

ASSEMBLY, No. 5571

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 5, 2023

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman BETHANNE MCCARTHY PATRICK
District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes grant program in DOE to promote responsible gun ownership; appropriates \$1 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



A5571 MCCARTHY PATRICK

2

1 AN ACT concerning the education of students on responsible gun
2 ownership, supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes, and making an appropriation.

4

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

7

8 1. a. There is established in the Department of Education a
9 grant program to assist school districts in promoting responsible
10 gun ownership through:

11 (1) the provision of firearms safety courses for high school
12 students; and

13 (2) the establishment of student organizations for high school
14 students interested in responsible gun ownership.

15 b. To be eligible for consideration of a grant award under the
16 program, a school district shall submit an application to the
17 Commissioner of Education, in accordance with application
18 procedures and requirements prescribed by the commissioner.

19 c. Grants under the program shall be awarded on a competitive
20 basis. School districts that receive a grant under the program shall
21 use the funds to promote responsible gun ownership to high school
22 students through the provision of firearms safety courses and the
23 establishment of student organizations for interested students.

24 d. Within three years after receiving a grant award under the
25 program, a school district shall submit a report to the Commissioner
26 of Education containing information on the use of the grant funds.

27

28 2. The Commissioner of Education shall submit a report to the
29 Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,
30 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than four years after the
31 establishment of the grant program established pursuant to section 1
32 of this act. The report shall include, but need not be limited to,
33 information on the number of grant applicants, the number and
34 amounts of the grant awards, information provided by school
35 districts in the reports submitted pursuant to subsection d. of section
36 1 of this act, and any recommendations concerning the continuation
37 or expansion of the grant program.

38

39 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
40 Department of Education the sum of \$1,000,000, which shall be
41 used to fund the grants awarded pursuant to section 1 of this act.

42

43 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29

STATEMENT

This bill establishes in the Department of Education a grant program to assist school districts in promoting responsible gun ownership through:

- the provision of firearms safety courses for high school students; and
- the establishment of student organizations for high school students interested in responsible gun ownership.

The bill provides that, to be eligible for consideration of a grant award under the program, a school district is required to submit an application to the Commissioner of Education, in accordance with application procedures and requirements prescribed by the commissioner. Grants under the program will be awarded on a competitive basis. School districts that receive a grant under the program will be required to use the funds to promote responsible gun ownership to high school students through the provision of firearms safety courses and the establishment of student organizations for interested students.

The bill provides that, within three years after receiving a grant award under the program, a school district will be required to submit a report to the Commissioner of Education containing information on the use of the grant funds. The bill directs the commissioner to submit a report on the program to the Governor and the Legislature no later than four years after the establishment of the grant program.

The bill appropriates from the General Fund to the Department of Education the sum of \$1,000,000, to fund the grants awarded through the program.