

SENATE, No. 1842

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 24, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

Senator NICHOLAS P. SCUTARI

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators T.Kean, Lagana, Weinberg and O'Scanlon

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “New Jersey Nonprofit Security Grant Program.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/15/2021)

1 **AN ACT** establishing the “New Jersey Nonprofit Security Grant
2 Program” and supplementing chapter 9 of Appendix A.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. The Legislature finds and declares:

8 a. The three year "New Jersey Nonprofit Security Grant Pilot
9 Program" established under P.L.2017, c.246 in the Office of Homeland
10 Security and Preparedness (OHSP) shall expire on January 10, 2020;

11 b. In these volatile times, the need to remain vigilant concerning
12 domestic security and State and local preparedness remains of
13 imminent importance;

14 c. Certain nonprofit organizations continue to be at high risk for
15 threats, attacks, and other violent acts, and would continue to benefit
16 from engaging in target hardening activities to reduce vulnerability;

17 d. Federal grant money distributed through the United States
18 Department of Homeland Security’s Nonprofit Security Grant
19 Program provides these organizations with a competitive process to
20 secure funds for certain target hardening activities, the expansion of
21 existing security personnel, or the hiring of temporary security
22 personnel, but such federal funds to New Jersey institutions are limited
23 based on national competition;

24 e. With the threat potential increasing during specific times of
25 year or when high profile events are occurring, certain nonprofit
26 organizations would benefit from additional funding to ensure security
27 personnel is adequate to meet the increased need;

28 f. Because threats, attacks, and other violent acts are not limited
29 to public sector entities, it is appropriate for the State to assist certain
30 targeted nonprofit organizations in the private sector to ensure their
31 readiness and the safety of their surrounding communities; and

32 g. Accordingly, it is within the public interest to make the “New
33 Jersey Nonprofit Security Grant Program" in the Office of Homeland
34 Security and Preparedness permanent to continue to provide grants to
35 eligible nonprofit organizations to hire permanent or temporary
36 security personnel and for acquisition of target hardening equipment
37 for the purpose of preparedness and reduction of vulnerability.

38
39 2. As used in this act:

40 “Director” means the Director of the Office of Homeland
41 Security and Preparedness.

42 “Eligible nonprofit organization” means a nonprofit organization
43 located in New Jersey which is exempt from federal taxation
44 pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code
45 (26 U.S.C. s. 501 (c)(3)).

46
47 3. a. There is hereby established the “New Jersey Nonprofit
48 Security Grant Program” in the Office of Homeland Security and

1 Preparedness, which shall provide grants to eligible nonprofit
2 organizations as annually appropriated (1) to hire permanent or
3 temporary security personnel limited to federal, State, county, or
4 municipal law enforcement officers, special law enforcement officers
5 appointed pursuant to P.L.1985, c.439 (C.40A:14-146.8 et seq.), or
6 security officers registered pursuant to P.L.2004, c.134 (C.45:19A-
7 1 et seq.), and (2) for acquisition of target hardening equipment for the
8 purpose of preparedness against threats, attacks, and other violent acts.

9 b. The director shall administer the New Jersey Nonprofit
10 Security Grant Program. There shall annually be distributed to
11 approved eligible nonprofit organizations a maximum grant of up to
12 \$10,000 per approved application for personnel and a maximum grant
13 of up to \$50,000 for target hardening equipment.

14 c. An eligible nonprofit organization shall apply to the Office of
15 Homeland Security and Preparedness to receive a grant under the
16 program, for either costs of security personnel or acquisition of target
17 hardening equipment, or both; however, an applicant only may be
18 awarded funds for either personnel or for equipment in a fiscal year.
19 The Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness first shall evaluate
20 all applications as to whether they are at high risk of terrorist attack,
21 threats, and other violent acts. The costs of hiring security personnel
22 shall include the cost of hiring personnel for an event primarily
23 organized by the applicant away from the applicant's physical location
24 and for which the applicant bears legal liability. The funds distributed
25 under the program shall be utilized solely for security investments
26 made within this State. No funds shall be utilized for travel outside of
27 this State.

28 Applicants may apply annually for a disbursement of funds for
29 costs of security personnel and may be awarded grants in successive
30 years. The Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness shall assign
31 a preference for applicants who have not received a federal security
32 grant that includes funding for hiring security personnel in the last two
33 federal grant cycles.

34 Applicants may apply annually for grant funds for acquisition of
35 target hardening equipment. The Office of Homeland Security and
36 Preparedness shall assign a preference for applicants who have not
37 received either a federal or State security grant for target hardening
38 equipment in the last two grant cycles.

39 d. The Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness shall
40 request annually as part of its annual budget proposal a minimum of
41 \$2,000,000 to fund the grants authorized pursuant to this section. The
42 office also shall pursue and develop, with the Department of Law and
43 Public Safety, the United States Department of Homeland Security,
44 and any other applicable State or federal agency, any available federal,
45 State, local, and private funding for the grants authorized pursuant to
46 this section.

1 e. Of the amount appropriated to the program, five percent shall
2 be allocated to the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness to
3 be used to administer the program.

4
5 4. This act shall take effect immediately.
6
7

8 STATEMENT
9

10 This bill makes permanent the "New Jersey Nonprofit Security
11 Grant Program" in the Office of Homeland Security and
12 Preparedness (OHSP) which pursuant to P.L.2017, c.246 expired in
13 January 2020.

14 This bill provides that the security grant program is directed to
15 provide grants out of any annually appropriated funds to eligible
16 nonprofit organizations (1) to hire certain permanent or temporary
17 security personnel, and (2) for acquisition of certain target
18 hardening equipment.

19 The bill awards grants of up to \$10,000 for nonprofit
20 organizations to hire permanent or temporary security personnel for
21 the purpose of preparing against threats, attacks, or other violent
22 acts. Security personnel under the bill include federal, State,
23 county, and municipal law enforcement officers, special law
24 enforcement officers, and licensed security officers. In addition,
25 the bill awards grants of up to \$50,000 for nonprofit organizations
26 to acquire target hardening equipment. The bill requires that any
27 funds distributed under the program are not to be utilized for travel
28 or security investments made outside the State.

29 The bill defines an "eligible nonprofit organization" as a
30 nonprofit organization located in this State which is exempt from
31 federal taxation pursuant to federal law.

32 Applicants for grants from the program are permitted to apply for
33 either personnel or equipment grants, or both, in each year of the
34 program, but OHSP may only award funds for either personnel or
35 equipment in a fiscal year. The grant may be used by the applicant
36 to hire security personnel for an event primarily organized by the
37 applicant away from the applicant's physical location and for which
38 the applicant bears legal liability. To receive a grant, the applicant
39 is to be evaluated as to whether it is at high risk for a terrorist
40 attack, threats, and other violent acts.

41 The OHSP is to assign a preference for applicants who have not
42 received either a federal or State security grant in the last two grant
43 cycles.