

CHAPTER 2023-352

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 7-C

An act relating to security grants; amending s. 252.3712, F.S.; expanding the Nonprofit Security Grant Program to include additional organizations; specifying that grants may be used for certain materials; revising criteria to be awarded a grant; requiring certain rules be adopted by the Division of Emergency Management; requiring the division to provide certain information to the Legislature annually by a specified date; requiring the division to adopt emergency rules by a specified date; providing appropriations; requiring reversion of unexpended funds; providing for future appropriations; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 252.3712, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (7), subsections (1) and (2) are amended, paragraph (d) is added to subsection (5), and a new subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

252.3712 Nonprofit Security Grant Program.—

(1) The division shall establish a Nonprofit Security Grant Program that shall consist of funds appropriated by the Legislature to nonprofit organizations, including houses of worship, schools, museums, and community centers, that are at high risk for violent attacks or hate crimes. The grants may be used to increase security and safety, including, but not limited to:

(a) The purchase and installation of security infrastructure, perimeter lighting, materials for door hardening, security camera systems, perimeter fencing, barriers and bollards, and blast-resistant film and shatter-resistant glass for windows.

(b) Hiring security personnel.

(c) Training for security personnel and staff on threat awareness, emergency procedures, and first aid.

(2) The division shall award grants to applicants that meet eligibility criteria for who were deemed eligible for but did not receive funding from the United States Department of Homeland Security's Nonprofit Security Grant Program within the federal fiscal year.

(5) The division shall adopt rules to administer this section, including rules providing criteria for all of the following:

(d) Prioritizing applicants that are houses of worship or whose facilities are frequented by children or students on a daily basis.

(6) By June 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the division shall provide a list of grants awarded during that fiscal year to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Section 2. No later than December 31, 2023, the Division of Emergency Management must adopt rules to administer the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. The division is authorized, and all conditions are deemed met, to adopt emergency rules under s. 120.54(4), Florida Statutes, for the purpose of implementing the Nonprofit Security Grant Program.

Section 3. For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the nonrecurring sum of \$20,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund is appropriated to the Division of Emergency Management within the Executive Office of the Governor for the purpose of implementing the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. Grants must be awarded no later than March 1, 2024. The unexpended balance of funds appropriated to the division as of June 30, 2024, shall revert and is appropriated to the division for the same purpose for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Section 4. For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the nonrecurring sum of \$15,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund is appropriated to the Department of Education as fixed capital outlay to provide grants to full-time Jewish day schools and Jewish preschools for hardening security measures, including the purchase and installation of security infrastructure, perimeter lighting, materials for door hardening, security camera systems, perimeter fencing, barriers and bollards, and blast-resistant film and shatter-resistant glass for windows. Grants must be awarded no later than March 1, 2024.

Section 5. For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the nonrecurring sum of \$10,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund is appropriated to the Department of Education to provide grants to full-time Jewish day schools and Jewish preschools for nonhardening security measures, including hiring security personnel and training for security personnel and staff on threat awareness, emergency procedures, and first aid. Grants must be awarded no later than March 1, 2024. The unexpended balance of funds appropriated to the department as of June 30, 2024, shall revert and is appropriated to the department for the same purpose for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Section 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor November 13, 2023.

Filed in Office Secretary of State November 13, 2023.