

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 1995 RECONVENED SESSION

CHAPTER 762

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 22.1 a chapter numbered 11.1, consisting of sections numbered 22.1-175.1, 22.1-175.2 and 22.1-175.3, relating to the Virginia Public School Construction Grants Program.

[H 2240]

Approved April 6, 1995

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 22.1 a chapter numbered 11.1, consisting of sections numbered 22.1-175.1, 22.1-175.2 and 22.1-175.3, as follows:

CHAPTER 11.1.

VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION GRANTS PROGRAM AND FUND.

§ 22.1-175.1. Virginia Public School Construction Grants Program established.

The Virginia Public School Construction Grants Program is hereby established to provide grants to eligible school divisions for construction, additions, and site acquisition for public school buildings and facilities. The Program shall be administered by the Board of Education.

§ 22.1-175.2. Virginia Public School Construction Grants Fund created.

A. From such funds as may be appropriated for this purpose and from such gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other funds as may be received on its behalf, there is hereby created in the Department of the Treasury a special nonreverting fund known as the Virginia Public School Construction Grants Fund. The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller, and any moneys remaining in such 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. Funds may be paid to any eligible school division that has been awarded financial assistance pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

B. The Department of the Treasury shall administer and manage the Virginia Public School Construction Fund, subject to the authority of the Board of Education to provide for its disbursement. The Fund shall be disbursed to award grants as determined by eligibility and needs criteria established by the Board. The amount of each grant awarded to a qualifying school division shall not exceed 100 percent of the cost of construction, additions, or site acquisition for public school buildings or facilities.

§ 22.1-175.3. Board to issue guidelines.

The Board shall issue guidelines governing the Program as it may deem necessary and appropriate. The guidelines shall include, but shall not be limited to, provisions which address the following: approval by the local governing body of the construction, addition, or site acquisition for which grant moneys are sought and of the application for a grant from the Fund; eligibility criteria for school divisions demonstrating need based on local ability to pay for public school construction; eligibility criteria for school divisions demonstrating need based on population growth rates and the availability and pledge of local matching funds; and procedures for determining priority for awarding grants to qualifying school divisions.