



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 855

January Session, 2007

Substitute House Bill No. 7084

House of Representatives, May 21, 2007

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. DARGAN of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN URBAN VIOLENCE REDUCTION GRANT PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Grant" means an urban violence reduction grant;
- 3 (2) "Eligible agency" means a nonprofit agency authorized by a
4 municipality to apply for and administer a grant on behalf of such
5 municipality; and
- 6 (3) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
7 Management.
- 8 (b) There is established an urban violence reduction grant program
9 for the purpose of reducing urban youth violence by providing grants
10 for programs and services for youth in Connecticut's urban centers.
11 The program shall be administered by the Office of Policy and

12 Management.

13 (c) The secretary shall, within available appropriations, award
14 grants under the program based on competitive proposals submitted
15 and evaluated as provided in this section, except that, within available
16 appropriations and subject to the requirements of subsection (g) of this
17 section, the cities of Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven shall each
18 receive, annually, a grant of seven hundred twenty-five thousand
19 dollars, the cities of New London and Waterbury shall each receive,
20 annually, a grant of four hundred seventy-five thousand dollars and
21 the city of Stamford shall receive, annually, a grant of two hundred
22 thousand dollars. Such grants may be made to a municipality or to one
23 or more eligible agencies acting on behalf of a municipality.
24 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, for the fiscal year
25 ending June 30, 2008, and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount of the
26 grant payable to each municipality in accordance with this section
27 shall be reduced proportionately in the event that the total amount
28 payable in grants to all municipalities under this section exceeds the
29 amount appropriated for such grants for such year.

30 (d) Grants made under this section shall be used to provide eligible
31 programs and services for youth between twelve and eighteen years of
32 age. Such programs and services shall include, but not be limited to: (1)
33 Mentoring; (2) tutoring and enrichment activities; (3) social and
34 cultural activities; (4) athletic and recreational opportunities; and (5)
35 training in problem-solving, decision-making, conflict resolution, peer
36 counseling and similar topics designed to reduce youth violence. Grant
37 recipients shall provide for parental and youth involvement, on an
38 ongoing basis, in the planning and operation of such programs.

39 (e) The Office of Policy and Management shall publish a notice of
40 grant availability and solicit competitive proposals under the program
41 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, and each fiscal year thereafter.
42 Municipalities and eligible agencies acting on behalf of a municipality
43 may file a grant application with the Office of Policy and Management
44 on such forms and at such times as the secretary prescribes.

45 Applications filed by eligible agencies acting on behalf of a
46 municipality shall include the endorsement of the chief elected official
47 of such municipality.

48 (f) The Office of Policy and Management shall review all grant
49 applications received under the program and determine which grant
50 applications shall be funded and at what funding levels. Criteria for
51 such determinations shall be established by the secretary and included
52 in the notice of grant availability.

53 (g) The cities of Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, New London,
54 Stamford and Waterbury shall annually submit to the Office of Policy
55 and Management a plan for the use of the grants made pursuant to
56 subsection (c) of this section, and such plan shall be subject to the
57 approval of the secretary. The plan shall be in such form, and contain
58 such information, as the secretary shall prescribe. No grant shall be
59 made to any such city pursuant to subsection (c) of this section unless
60 such city has an approved plan for the fiscal year for which the grant is
61 being made.

62 (h) The secretary may adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter
63 54 of the general statutes, to carry out the provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2007	New section

PS *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$
Bridgeport; Hartford; New London; New Haven; Stamford; Waterbury	Revenue Gain	Potential	Potential
Various Municipalities	Revenue Gain	Potential	Potential

Explanation

The bill requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to establish an Urban Violence Reduction Grant, within available appropriations, for six municipalities and other urban centers. The bill specifies that the following cities shall receive a grant, if appropriations are sufficient, they are:

Municipality	Amount of Grant if Fully Funded
Bridgeport	\$725,000
Hartford	\$725,000
New Haven	\$725,000
New London	\$475,000
Waterbury	\$475,000
Stamford	\$200,000
Total if Fully Funded	\$3,325,000

The bill contains provisions that if appropriations are insufficient these grants will be reduced proportionately. Additionally the bill requires OPM to establish a grant for other urban centers, and requires

OPM to determine the eligibility criteria, amount of the grant, and award such grants. It is uncertain what grants, if any will be awarded, but any costs would be in addition to the grants enumerated in the bill, which cost \$3.325 million to fully fund, and all costs would be prorated to the amount of available appropriations. The budget bill, sHB 7077 as favorably reported by the appropriations committee, contains \$1 million in each year of the biennium in the Office of Policy and Management for a similarly named, but different Violence Reduction Grants. These funds are provided for a different program, and are not available to implement provisions of this bill.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis (Reprint of File 645)

sHB 7084

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN URBAN VIOLENCE REDUCTION GRANT PROGRAM.

SUMMARY:

This bill establishes an urban violence reduction grant program within available appropriations.

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) must establish application procedures and administer the grant program, which consists of formula grants for six cities and competitive grants for other urban centers.

The grants are for anti-violence programs and services targeting urban youth between ages 12 and 18. OPM can award them directly to municipalities or to designated nonprofit agencies. An agency's grant applications must include the chief elected municipal official's endorsement.

OPM may adopt implementing regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007

URBAN VIOLENCE REDUCTION GRANTS

The grants may be used for:

1. training on topics designed to reduce youth violence, such as problem-solving, decision-making, conflict resolution, and peer counseling;
2. mentoring;
3. tutoring, enrichment, social, and cultural activities; and

4. athletics and recreation.

The bill requires grant recipients to involve parents and youth in program planning and operations on an ongoing basis.

Formula Grants

Table 1 shows funding levels for the six cities eligible for formula grants.

Table 1: Annual Formula Grant Funding Levels

\$725,000	Bridgeport Hartford New Haven
\$475,000	New London Waterbury
\$200,000	Stamford

The cities must submit annual plans to OPM, in the manner the agency prescribes, describing their intended use of grant funds. OPM cannot award grant funds unless it has approved the city’s plan.

The bill directs OPM to proportionally reduce formula grant funding levels in any fiscal year in which the total of all grant awards exceeds appropriations.

Competitive Grants

The bill requires OPM to establish criteria for awarding grants based on competitive proposals. It must include them in the annual notices of grant availability it must publish beginning in FY 08.

OPM decides which grant proposals to fund and at what level.

BACKGROUND

Legislative History

The House referred the bill (File 645) to the Public Safety Committee which voted out a substitute eliminating provisions requiring the Public Safety Department to maintain a lost or stolen weapons database and a \$1,000,000 appropriation for doing so.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 39 Nay 0 (04/11/2007)

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 21 Nay 0 (05/08/2007)