

**Subject** Community safety grants and law enforcement grants and policy

**Authors** Frazier and others

**Analyst** Jeff Diebel  
Ben Johnson

**Date** January 28, 2022

## Overview

This bill establishes the Office of Public Safety Innovation, provides for grants to community organizations, provides for grants to law enforcement agencies, and establishes policies related to the oversight of peace officers and law enforcement agencies.

## Article 1: Community Safety Grants

This article establishes the Office of Public Safety Innovation and provides for grants to community organizations.

### Section Description – Article 1: Community Safety Grants

---

#### 1 Innovation in community safety; Office of Public Safety Innovation

**Subd. 1. Definitions.** Defines terms as used in this section including “civilian review board,” “community violence interruption,” “co-responder teams,” “local commission,” “restorative justice program,” and “targeted area.”

**Subd. 2. Office of Public Safety Innovation; director; qualifications.** Establishes the Office of Public Safety Innovation within the Office of Justice Programs. Requires appointment of a director of the new office and describes the qualifications the director must have.

**Subd. 3. Director; duties.** Requires the director to work with community members to develop a strategy to address violence within targeted areas. Permits the director to hire staff for the Office of Public Safety Innovation. Establishes additional duties including providing technical assistance to grant applicants, establishing an online portal for community feedback, organizing local grant advisory boards, and encouraging the use of restorative justice programs.

**Subd. 4. Innovation in community safety grants.** Provides for grants to community organizations issued by the Office of Public Safety Innovation. Requires targeted areas to receive at least \$5,000,000 for grants and requires at

**Section Description – Article 1: Community Safety Grants**

---

least one targeted area to be outside the metropolitan area. Establishes eight categories of grants. Prohibits law enforcement agencies from receiving grants under this section.

**Subd. 5. Appropriation distribution.** Requires that two-thirds of the money appropriated for grants issued under this section be distributed within the metropolitan area and one-third be distributed outside that area. Prohibits an individual recipient from receiving more than \$1,000,000 each year.

**Subd. 6. Community grant advisory boards; members.** Requires the director to establish a community grant advisory board within each targeted area. Requires community grant advisory boards to include seven members and establishes the qualifications of those members. Provides that community grant advisory boards must review applications and make recommendations regarding which applicants should receive grants.

**Subd. 7. Innovation in community safety grants; procedure.** Requires the director to mail a survey to residents in a targeted area to solicit feedback on grant priorities and provides 30 days to respond to the survey. Requires a public meeting after the deadline for responding to the survey. Directs community grant advisory boards to provide notice of available grants, review applications, and make recommendations for funding.

**Subd. 8. Report.** Requires the director to provide an annual report on the grants issued under this section.

**Subd. 9. Independent evaluation.** Directs the Office of Justice Programs to contract with an independent third-party vendor to conduct an evaluation of the programs provided by each grant recipient and requires a report of the conclusions of the investigation.

**2 Innovation in community safety; grants; appropriation.**

Appropriates \$40,000,000 in fiscal year 2023 for the grants described in section 1. Establishes a base of \$10,000,000 for the grants in fiscal year 2024 and beyond. Provides that any balance remaining in the program at the end of a fiscal year does not cancel. Prohibits the commissioner of public safety from using any amount of the appropriation to administer the program.

**3 Office of Public Safety Innovation; appropriation.**

Appropriates an unspecified amount in fiscal year 2023 to establish and maintain the Office of Public Safety Innovation.

**Section Description – Article 1: Community Safety Grants**

---

**4 Opiate epidemic response grants; prevention and education.**

Transfers \$10,000,000 in fiscal year 2023 to the opiate epidemic response fund established under Minnesota Statutes, section 256.043 for prevention and education to address the opioid addiction and overdose epidemic in Minnesota.

## **Article 2: Law Enforcement Grants**

This article provides grants for law enforcement agencies.

**Section Description – Article 2: Law Enforcement Grants**

---

**1 Local community policing grants.**

**Subd. 1. Definitions.** Defines terms as used in this section.

**Subd. 2. Appropriation.** Appropriates \$22,000,000 in fiscal year 2023 for grants to implement or expand the use of patrols by peace officers who are outside a squad car and to expand community partnerships. Establishes a base for the appropriation of \$5,000,000 in fiscal years 2024 to 2026, and \$0 in fiscal year 2027 and beyond.

**Subd. 3. Purpose.** Establishes that one-half of a grant received under this section must be used to implement or expand the use of patrols by teams of officers who are outside a squad car and patrol a limited area that has experienced a high level of criminal activity. Requires that one-half of a grant received under this section must be used to establish or expand partnerships with community groups. Prohibits money received from being used for undercover police work.

**Subd. 4. Application; distribution.** Requires applicants to demonstrate that patrols funded by a grant issued under this section will take place in areas with a disproportionately high rate of criminal activity. Requires that at least one grant recipient must be a city of the first class within the metropolitan area, one must be within the metropolitan area but not a city of the first class, and one must be outside the metropolitan area.

**Subd. 5. Reports.** Requires grant recipients to provide a preliminary report after six months and a final report after 12 months. Directs the Office of Public Safety Innovation to compile the reports and provide them to the legislative committees with oversight of public safety.

**2 Crime investigation grants; appropriation.**

**Subd. 1. Definitions.** Defines terms as used in this section.

**Section Description – Article 2: Law Enforcement Grants**

---

**Subd. 2. Grant; appropriation.** Appropriates \$22,000,000 in fiscal year 2023 for grants administered by the Office of Public Safety Innovation to improve clearance rates for homicides and nonfatal shootings. Establishes a base for the appropriation of \$5,000,000 in fiscal years 2024 to 2026, and \$0 in fiscal year 2027 and beyond. Provides that any unencumbered balance does not cancel and is available for the purposes described in this section until June 30, 2032. Establishes that any money remaining at that time is available for the purposes described in Minnesota Statutes, section 299A.625, subdivision 4, and is available until spent.

**Subd. 3. Eligibility; purposes.** Provides that law enforcement agencies, other than state agencies, may use grants for purposes including the retention of peace officers, hiring additional detectives and investigators including those licensed by the Board of Private Detectives, hiring additional peace officers to replace those promoted or transferred to detective or investigator positions, training personnel, and acquiring new technology for investigation or processing evidence. Requires that at least one grant recipient must be a city of the first class within the metropolitan area, one must be within the metropolitan area but not a city of the first class, and one must be outside the metropolitan area. Further requires that at least 25 percent of the money appropriated for grants be awarded to law enforcement agencies outside the metropolitan area.

**Subd. 4. Reports by grant recipients.** Requires grant recipients to provide an annual report on how grant funds were used and the impact of that use.

**Subd. 5. Evaluation and report by the Office of Public Safety Innovation.** Requires the Office of Public Safety Innovation to compile reports received under subdivision 4 and provide a report to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over public safety.

**3 Body camera grant program; appropriation.**

Appropriates \$2,500,000 in fiscal year 2023 to provide grants to local law enforcement agencies for the purchase and maintenance of portable recording systems. Grant recipients must provide a 50% match and agree to abide by certain restrictions on the use of the devices and retention of data.

## **Article 3: Law Enforcement Policy**

This article contains policy requirements related to law enforcement agencies.

**Section Description – Article 3: Law Enforcement Policy**

---

- 1 Grounds for revocation, suspension, or denial.**  
Authorizes the POST Board to take action on a peace officer’s license for criminal conduct that does not result in a conviction.
- 2 Written policies and procedures required.**  
Adds additional requirements that must be included in body camera policies adopted by law enforcement agencies that have officers who use portable recording systems (a.k.a. body cameras).
- 3 Civilian review.**  
Authorizes local units of government to establish civilian oversight councils and grant an oversight council the authority to make findings of fact and impose discipline on officers.
- 4 Task force on alternative courses to peace officer licensure.**

  - Subd. 1. Establishment.** Establishes a task force to increase recruitment of new peace officers, increase the diversity of the racial makeup and professional background of licensed peace officers, promote education and training in community policing models, maintain the high standards of education and training required for licensure, and make policy and funding recommendations to the legislature.
  - Subd. 2. Membership.** Establishes the task force membership. Requires appointments to be made by August 30, 2022. Provides that members serve without compensation.
  - Subd. 3. Officers; meetings.** Requires the members to elect a chair and vice-chair from among its members. Requires the first meeting to be called by September 15, 2022. Directs the task force to meet at least monthly and provides that meetings are subject to chapter 13D (the Open Meetings Law).
  - Subd. 4. Duties.** Lists the duties of the task force including development of policies and strategies to recruit new peace officers with a diverse professional background.
  - Subd. 5. Report.** Requires the task force to submit a report by January 15, 2024.
  - Subd. 6. Expiration.** Provides that the task force expires upon submission of its report.

**Section Description – Article 3: Law Enforcement Policy**

---

- 5 **Peace Officer Standards and Training Board investigators; appropriation.**  
Appropriates \$450,000 in fiscal year 2023 to the POST Board for four investigators to perform compliance reviews and investigate alleged code of conduct violations.
- 6 **Task force on alternative courses to peace officer licensure; appropriation.**  
Appropriates \$50,000 in fiscal year 2023 to the POST Board to provide support for the task force on alternative courses to peace officer licensure. The appropriation is onetime.
- 7 **Repealer.**  
Repeals the special complaint processing procedures that the legislature established for the POST Board to follow when processing complaints against peace officers. Repealing these provisions will require the POST Board to process and investigate complaints against licensed peace officers in the same manner that other professional licensure boards investigate complaints against their license-holders.



**MN HOUSE  
RESEARCH**

*Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.*

[www.house.mn/hrd](http://www.house.mn/hrd) | 651-296-6753 | 155 State Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155