

Sec. 17. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 36a is added to read:

Sec. 36a. SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

(a) Creation. There is created the School Safety and Security Grant Program to be administered by the Department of Public Safety to enhance safety and security in Vermont schools, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 3447.

(b) Use of funds. Grants authorized in subsection (a) of this section shall be used for the planning, delivery, and installation of equipment for upgrades to existing school security equipment and new school security equipment identified through threat assessment planning and surveys designed to enhance building security.

(c) Guidelines. The following guidelines shall apply to capital grants for school safety measures:

(1) Grants shall be awarded competitively to schools for capital-eligible expenses to implement safety and security measures identified in a security assessment. Capital-eligible expenses may include video monitoring and surveillance equipment, intercom systems, window coverings, exterior and interior doors, locks, and perimeter security measures.

(2) Grants shall only be awarded after a security assessment has been completed by the Agency of Education and Department of Public Safety.

(3) The Program is authorized to award ~~one to one matching~~ grants of up to \$25,000.00 per school. ~~The required match shall be met through dollars~~

~~raised and not in kind services. It is the intent of the General Assembly that~~

~~grants shall be used to match federal funds from the Department of Homeland Security at a ratio of four State dollars to one federal dollar.~~

~~(d) Administration. The Department of Public Safety, in coordination with the Agency of Education, shall administer and coordinate grants made pursuant to this section. Grant funds shall not be used to administer the Program.~~

~~(e) Reporting. The Department of Public Safety shall provide notice of any grants awarded under this section to the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Institutions and the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions.~~

~~Sec. 17a. SCHOOL SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP; REPORT~~

~~Creation. There is created the School Safety Advisory Group to develop statewide guidelines and best practices concerning school safety and the prevention of school shootings.~~

~~(a) Membership. The Advisory Group shall be composed of the following six seven members:~~

~~(1) — the Secretary of Administration or designee;~~

~~(2) — the Secretary of Education or designee;~~

~~(3) — the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;~~

~~(4) — the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or designee;~~

~~(5) — the President of the Vermont National Education Association or designee; and~~

~~(6) — a representative of the Vermont Principals' Association.~~

~~(5) — the President of the Vermont National Education Association or designee;~~

~~(6) — a representative of the Vermont Principals' Association; and~~

~~(7) — the Executive Director of the Vermont Independent Schools Association.~~

~~(b) Powers and duties. The Advisory Group shall study the following issues and develop specific guidelines and best practices for Vermont schools concerning them:~~

~~(1) — improving security in and around school buildings and property;~~

~~(2) — ensuring staff and students know what they should do in the event of a school shooting or other incident;~~

~~(3) — training for staff and students, including the type and frequency of the training;~~

~~(4) — sharing information with parents and community if an event occurs; and~~

~~(5) — gathering information on security measures implemented in schools from corresponding State education and public safety departments in states where school shootings have occurred.~~

~~(c) Assistance. The Advisory Group shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Education and the Department of Public Safety.~~

~~(d) Report. On or before July 1, 2018, the Advisory Group shall submit a written report to the General Assembly with its findings, including specific guidelines and best practices, and any recommendations for legislative action necessary to ensure that all schools in Vermont begin implementing those guidelines and best practices and have a plan for compliance before the beginning of the next school year.~~

~~(e) Meetings.~~

~~(1) The Secretary of Education shall call the first meeting of the Advisory Group.~~

~~(2) The Commissioner of Public Safety or designee shall be the Chair.~~

~~(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.~~

~~(4) The Advisory Group shall cease to exist on July 1, 2019.~~

~~(f) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Advisory Group who are not employees of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.~~

1 * * * Sunset of School Security Grant Program * * *

2 Sec. 18. REPEAL OF SCHOOL SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

3 The School Safety and Security Grant Program established in Sec. 17 of

4 this act shall be repealed on July 1, 2019.

BILL AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE

2018

5 Sec. 19. EFFECTIVE DATE

6 This act shall take effect on passage.

H.923

Page 5 of 27