

HOUSE BILL 172

C9

(PRE-FILED)

5r0146
CF SB 188

By: **Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee (By Request –
Departmental – Housing and Community Development)**

Requested: October 6, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Community Health and Safety Works Grant Program and Fund – Alterations**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the projects eligible for funding under the Community Health
4 and Safety Works Grant Program; altering the applicants eligible to apply for
5 funding for certain projects under the Program; altering requirements for projects to
6 purchase or install license readers; repealing certain requirements for projects to
7 purchase or install camera networks; repealing minimum and maximum grant
8 amounts under the Program; expanding the authorized uses of the Community
9 Health and Safety Works Grant Program Fund to include certain administrative and
10 operating expenses of the Department of Housing and Community Development; and
11 generally relating to the Community Health and Safety Works Grant Program and
12 Fund.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Housing and Community Development
15 Section 6–1301, 6–1304, and 6–1307
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 BY repealing
19 Article – Housing and Community Development
20 Section 6–1305 and 6–1306
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

25 **Article – Housing and Community Development**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 6–1301.

2 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

3 (b) “Eligible project” means:

4 (1) [a facility and community improvement project] **A COMMUNITY OR**
5 **BUSINESS DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT** as defined in § 6–1304 of this subtitle;

6 (2) [a business district and neighborhood security project as defined in §
7 6–1305 of this subtitle; or

8 (3)] a community–centered crime and violence intervention and prevention
9 project as defined in [§ 6–1306] **§ 6–1304** of this subtitle; **OR**

10 **(3) ANY OTHER CATEGORY OF PROJECT IDENTIFIED BY THE**
11 **SECRETARY AS A RECOGNIZED CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY DESIGNED TO**
12 **ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH, OR SAFETY CONCERNS IN COMMERCIAL,**
13 **PUBLIC, OR RESIDENTIAL AREAS.**

14 (c) “Program” means the Community Health and Safety Works Grant Program.

15 6–1304.

16 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

17 (2) **“COMMUNITY–CENTERED CRIME AND VIOLENCE INTERVENTION**
18 **AND PREVENTION PROJECT” MEANS A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY THAT**
19 **INTEGRATES PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATED ACTIVITIES THAT:**

20 (I) **DIRECTLY ENGAGE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE AT RISK OF**
21 **BECOMING INVOLVED WITH OR AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE AND CRIME USING**
22 **EVIDENCE–BASED INTERVENTIONS; AND**

23 (II) **REDUCE CRIME AND DISORDER BY CAREFULLY EXAMINING**
24 **THE CHARACTERISTICS OF PROBLEMS IN NEIGHBORHOODS AND APPLYING**
25 **APPROPRIATE PROBLEM–SOLVING REMEDIES.**

26 (3) (I) **“COMMUNITY OR BUSINESS DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT**
27 **PROJECT” MEANS A PHYSICAL PROJECT OR COMMUNITY SERVICE THAT:**

28 1. **MAKES A FACILITY, A COMMUNITY, A COMMUNITY**
29 **OPEN SPACE, A RESIDENTIAL STREET, OR A COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR SAFER FOR**
30 **COMMUNITY USE;**

1 **2. SUPPORTS COMMUNITY-LED EFFORTS TO IMPROVE**
2 **THE APPEARANCE OF A FACILITY, A COMMUNITY, A COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE, A**
3 **RESIDENTIAL STREET, OR A COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR;**

4 **3. ELIMINATES PREDATORY OR UNHEALTHY**
5 **PRACTICES, SUCH AS ILLEGAL DUMPING, LITTERING, OR ENVIRONMENTAL OR**
6 **TRAFFIC HAZARDS; OR**

7 **4. MITIGATES THE URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT AND**
8 **OTHER CONDITIONS RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE.**

9 **(II) "COMMUNITY OR BUSINESS DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT**
10 **PROJECT" INCLUDES THE PURCHASE OR INSTALLATION OF:**

11 **1. SECURITY CAMERAS, LICENSE READERS, OR**
12 **ADEQUATE LIGHTING FOR OUTDOOR SPACES AND COMMON AREAS;**

13 **2. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN FEATURES,**
14 **INCLUDING SIGNS, GARDENS, PAVING TREATMENTS, PLANTINGS, OR OTHER**
15 **UPGRADES TO PUBLIC SPACES;**

16 **3. CONTRACTED LAND ENHANCEMENT OR**
17 **GROUNDKEEPING SERVICES TO MAINTAIN OR CLEAN OPEN SPACES;**

18 **4. CONTRACTED CLEANING OR LANDSCAPING SERVICES**
19 **OR EQUIPMENT TO MAINTAIN OR CLEAN OPEN SPACES;**

20 **5. CONTRACTED LOCAL PRIVATE SECURITY SERVICES**
21 **OR SIMILAR COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS WITH A SPECIFIC EMPHASIS ON**
22 **DE-ESCALATION AND RELATIONSHIP BUILDING; AND**

23 **6. TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES THAT INCREASE**
24 **PEDESTRIAN SAFETY.**

25 **[(2)] (4) "Eligible applicant" means:**

26 **(I) a tax-exempt nonprofit organization;**

27 **(II) A GOVERNMENTAL UNIT OF A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION; OR**

28 **(III) AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN**
29 **COLLABORATION WITH A LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION.**

1 [(3) (i) “Facility and community improvement project” means a physical
2 project or a community service that:

3 1. makes a facility or a community–managed open space
4 safer for residents and visitors;

5 2. encourages the authorized uses of a facility or a
6 community–managed open space by individuals; or

7 3. supports community–led efforts to improve the
8 appearance of a facility or a community–managed open space.

9 (ii) “Facility and community improvement project” includes:

10 1. the purchase or installation of:

11 A. equipment that increases the visibility of vulnerable
12 spaces, including surveillance tools or adequate lighting for exterior doors, common areas,
13 or hallways; or

14 B. landscape architectural design features, including signs,
15 gardens, paving treatments, plantings, or other upgrades to public spaces;

16 2. efforts to:

17 A. improve sight lines within, increase visitation to, or clean
18 public spaces; or

19 B. integrate landscape architectural design features into a
20 facility or a community–managed open space in a manner that connects adjacent
21 neighborhoods for various users while distancing the users from private areas;

22 3. timely removal of graffiti and use of graffiti resistance
23 practices in collaboration with a person who specializes in the area of graffiti removal
24 services to present a vibrant, maintained space; and

25 4. contracted land enhancement or groundskeeping services
26 to maintain or clean open spaces and functional surfaces.]

27 (b) An eligible applicant may apply for a grant under the Program for [a facility
28 and community]:

29 **(1) A COMMUNITY OR BUSINESS DISTRICT improvement project;**

30 **(2) A COMMUNITY–CENTERED CRIME AND VIOLENCE INTERVENTION
31 AND PREVENTION PROJECT; OR**

1 **(3) ANY OTHER ELIGIBLE PROJECT.**

2 (c) If an eligible applicant submits an application for a grant under the Program
3 for a [facility and community improvement] project to purchase or install [a network of
4 cameras or] license readers, the eligible applicant shall include with the application[:

5 (1) a monitoring plan;

6 (2)] evidence of a partnership with law enforcement[, the governmental
7 unit responsible for traffic enforcement for the political subdivision,] and any other relevant
8 public agencies[; and

9 (3) a list of possible locations of cameras and license readers and a plan for
10 providing notice of locations to property owners].

11 (d) The Department may award an eligible applicant who submits a complete
12 application for financial assistance under the Program for [a facility and community
13 improvement] **AN ELIGIBLE** project a grant **IN AN AMOUNT DETERMINED BY THE**
14 **DEPARTMENT** [that:

15 (1) is at least \$25,000; and

16 (2) does not exceed \$50,000].

17 [6–1305.

18 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

19 (2) (i) “Business district and neighborhood security project” means a
20 comprehensive plan for enhancing the visual perception of safety along commercial
21 corridors and adjacent areas.

22 (ii) “Business district and neighborhood security project” includes:

23 1. the purchase or installation of:

24 A. equipment that increases the visibility of vulnerable
25 spaces, including surveillance tools, adequate lighting for exterior doors, common areas, or
26 hallways, or pedestrian–scale street lighting in high–pedestrian–traffic areas;

27 B. vehicle or pedestrian control devices;

28 C. equipment to lock or conceal dumpsters from public
29 access; or

1 D. signs, gardens, litter removal equipment, plantings, or
2 other upgrades to public spaces;

3 2. efforts to:

4 A. take into account the needs of neighborhoods in the
5 surrounding area to improve accessibility for all users, in compliance with Americans with
6 Disabilities Act standards; or

7 B. increase citizen and merchant stewardship through
8 organizing, education, and outreach activities that seek to engage residents and other
9 community stakeholders to actively participate in the upkeep and improvement of
10 residential areas and public spaces;

11 3. contracted cleaning or landscaping services to maintain or
12 clean improved open spaces;

13 4. contracted local private security services or similar
14 community-based programs with a specific emphasis on de-escalation and relationship
15 building; and

16 5. other efforts consistent with subparagraph (i) of this
17 paragraph.

18 (3) "Eligible applicant" means:

19 (i) a tax-exempt nonprofit organization;

20 (ii) a governmental unit for a political subdivision; or

21 (iii) an institution of higher education in collaboration with a local
22 neighborhood association.

23 (b) An eligible applicant may apply for a grant under the Program for a business
24 district and neighborhood security project.

25 (c) If an eligible applicant submits an application for a grant under the Program
26 for a business district and neighborhood security project to purchase or install a network
27 of cameras or license readers, the eligible applicant shall include with the application:

28 (1) a monitoring plan; and

29 (2) evidence of a partnership with law enforcement, the governmental unit
30 responsible for traffic enforcement for the political subdivision, and any other relevant
31 public agencies.

1 (d) The Department may award an eligible applicant who submits a complete
2 application for financial assistance under the Program for a business district and
3 neighborhood security project a grant that:

4 (1) is at least \$75,000; and

5 (2) does not exceed \$150,000.]

6 [6-1306.

7 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

8 (2) “Community-centered crime and violence intervention and prevention
9 project” means a comprehensive strategy that integrates partnerships and coordinated
10 activities that:

11 (i) directly engage individuals who are at risk of becoming involved
12 with or affected by violence and crime using evidence-based interventions; and

13 (ii) reduce crime and disorder by carefully examining the
14 characteristics of problems in neighborhoods and applying appropriate problem-solving
15 remedies.

16 (3) “Eligible applicant” means a tax-exempt nonprofit organization.

17 (b) An eligible applicant may apply for a grant under the Program for a
18 community-centered crime and violence intervention and prevention project.

19 (c) The Department may award an eligible applicant who submits a complete
20 application for financial assistance under the Program for a community-centered crime
21 and violence intervention and prevention project a grant that does not exceed \$250,000.]

22 [6-1307.] **6-1305.**

23 (a) In this section, “Fund” means the Community Health and Safety Works Grant
24 Program Fund.

25 (b) There is a Community Health and Safety Works Grant Program Fund.

26 (c) The purpose of the Fund is to provide financial assistance in the form of grants
27 under the provisions of the Program for eligible projects.

28 (d) The Department shall administer the Fund.

29 (e) (1) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7-302 of
30 the State Finance and Procurement Article.

1 (2) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the
2 Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

3 (f) The Fund consists of:

4 (1) money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund;

5 (2) earnings from the investment of money in the Fund;

6 (3) interest earnings of the Fund; and

7 (4) any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the
8 Fund.

9 (g) The Fund may be used only [for providing financial assistance in the form of
10 grants under the Program]:

11 **(1) TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF GRANTS**
12 **UNDER THE PROGRAM TO ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS; AND**

13 **(2) FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE**
14 **DEPARTMENT IN CARRYING OUT THE PROGRAM.**

15 (h) (1) The State Treasurer shall invest the money of the Fund in the same
16 manner as other State money may be invested.

17 (2) Any interest earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the Fund.

18 (i) Expenditures from the Fund may be made only in accordance with the State
19 budget.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
21 1, 2025.