

CHAPTER 246

AN ACT establishing a "New Jersey Nonprofit Security Grant Pilot Program."

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. The Legislature finds and declares:
 - a. In these volatile times, the need to remain vigilant concerning domestic security and State and local preparedness has remained of imminent importance;
 - b. Certain nonprofit organizations are at high risk for threats, attacks, and other violent acts, and would benefit from engaging in target hardening activities to reduce vulnerability;
 - c. Federal grant money distributed through the United States Department of Homeland Security's Nonprofit Security Grant Program provides these organizations with funds for certain target hardening activities, but does not allow recipients to use the funds for the expansion of existing security personnel or the hiring of temporary security personnel;
 - d. With the threat potential increasing during specific times of year or when high profile events are occurring, certain nonprofit organizations would benefit from additional funding to ensure security personnel is adequate to meet the increased need;
 - e. Because threats, attacks, and other violent acts are not limited to public sector entities, it is appropriate for the State to assist certain targeted nonprofit organizations in the private sector to ensure their readiness and the safety of their surrounding communities; and
 - f. Accordingly, it is within the public interest to establish a three-year "New Jersey Nonprofit Security Grant Pilot Program" in the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness which shall provide grants to eligible nonprofit organizations to hire permanent or temporary security personnel for the purpose of preparedness and reduction of vulnerability.

2. As used in this act:

"Director" means the Director of the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness.

"Eligible nonprofit organization" means a nonprofit organization located in New Jersey which: (1) has received federal grant funds from the United States Department of Homeland Security's Nonprofit Security Grant Program in any fiscal year; (2) is eligible to receive federal grant funds from the program; or (3) would otherwise be eligible to receive federal grant funds from the program, except that the nonprofit organization is located within a county not served by the program.

3. a. There is hereby established a three-year "New Jersey Nonprofit Security Grant Pilot Program" in the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, which shall provide grants to eligible nonprofit organizations to hire permanent or temporary security personnel limited to federal, State, county, or municipal law enforcement officers, special law enforcement officers appointed pursuant to P.L.1985, c.439 (C.40A:14-146.8 et seq.), or security officers registered pursuant to P.L.2004, c.134 (C.45:19A-1 et seq.) for the purpose of preparedness against threats, attacks, and other violent acts.
 - b. The director shall administer the pilot program for three years following the effective date of P.L.2017, c.246. There shall annually be distributed to approved eligible nonprofit organizations up to a maximum grant of \$10,000 per approved application.
 - c. An eligible nonprofit organization shall apply to the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness to receive a grant under the pilot program. Applicants may apply annually for a disbursement of funds in each of the three years of the pilot program.

d. Within three years following the effective date of P.L.2017, c.246), the director shall submit a report to the Governor, and to the Legislature as provided under section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), containing an evaluation of the pilot program. The report shall provide the director's opinion as to whether the pilot program should be continued and, if so, make recommendations for further improvement, modifications, and implementation.

4. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved December 27, 2017.