

23106550D

HOUSE BILL NO. 1691

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health
on February 9, 2023)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Greenhalgh)

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

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; provided, however, that such grants shall not be used for any expense related to the purchase of firearms, handcuffs or other wrist restraints, or any stun weapon as defined in § 18.2-308.1.

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.

2. That the provisions of this act shall not become effective unless an appropriation, in excess of the appropriation pursuant to Item 408 of Chapter 2 of the Acts of Assembly of 2022, Special Session I, effectuating the purposes of this act is included in a general appropriation act passed in 2023 by the General Assembly that becomes law.