

# HOUSE BILL 1813

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8lr3743  
CF 8lr3852

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By: **Delegate S. Howard**

Rules suspended

Introduced and read first time: March 7, 2018

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Health – Grants Advisor**  
3 **(Fair and Accessible Grant Funding Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Inspector General in the Maryland Department of Health  
5 to appoint a Grants Advisor who serves at the pleasure of the Inspector General;  
6 providing for the duties of the Grants Advisor; requiring that the Grants Advisor  
7 have access to certain information to the extent authorized under certain laws for a  
8 certain purpose; and generally relating to a Grants Advisor within the Maryland  
9 Department of Health.

10 BY adding to  
11 Article – Health – General  
12 Section 2–506  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Health – General**  
18 **2–506.**

19 **(A) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL APPOINT A GRANTS ADVISOR WHO**  
20 **SERVES AT THE PLEASURE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.**

21 **(B) THE GRANTS ADVISOR SHALL:**

22 **(1) EXAMINE ALL GRANTS AWARDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OR**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT  
2 AS TO THE APPROPRIATENESS OF EACH GRANT AWARD, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON  
3 WHETHER THE GRANTS ARE BEING AWARDED TO APPLICANTS THAT PROPOSE TO:

4 (I) DELIVER SERVICES EFFICIENTLY; AND

5 (II) PROVIDE SERVICES WITH MEASURABLE OUTCOMES;

6 (2) PREVENT AND DETECT FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE IN THE  
7 AWARDING OF GRANTS;

8 (3) CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS INTO GRANT AWARDING POLICIES,  
9 PRACTICES, AND PROCEDURES, AS APPROPRIATE;

10 (4) INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS MADE BY STATE EMPLOYEES  
11 CONCERNING FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE IN THE PROCESSES FOR AWARDING  
12 GRANTS AND ANY ALLEGED VIOLATION OF LAW OR REGULATIONS;

13 (5) INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS MADE BY APPLICANTS FOR GRANTS  
14 AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES CONCERNING FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE IN THE  
15 PROCESSES FOR AWARDING GRANTS AND ANY ALLEGED VIOLATION OF LAW OR  
16 REGULATIONS;

17 (6) IF APPARENT CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS ARE FOUND IN THE COURSE  
18 OF AN INVESTIGATION, REPORT FINDINGS TO THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, THE  
19 DEPARTMENT, THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE UNITED STATES  
20 ATTORNEY, AND STATE OR LOCAL PROSECUTORS, AS APPROPRIATE;

21 (7) IF OTHER APPARENT VIOLATIONS OF LAW OR REGULATIONS ARE  
22 FOUND IN THE COURSE OF AN INVESTIGATION, REPORT FINDINGS TO THE  
23 INSPECTOR GENERAL, THE DEPARTMENT, AND ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE BODY  
24 FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION;

25 (8) PRODUCE AND SUBMIT TO THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, THE  
26 DEPARTMENT, AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF  
27 THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, AN ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF  
28 THE GRANTS ADVISOR, INCLUDING:

29 (I) ALL FINDINGS ON AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
30 IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PROCESSES FOR AWARDING GRANTS;

31 (II) THE IDENTIFICATION OF BARRIERS TO OBTAINING GRANTS  
32 FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR PROJECTS THAT DELIVER EFFICIENT SERVICES AND

1 PROVIDE MEASURABLE OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE  
2 ELIMINATION OF THE BARRIERS; AND

3 (III) A SUMMARY AND DESCRIPTION OF ALL GRANT ACTIVITY BY  
4 THE DEPARTMENT DURING THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR;

5 (9) ASSIST AGENCIES AND THE PUBLIC WITH QUESTIONS REGARDING  
6 POLICIES FOR AWARDED GRANTS;

7 (10) ESTABLISH POLICIES FOR THE EFFECTIVE TRAINING OF  
8 EMPLOYEES INVOLVED IN AWARDED GRANTS TO ENSURE THAT THE PROCESSES  
9 FOR AWARDED GRANTS PRIORITIZE GRANTS TO APPLICANTS WITH PROPOSALS  
10 THAT DELIVER EFFICIENT SERVICES AND PROVIDE MEASURABLE OUTCOMES;

11 (11) REVIEW ANY INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS AND COMMENT AS  
12 APPROPRIATE; AND

13 (12) NOTIFY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL WHEN THE GRANTS ADVISOR  
14 UNDERTAKES AN INVESTIGATION UNDER ITEM (4) OR (5) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

15 (C) THE GRANTS ADVISOR SHALL HAVE ACCESS TO ALL APPLICATIONS,  
16 ACCOUNTS, RECORDS, REPORTS, AND ANY OTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO THE  
17 AWARDED GRANTS TO THE EXTENT AUTHORIZED UNDER APPLICABLE FEDERAL  
18 AND STATE PRIVACY LAWS TO CARRY OUT THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GRANTS  
19 ADVISOR.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
21 October 1, 2018.