

Senate File 2184 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2184

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act creating the community law enforcement enhancement fund
2 and providing an appropriation.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 80.49 Community law enforcement
2 enhancement fund.

3 1. A community law enforcement enhancement fund is
4 established in the state treasury under the control of the
5 department. The fund shall consist of moneys appropriated to
6 the fund for the purposes specified in subsection 2.

7 2. Moneys appropriated to the fund shall be used for grants
8 to municipal police departments and county sheriff departments.
9 Grants may be awarded for the following purposes:

10 a. *Peace officer body cameras.* For the purchase of
11 equipment, training, the establishment of information storage
12 and retrieval procedures and facilities, and other expenses
13 properly related to initiating a program for peace officers to
14 wear and operate body cameras while on duty in the community.

15 b. *Community mental health support and services.*

16 (1) For recruiting, training, and paying a portion of the
17 first-year salary and benefits of a community mental health
18 advocate position within a municipal police department or
19 county sheriff department. The duties of a community mental
20 health advocate shall include but are not limited to the
21 following:

22 (a) Provide access to mental health services that may be
23 necessary after a person's contact with law enforcement.

24 (b) Act as a liaison between a local law enforcement agency
25 and mental health services providers and agencies.

26 (c) Review departmental calls for mental health services to
27 identify the mental health needs of consumers.

28 (d) Assist mental health consumers with identifying and
29 obtaining services.

30 (e) Assist mental health services providers in
31 understanding consumer needs in the community.

32 (f) Coordinate and assist with law enforcement actions
33 requiring possible mental health services.

34 (g) Assist in developing, coordinating, and implementing
35 mental health training.

1 (2) For expenses properly related to initiating and
2 providing services related to the duties specified in
3 subparagraph (1) incurred through collaboration between a
4 municipal police department or county sheriff department and
5 one or more local mental health organizations or social service
6 organizations.

7 3. A municipal police department or county sheriff
8 department may make separate applications for each of the two
9 purposes specified in subsection 2.

10 4. Grant awards may be made for up to fifty thousand dollars
11 per grant awarded.

12 5. The department shall allocate at least thirty percent
13 of available funds for grants for each of the two purposes
14 specified in subsection 2, provided that adequate qualified
15 applications are received in each category. The department
16 shall distribute funds as equitably as possible to achieve a
17 balanced distribution of funds geographically within the state
18 and among large and small communities.

19 6. Notwithstanding section 8.33, any balance in the fund on
20 June 30 of any fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund
21 of the state but shall remain available for expenditure for the
22 purposes designated for subsequent fiscal years.

23 7. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A
24 necessary for the administration of this section.

25 8. This section is repealed January 1, 2029.

26 Sec. 2. COMMUNITY LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT FUND —
27 APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated from the general fund of
28 the state to the department of public safety for deposit into
29 the community law enforcement enhancement fund established in
30 section 80.49 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, and
31 ending June 30, 2023, the following amount, or so much thereof
32 as is necessary, to be used for the purposes of the fund:

33 \$ 5,000,000

34 EXPLANATION

35 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

1 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

2 This bill creates the community law enforcement enhancement
3 fund (fund) established in the state treasury under the
4 control of the department of public safety and provides an
5 appropriation.

6 The bill provides that moneys appropriated to the fund
7 shall be used for grants to municipal police departments and
8 county sheriff departments for the following purposes: for
9 the purchase of equipment, training, the establishment of
10 information storage and retrieval procedures and facilities,
11 and other expenses properly related to initiating a program for
12 peace officers to wear and operate body cameras while on duty
13 in the community; and for recruiting, training, and paying a
14 portion of the first-year salary and benefits of a community
15 mental health advocate position within a municipal police
16 department or a county sheriff department. The bill specifies
17 the duties of a community mental health advocate which include
18 but are not limited to the following: providing access to
19 mental health services that may be necessary after a person's
20 contact with law enforcement; acting as a liaison between
21 a local law enforcement agency and mental health services
22 providers and agencies; reviewing departmental calls for
23 mental health services to identify the mental health needs of
24 consumers; assisting mental health consumers with identifying
25 and obtaining services; assisting mental health services
26 providers in understanding consumer needs in the community;
27 coordinating and assisting with law enforcement actions
28 requiring possible mental health services; and assisting in
29 developing, coordinating, and implementing mental health
30 training.

31 The bill provides that a grant may be awarded for expenses
32 properly related to initiating and providing services
33 related to the duties specified in the bill incurred through
34 collaboration between a municipal police department or
35 county sheriff department and one or more local mental health

1 organizations or social service organizations.

2 The bill provides that grant awards may be made for up to
3 \$50,000 per grant awarded, and a municipal police department or
4 county sheriff department may make separate applications for
5 each of the two purposes of the fund. The department of public
6 safety shall allocate at least 30 percent of available funds
7 to grants for each of the two purposes of the fund, and shall
8 distribute funds as equitably as possible to achieve a balanced
9 distribution of funds geographically within the state and among
10 large and small communities. Any balance in the fund on June
11 30 of any fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund of
12 the state.

13 The department is directed to adopt rules pursuant to Code
14 chapter 17A necessary for the administration of the bill.

15 The bill is repealed on January 1, 2029.

16 The bill makes an appropriation of \$5 million from the
17 general fund of the state to the department of public safety
18 for deposit into the fund established in the bill for the
19 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023.