

Senate File 2248 - Introduced

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for the establishment of a nonprofit security
2 grant program, and making appropriations.

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

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 29C.26 Nonprofit security grant
2 program — fund.

3 1. A nonprofit security grant program is established
4 under the administration and control of the department to
5 award grants to improve the physical security of nonprofit
6 organizations, including schools, clinics, community centers,
7 churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, and similar locations,
8 that are at a high risk for violent attacks or hate crimes due
9 to ideology, beliefs, or mission.

10 2. A nonprofit security grant fund is created within the
11 state treasury under the control of the department. The
12 fund shall consist of appropriations made to the fund and
13 any other moneys available to and obtained or accepted by
14 the department for deposit in the fund. All moneys in the
15 fund are appropriated to the department for purposes of
16 administering the program and providing grants under the
17 program. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys in the fund
18 that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close of a
19 fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain available for
20 expenditure for the purposes designated. Notwithstanding
21 section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or earnings on moneys in
22 the fund shall be credited to the fund.

23 3. In administering the program, the department shall do all
24 of the following:

25 a. Award grants to nonprofit organizations for the purpose
26 of hardening nonprofit organizations that are soft targets
27 and at a high risk for violent attacks and hate crimes, as
28 described in subsection 1.

29 (1) An applicant may receive moneys under the program for
30 enhancements to the applicant's security, including all of the
31 following:

- 32 (a) Security guards.
- 33 (b) Reinforced doors and gates.
- 34 (c) High-intensity lighting and alarms.
- 35 (d) Security training.

1 (2) An applicant that provides support to another nonprofit
2 organization at a high risk for violent attacks and hate crimes
3 may receive moneys under the program for all of the following
4 purposes:

- 5 (a) Vulnerability assessments.
- 6 (b) Security trainings.
- 7 (c) Mass notification alert systems.
- 8 (d) Monitoring and response systems.
- 9 (e) Lifesaving emergency equipment.

10 b. Allow award recipients to pay staff, third-party
11 contractors, or consultants to assist with the management and
12 administration of the moneys awarded. Award recipients shall
13 not use more than five percent of the moneys awarded for the
14 purpose stated in this paragraph.

15 c. Limit construction or renovation activities related to
16 security, such as installing additional emergency exits, to one
17 hundred thousand dollars of the moneys awarded.

18 4. The department shall not grant an applicant an amount
19 greater than five hundred thousand dollars.

20 5. The department shall not take an applicant's prior
21 history with or receipt of grant funding to improve its
22 physical security into account during the evaluation of the
23 entity's application.

24 6. When evaluating applications, the department shall
25 consider the likelihood of an applicant being a target of hate-
26 motivated violence.

27 7. The department shall adopt, as necessary, application
28 procedures, forms, administrative guidelines, and other rules
29 pursuant to chapter 17A for purposes of implementing and
30 administering the program.

31 8. The department of homeland security and emergency
32 management shall provide ongoing technical assistance for
33 nonprofit organizations that require a vulnerability assessment
34 for a state application to the program or a threat assessment
35 for a federal application to the nonprofit security grant

1 program of the United States department of homeland security.
2 This assistance shall include but not be limited to all of the
3 following:

4 a. A resource page on the department of homeland security
5 and emergency management's internet site that describes
6 available resources for vulnerability assessments at no cost
7 to the applicant.

8 b. Continuous outreach to stakeholders on available
9 resources for vulnerability assessments outside the established
10 grant cycle.

11 EXPLANATION

12 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
13 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

14 This bill establishes a nonprofit security grant program
15 under the administration of the department of homeland security
16 and emergency management for the purpose of awarding grants
17 to improve the physical security of nonprofit organizations
18 at high risk for violent attacks or hate crimes. The bill
19 creates a nonprofit security grant fund under the control of
20 the department. The department may award up to \$500,000 to
21 an applicant for its own security enhancements or to help
22 a nonprofit to which the applicant provides support. The
23 bill limits the amount that may be used for construction,
24 renovation, or paying staff, third-party contractors, or
25 consultants to assist with the management and administration of
26 the moneys awarded. The department is required to award grants
27 based on the risk level of an applicant for violent attacks
28 and hate crimes, without considering past grant applications
29 or awards.

30 The bill requires the department to adopt application
31 procedures, forms, administrative guidelines, and other rules
32 for implementing and administering the program and to provide
33 ongoing assistance to nonprofits, including through resources
34 on the department's internet site and outreach to stakeholders.