STATE OF NEW YORK

8240

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

November 6, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. JONES, BUTTENSCHON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to law enforcement officer and firefighter grant funds

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "public safety investment act".

§ 2. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 844 to read as follows:

§ 844. Law enforcement officer grant funds. 1. Within amounts appropriated for such purpose, in the years two thousand twenty-four, two thousand twenty-five and two thousand twenty-six, one hundred fifty million dollars shall be available and allocated each year pursuant to subdivisions two and three of this section and shall be paid to cover all expenses related to hiring law enforcement officers, including any benefits provided to such officers through employment with their respective law enforcement agency.

2. One hundred twelve million five hundred thousand dollars of the funds allocated pursuant to subdivision one of this section shall be available to law enforcement agencies for the purpose of hiring new police officers or rehiring police officers who have been laid off, hiring members of the armed forces to serve as law enforcement officers in crime prevention, and supporting non-hiring initiatives, such as training law enforcement officers in crime prevention, community policing techniques, and developing technologies that support crime prevention strategies. Eligible law enforcement agencies shall be eligible for up to ninety percent of the costs associated with such hiring or non-hiring initiatives; provided, however that such law enforcement agencies shall commit to employing such officers for at

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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least five years, retaining such officers for at least two additional years after the three years of grant funding expires.

3. Thirty-seven million five hundred thousand dollars of the funds allocated pursuant to subdivision one of this section shall be available to law enforcement agencies for the purchase of equipment, such as firearms, riot gear, and protective vests; provided, however, that such grant funds shall not be expended on the purchase or maintenance of police cruisers or other vehicles used by law enforcement agencies.

4. The commissioner, in cooperation with the attorney general and the superintendent of state police, shall establish eligibility criteria and the application process for the grants provided for pursuant to this section. Grant information and application forms shall be made available through the New York state grants gateway.

§ 3. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 158-a to read as follows:

§ 158-a. Firefighter grant funds. 1. Within amounts appropriated for such purpose, in the years two thousand twenty-four, two thousand twenty-five and two thousand twenty-six, one hundred fifty million dollars shall be available and allocated each year pursuant to subdivisions two and three of this section and shall be paid to cover all expenses related to hiring firefighters, including any benefits provided to such firefighters through employment with their respective fire department.

2. One hundred twelve million five hundred thousand dollars of the funds allocated pursuant to subdivision one of this section shall be available to fire departments for the purchase of equipment.

3. Thirty-seven million five hundred thousand dollars of the funds allocated pursuant to subdivision one of this section shall be available to fire departments for the purpose of hiring new firefighters or rehiring firefighters who have been laid off and supporting non-hiring initiatives, such as training firefighters in fire prevention and developing technologies that support firefighting strategies. Eligible fire departments shall be eligible for up to ninety percent of the costs associated with such hiring or non-hiring initiatives; provided, however that such fire departments shall commit to employing such firefighters for at least five years, retaining such firefighters for at least two additional years after the three years of grant funding expires.

4. The state fire administrator shall establish eligibility criteria and the application process for the grants provided for pursuant to this section. Grant information and application forms shall be made available through the New York state grants gateway.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.