

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

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

93rd General Assembly

# A Bill

Regular Session, 2021

SENATE BILL 292

By: Senators Rapert, B. Johnson

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

## For An Act To Be Entitled

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

### Subtitle

ESTABLISHING THE PUBLIC SAFETY EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAM; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

The General Assembly finds that:

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) Body cameras with auto-activation capabilities;

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

(C) Cloud-based storage services;

(D) On-premises server hardware and storage to accommodate on-premises installations;

(E) Conducted electrical devices and related training programs;

(F) Virtual reality training;

(G) Agency accreditation programs;

(H) Bulletproof vests;

(I) Pepper spray;

(J) Rubber bullets; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(E) Require reports from grant recipients.

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

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

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

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

(b) The fund shall consist of:

(1) General revenues authorized by law;

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

(3) Any other revenues authorized by law.

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

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*