

Chapter 709

(House Bill 597)

AN ACT concerning

Growing Apprenticeships and the Public Safety Workforce (GAPS) Act

FOR the purpose of altering the Law Enforcement Cadet Apprenticeship Program in the Maryland Department of Labor to be the Public Safety Apprenticeship Program; expanding the purpose and scope of the Program to promote careers with certain public safety agencies; ~~increasing the maximum amount of a grant~~ altering the eligibility criteria and the types of grants that may be awarded under the Program; requiring the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to develop certain mental health wellness policies to be implemented in certain law enforcement agencies and correctional facilities; establishing the Workgroup on Growing Engagement in the Law Enforcement and Corrections Workforce to study and make recommendations on increasing law enforcement employment in the State; and generally relating to the Public Safety Apprenticeship Program, the duties of the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission, and the Workgroup on Growing Engagement in the Law Enforcement and Corrections Workforce.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Labor and Employment

Section 11–603

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2016 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Public Safety

Section 3–201(a), (b), and (d)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Public Safety

Section 3–207(m)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Labor and Employment

11–603.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

[(2) “Cadet Program” means the Law Enforcement Cadet Apprenticeship Program.]

[(3)] (2) “Law enforcement agency” means the police department of a county, municipal corporation, [or] university in the State, **OR STATE AGENCY.**

(3) **“PROGRAM” MEANS THE PUBLIC SAFETY APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.**

(4) **“PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY” INCLUDES:**

(I) **A CORRECTIONAL UNIT, AS DEFINED IN § 2–401 OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ARTICLE;**

(II) **A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY; AND**

(III) **A PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY, AS DEFINED IN § 1–301 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.**

(b) There is a [Law Enforcement Cadet] **PUBLIC SAFETY** Apprenticeship Program in the Department.

(c) The purposes of the [Cadet] Program are to:

(1) provide young individuals opportunities to begin a career [in law enforcement] **WITH A PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY;**

(2) foster positive relationships between the public, particularly young individuals, and [law enforcement] **PUBLIC SAFETY** agencies;

(3) develop a cohort of individuals qualified to join a [law enforcement] **PUBLIC SAFETY** agency;

(4) encourage [law enforcement] **PUBLIC SAFETY** agencies to hire apprentices; and

(5) help [law enforcement] **PUBLIC SAFETY** agencies offset additional costs, if any, associated with hiring apprentices.

(d) **THE PROGRAM SHALL CONSIST OF START-UP GRANTS AND STABILIZATION GRANTS.**

(E) A PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY OR A GROUP OF PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM SHALL:

(1) DEVELOP A REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM; AND

(2) ESTABLISH A REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM THAT DEVELOPS A CAREER PATH THAT ENABLES AN INDIVIDUAL TO WORK IN A PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY.

(F) (1) The Department shall:

(i) administer the [Cadet] Program; and

(ii) award START-UP AND STABILIZATION grants under the [Cadet] Program on a competitive basis to ~~[law enforcement] PUBLIC SAFETY agencies that meet the requirements under paragraph (2) of this subsection~~ A PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY OR A GROUP OF PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

(2) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE DEPARTMENT MAY AWARD:

1. A START-UP GRANT NOT EXCEEDING \$200,000 TO A PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY OR A GROUP OF PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND LAUNCH OF A PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY'S REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM UNDER THIS SECTION; AND

2. A STABILIZATION GRANT NOT EXCEEDING \$5,000 TO A PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY OR A GROUP OF PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES ON THE INITIAL ENROLLMENT OF EACH APPRENTICE IN THE PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY'S REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.

(II) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT AWARD A START-UP OR STABILIZATION GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION TO A PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY OR A GROUP OF PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES THAT FAIL TO BARGAIN WITH THE APPROPRIATE EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVE REGARDING ANY ADJUSTMENTS TO WAGES, HOURS, OR OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT THAT ARE REQUIRED FOR INDIVIDUALS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY'S REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.

(2) A ~~[law enforcement] PUBLIC SAFETY agency is eligible to receive a grant if the [law enforcement] PUBLIC SAFETY agency employs at least one apprentice who:~~

- ~~(i) has been employed by the agency for at least 7 months; AND~~
- ~~(ii) is enrolled in the first year of an apprenticeship program registered with the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council under § 11-405(b) of this title; and~~
- ~~(iii) lives in a zip code in which at least 10% of the population is below the poverty level as established by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, in the most recently released data].~~

~~(c) [(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the] THE amount of a grant awarded under the [Cadet] Program:~~

~~[(i)] (1) shall be based on the number of apprentices who meet the description in subsection [(d)(2)(i) through (iii)] (D)(2) of this section who are employed by the eligible [law enforcement] PUBLIC SAFETY agency; and~~

~~[(ii)] (2) may not exceed [\$2,000] \$5,000 for each apprentice who meets the description in subsection [(d)(2)(i) through (iii)] (D)(2) of this section who is employed by the eligible law enforcement agency.~~

~~[(2) The amount of a grant awarded to an eligible university law enforcement agency may not exceed \$1,000 for each apprentice who meets the description in subsection (d)(2)(i) through (iii) of this section who is employed by the eligible university law enforcement agency.]~~

~~(F)~~ **(G)** For fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor shall include in the State budget an appropriation of at least \$750,000 for the **[Cadet]** Program to:

- (1) provide grants to eligible **[law enforcement] PUBLIC SAFETY** agencies;
- and
- (2) cover the administrative costs of operating the **[Cadet]** Program.

~~(g)~~ **(H)** The Department shall adopt regulations necessary to carry out this section, including regulations to:

- (1) develop requirements for grant applications;
- (2) develop a process for reviewing grant applications and awarding grants to eligible **[law enforcement] PUBLIC SAFETY** agencies; and
- (3) determine the maximum amount that an eligible **[law enforcement]**

PUBLIC SAFETY agency OR A GROUP OF PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES may be awarded under the [Cadet] Program each fiscal year.

Article – Public Safety

3–201.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) “Commission” means the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission.

(d) (1) “Law enforcement agency” means a governmental police force, sheriff’s office, or security force or law enforcement organization of the State, a county, or a municipal corporation that by statute, ordinance, or common law is authorized to enforce the general criminal laws of the State.

(2) “Law enforcement agency” does not include members of the Maryland National Guard who:

(i) are under the control and jurisdiction of the Military Department;

(ii) are assigned to the military property designated as the Martin State Airport; and

(iii) are charged with exercising police powers in and for the Martin State Airport.

3–207.

(M) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, “CORRECTIONAL FACILITY” MEANS A STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY AND A LOCAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, AS DEFINED IN § 1–101 OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ARTICLE.

(2) THE COMMISSION SHALL DEVELOP MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS POLICIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES IN THE STATE BY:

(I) DETERMINING WAYS TO PROMOTE SAFETY AND WELLNESS AT EVERY LEVEL OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY AND A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY;

(II) INCORPORATING INTO TRAININGS STRESS MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES DESIGNED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS;

(III) ESTABLISHING CONFIDENTIAL PEER SUPPORT PROGRAMS;

(IV) OFFERING PSYCHOLOGICAL PROGRAMMING TO HELP OFFICERS MANAGE STRESS; AND

(V) UTILIZING MEASURING TOOLS TO TRACK EFFECTIVENESS.

~~(2)~~ (3) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2025, AND EACH JANUARY 1 THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE STATUS OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICIES DESCRIBED UNDER PARAGRAPH ~~(1)~~ (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND THE EFFECTS OF THE POLICIES.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) There is a Workgroup on Growing Engagement in the Law Enforcement and Corrections Workforce.

(b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the Secretary's designee;

~~(2)~~ (4) the Secretary of Higher Education, or the Secretary's designee;

~~(3)~~ (5) the Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Counties, or the Executive Director's designee;

~~(4)~~ (6) the Chief Executive Officer of the Maryland Municipal League, or the Chief Executive Officer's designee;

~~(5)~~ (7) the Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges, or the Executive Director's designee;

~~(6)~~ (8) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's designee;

- ~~(7)~~ (9) the Secretary of Labor, or the Secretary's designee;
- ~~(8)~~ (10) the Secretary of State Police, or the Secretary's designee;
- ~~(9)~~ (11) the President of the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association, or the President's designee;
- ~~(10)~~ (12) the President of the Maryland Sheriffs' Association, or the President's designee; ~~and~~
- ~~(11)~~ (13) the President of the Maryland Fraternal Order of Police, or the President's designee; and

(14) the following members designated by the President of the Maryland Correctional Administrators Association (MCAA):

- (i) one State member of MCAA; and
- (ii) one county member of MCAA.

- (c) The Governor shall designate the Chair of the Workgroup.
- (d) The Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission shall staff the Workgroup.
- (e) A member of the Workgroup or any subgroup established under subsection (g) of this section:
 - (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Workgroup or subgroup; but
 - (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- (f) The Workgroup shall:
 - (1) identify and study the shortage of employees in the law enforcement and corrections fields;
 - (2) determine ways to advertise and promote law enforcement and corrections employment opportunities across the State; ~~and~~
 - (3) explore recruitment and retention strategies used in the law enforcement and corrections fields that have been successful in other states and countries; and

(4) make recommendations on incentives or other methods to increase the number of employees in the law enforcement and corrections workforce.

(g) (1) The Workgroup may establish a subgroup within the Workgroup to assist the Workgroup in carrying out its duties, including by conducting research and producing reports.

(2) A subgroup established under paragraph (1) of this subsection may include an individual who is not a member of the Workgroup.

(h) On or before January 1, 2025, the Workgroup shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act may not be construed as reducing or lowering the minimum qualifications for employment in a public safety agency, as defined in § 11–603(a)(4) of the Labor and Employment Article, as enacted by this Act.

SECTION ~~3~~ 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2024. Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2025, Section 2 of this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2024.