

(2) FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A REWARD FROM A LAW
 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR A COUNTY REWARD PROGRAM UNDER THIS SUBTITLE,
 THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR COUNTY REWARD PROGRAM SHALL ESTABLISH
 THAT THE INDIVIDUAL:

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- (I) **PROVIDED CREDIBLE QUALIFYING INFORMATION;**
- 25 (II) DID NOT DIRECTLY PARTICIPATE IN THE CRIME; AND
- 26 (III) COOPERATED WITH THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

(H) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2025, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE
 DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH
 § 2–1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON:

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1(1) THE NUMBER OF REWARDS ISSUED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT2AGENCIES AND COUNTY REWARD PROGRAMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE;3AND

- 4
- (2) THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY PROVIDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.
- 5 **11–1203.**

6 (A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS 7 SUBTITLE.

8 (B) THE REGULATIONS SHALL INCLUDE:

9 (1) CRITERIA EXPLAINING HOW ELIGIBLE LAW ENFORCEMENT 10 AGENCIES AND COUNTY REWARD PROGRAMS MAY APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE 11 FUND; AND

12 (2) CRITERIA FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF AVAILABLE FUNDS IN 13 ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.

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Article – State Finance and Procurement

15 6-226.

16 (a) (2) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless 17 inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the 18 terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the 19 State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to 20 receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General 21 Fund of the State.

(ii) (ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not applyto the following funds:

24189. the Teacher Retention and Development Fund; [and]25190. the Protecting Against Hate Crimes Grant Fund; AND26191. THE CRIME SOLVERS REWARD FUND.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 28 October 1, 2024.