

Chapter 732

(Senate Bill 1191)

AN ACT concerning

Schools and Child Care Centers – State Grant Program – Security Upgrades for Facilities at Risk of Hate Crimes or Attacks

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Maryland Center for School Safety to make grants for certain security–related projects to schools and child care centers determined to be at risk of certain hate crimes or attacks ~~because of their ideology, beliefs, or mission~~; authorizing certain schools or child care centers to apply to the Center for a certain State grant; establishing the terms and conditions for the use of certain State grant funds by certain recipients; providing that the funding for certain State grants shall be as provided by the Governor in the State budget; authorizing the State Board of Education, after consultation with the Center, to adopt certain regulations; defining a certain term; and generally relating to a State Grant Program for Schools and Child Care Centers at Risk of Hate Crimes or Attacks.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Criminal Law

Section 10–305

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 7–1502.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

Article – Criminal Law

10–305.

A person may not deface, damage, or destroy, attempt to deface, damage, or destroy, burn or attempt to burn an object on, or damage the real or personal property connected to a building that is publicly or privately owned, leased, or used, including a cemetery, library, meeting hall, recreation center, or school:

(1) because a person or group of a particular race, color, religious belief, sexual orientation, gender, disability, or national origin, or because a person or group that is homeless, has contacts or is associated with the building; or

(2) if there is evidence that exhibits animosity against a person or group, because of the race, color, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, disability, or national origin of that person or group or because that person or group is homeless.

Article – Education

7-1502.1.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “CHILD CARE CENTER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9.5-401 OF THIS ARTICLE.

(B) THE CENTER MAY MAKE GRANTS TO SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE CENTERS DETERMINED TO BE AT RISK OF HATE CRIMES OR ATTACKS ~~BECAUSE OF THEIR IDEOLOGY, BELIEFS, OR MISSION AS DESCRIBED UNDER § 10-305 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE~~ FOR SECURITY-RELATED TECHNOLOGY AND SECURITY-RELATED FACILITY UPGRADES.

(C) ANY SCHOOL OR CHILD CARE CENTER DETERMINED TO BE AT RISK OF HATE CRIMES OR ATTACKS ~~BECAUSE OF ITS IDEOLOGY, BELIEFS, OR MISSION AS DESCRIBED UNDER § 10-305 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE~~ BY THE CENTER MAY APPLY TO THE CENTER FOR A STATE GRANT TO BE APPLIED TOWARD THE COST OF A SECURITY-RELATED PROJECT.

(D) THE ALLOCATION AND USE OF STATE FUNDS UNDER THIS SECTION ARE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

(1) STATE FUNDS MAY BE USED ONLY FOR FUNDING ADDITIONAL SECURITY TRAINING NEEDS, SECURITY PERSONNEL, SECURITY CAMERAS, SECURITY-RELATED TECHNOLOGY, DOOR-HARDENING, IMPROVED LIGHTING, OR OTHER SECURITY-RELATED FACILITY UPGRADES; AND

(2) THE AMOUNT OF THE STATE GRANT FOR ANY PROJECT SHALL BE DETERMINED AFTER CONSIDERATION OF ALL ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS, THE TOTAL OF THE UNALLOCATED STATE FUNDS AVAILABLE AT THE TIME THE APPLICATION IS RECEIVED, AND THE PRIORITIES OF AREA NEED AS MAY BE ESTABLISHED BY THE CENTER.

(E) FUNDING FOR THE STATE GRANTS UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE AS PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN THE ANNUAL STATE BUDGET.

(F) THE STATE BOARD, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE CENTER, MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS FOR RECEIVING AND CONSIDERING APPLICATIONS AND FOR DISBURSING FUNDS TO APPLICANTS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017.

Approved by the Governor, May 25, 2017.