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SENATE BILL NO. 1099

Offered January 11, 2023

Prefiled January 9, 2023

A BILL to amend and reenact § 9.1-110 of the Code of Virginia, relating to School Resource Officer Grants Program and Fund.

Patrons—Norment, Reeves and Ruff

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 9.1-110 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 9.1-110. School Resource Officer Grants Program and Fund.

A. From the funds appropriated for such purpose and from the gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other funds received on its behalf, there is established (i) the School Resource Officer Grants Program, to be administered by the Board, in consultation with the Board of Education, and (ii) a special nonreverting fund within the state treasury known as the School Resource Officer Incentive Grants Fund, hereinafter known as the "Fund." The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller, and any moneys remaining in the Fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Interest earned on such funds shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it.

Subject to the authority of the Board to provide for its disbursement, the Fund shall be disbursed to award matching grants to local law-enforcement agencies and local school boards that have established a collaborative agreement *in accordance with § 22.1-280.2:3* to employ uniformed school resource officers, as defined in § 9.1-101, ~~in middle and high schools~~ *school security officers, as defined in § 9.1-101, and other relevant school safety personnel* within the relevant school division *or law-enforcement agency as determined by the Department. Grants may be awarded for the expenses related to the equipment necessary for such uniformed school resource officers, school security officers, and other relevant school safety personnel and the enhancement of the school-law enforcement partnership through training and programming as determined by the Department.*

The Board may disburse annually up to five percent of the Fund for the training of the school resource officers. School resource officers shall be certified law-enforcement officers and shall be employed to help ensure safety and prevent truancy and violence in schools.

B. The Board shall establish criteria for making grants from the Fund, including procedures for determining the amount of a grant and the required local match. Any grant of general funds shall be matched by the locality on the basis of the composite index of local ability to pay. The Board may adopt guidelines governing the Program and the employment and duties of the school resource officers as it deems necessary and appropriate.