



## GOVERNOR'S COORDINATING OFFICES

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**FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES**

March 5, 2020

Chair William C. Smith Jr.  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: Senate Bill 708: Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund and Advisory Council- Alterations**

**POSITION: Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services ("Office") is providing this letter of information for Senate Bill 708: Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund and Advisory Council- Alterations.

Senate Bill 708 makes alterations to the Violence Intervention Prevention Program ("VIPP") that was established in Chapter 148 of 2018. Chapter 148 created a nonlapsing fund within the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention ("Office") to be administered in consultation with the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Advisory Council ("Council"). Grants from this program are made in order to (1) support effective violence reduction strategies by providing competitive grants to local governments and nonprofit organizations to fund evidence-based health programs or evidence-informed health programs and (2) evaluate the efficacy of the programs funded.

Senate Bill 708 requires the Governor to appropriate at least \$10 million to VIPP each year, with at least \$5 million in general funds, beginning in FY 2022. \$5 million in non-lapsing funds was included within the budget for VIPP in FY19. In FY20, the budget for VIPP included \$1.9 million of the remaining FY19 appropriation. In the proposed budget for FY21, VIPP has an estimated \$800,000 remaining from the original allocation.

Chapter 148 of 2018 also created mandated funding for the Governor from FY20-FY23 for “Miscellaneous Grant Programs” focusing on violence reduction. Included within this mandate were: (1) \$425,000 for Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program in Baltimore City, (2) \$360,000 for the Baltimore City State’s Attorney Office for Victim and Witness Relocation Funding, (3) \$466,000 to the State Police to focus on firearm offenses, (4) \$300,000 for the Baltimore Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound School in Baltimore City, (5) \$100,000 for Strategic Decision Support Centers in Eastern and Western District of Baltimore City, (6) \$250,000 for the Children and Parent Resource Group, Inc., (7) and \$475,000 for Prince George’s County Chief of Police for Violent Crime Reduction.

Additionally, the General Assembly enacted Chapter 147 of 2018: Tyrone Ray Safe Streets Act. Chapter 147 included a \$3.6 million mandated appropriation to the Safe Streets Initiative. Chapter 147 defines Safe Streets as; “A violence prevention or intervention program operated by a community-based organization in a neighborhood that is disproportionately affected by violent crime.” Safe Streets funding is solely reserved for violence reduction programs within Baltimore City.

Senate Bill 708 makes changes to the Council. In the current statute, the Council appoints eight individuals, four of which from “community-based or hospital-based programs.” Senate Bill 708 adds the term “Violence Intervention Programs” to this definition of eligible appointees. Additionally, this legislation expands the power of the VIPP council to advise the Executive Director of the Office on the distribution of VIPP funds and on public outreach and communications regarding the fund.

Lastly, Senate Bill 708 requires the Executive Director of the Office, in consultation with the Council order an ongoing evaluation of the efficacy of each program that receives VIPP funding.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.  
Executive Director  
Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

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