

1 State of Arkansas As Engrossed: S2/10/21 S3/3/21 S3/15/21 H4/8/21

2 93rd General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2021

SENATE BILL 292

4

5 By: Senators Rapert, B. Johnson

6 By: Representatives Watson, M. Berry, Hollowell, McClure, Bentley, Beck, Rye, Crawford, C. Cooper,

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For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PUBLIC SAFETY EQUIPMENT GRANT
11 PROGRAM; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES.

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Subtitle

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ESTABLISHING THE PUBLIC SAFETY EQUIPMENT

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GRANT PROGRAM; AND TO DECLARE AN

18

EMERGENCY.

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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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23 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

24 The General Assembly finds that:

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(1) Implementing the best policing practices improves trust
26 between law enforcement officers and persons in the communities in which they
27 serve in Arkansas;

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(2) The Task Force to Advance the State of Law Enforcement in
29 Arkansas specifically recommended that law enforcement agencies in the State
30 of Arkansas seek and apply for federal, state, and local funding
31 opportunities to aid in the implementation of state-of-the-art body cameras,
32 as well as adequate server storage to aid in better surveillance for all
33 agencies;

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(3) Specifically, the task force advocated for funding
35 legislation that helps to ensure that all front line duty officers will be
36 wearing state-of-the-art body cameras by 2026; and



1 (4) Other nonlethal forms of equipment, including but not
2 limited to conducted electrical devices, rubber bullets, pepper spray, and
3 bulletproof vests are all essential to protecting the lives of police
4 officers and those in the community that they serve.

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6 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 1, is amended to add an
7 additional section to read as follows:

8 12-1-103. Public Safety Equipment Grant Program.

9 (a)(1) There is created within the Department of Public Safety the
10 Public Safety Equipment Grant Program to be administered by the Secretary of
11 the Department of Public Safety.

12 (2) The secretary may hire personnel necessary to carry out the
13 duties of administering the program.

14 (3)(A) The secretary shall establish a grant review committee to
15 evaluate applications and to advise on the awarding of grants under the
16 program.

17 (B) The grant review committee shall consist of law
18 enforcement officers and other interested persons as determined by the
19 secretary.

20 (b)(1) In consultation with the grant review committee, the secretary
21 shall award grants under the program to law enforcement agencies, detention
22 centers, and corrections agencies for equipment that aids in improving trust
23 and relationships between law enforcement agencies, detention centers, and
24 corrections agencies and the communities that they serve.

25 (2) Grants may be made for equipment, training, or accreditation
26 including without limitation:

27 (A) Body cameras with auto-activation capabilities;

28 (B) In-car cameras with auto-activation capabilities;

29 (C) Cloud-based storage services;

30 (D) On-premises server hardware and storage to accomodate
31 on-premises installations;

32 (E) Conducted electrical devices and related training
33 programs;

34 (F) Virtual reality training;

35 (G) Agency accreditation programs;

36 (H) Bulletproof vests;

1 (I) Pepper spray;

2 (J) Rubber bullets; and

3 (K) Other equipment as deemed necessary by the secretary.

4 (3) As a condition for receiving a grant under this section, the
5 secretary may require a law enforcement agency, detention center, or
6 corrections agency to provide matching funds at a percentage to be determined
7 by the secretary.

8 (4) As a part of the grant application process and in
9 consultation with the grant review committee, the secretary may:

10 (A) Design procedures and criteria for awarding grants under this
11 section;

12 (B) Receive and review applications for grants under this
13 section;

14 (C) Prescribe the form, nature, and extent of the
15 information that shall be contained in an application for a grant under this
16 section;

17 (D) Audit and inspect the records of grant recipients; and

18 (E) Require reports from grant recipients.

19 (c) On or before October 1 of each year, the secretary shall submit a
20 report to the Governor and the cochairs of the Legislative Council providing
21 an account of the activities and expenditures of the program during the
22 preceding calendar year.

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24 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 19, Chapter 5, Subchapter 12, is
25 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

26 19-5-1269. Public Safety Equipment Grant Program Fund.

27 (a) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, the
28 Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a miscellaneous
29 fund to be known as the "Public Safety Equipment Grant Program Fund".

30 (b) The fund shall consist of:

31 (1) General revenues authorized by law;

32 (2) Moneys obtained from private grants or other sources that
33 are designated to be credited to the fund; and

34 (3) Any other revenues authorized by law.

35 (c) The fund shall be used by the Secretary of the Department of
36 Public Safety as provided in § 12-1-103.

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SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that nonlethal equipment can save lives and improve transparency between law enforcement and the communities that they serve; and that this act provides for the nonlethal equipment necessary to save lives and improve transparency. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the improvement of transparency between law enforcement and the communities that they serve shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

/s/Rapert

APPROVED: 4/20/21