

HOUSE BILL 198

E2

5lr1658

HB 942/24 – JUD & APP

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegate Young**

Requested: November 1, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Judiciary and Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Procedure – Crime Solvers Reward Fund – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Crime Solvers Reward Fund as a special, nonlapsing
4 fund in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to provide grants
5 to law enforcement agencies and county reward programs to be used as rewards
6 offered to individuals for certain assistance in solving certain crimes; requiring
7 interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund; and generally relating to
8 the Crime Solvers Reward Fund.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Criminal Procedure
11 Section 11–1201 through 11–1203 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 12. Crime
12 Solvers Reward Fund”
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

16 Article – State Finance and Procurement
17 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

21 Article – State Finance and Procurement
22 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii) 204. and 205.
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

25 BY adding to

26 Article – State Finance and Procurement

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)206.
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

Article – Criminal Procedure

SUBTITLE 12. CRIME SOLVERS REWARD FUND.

11–1201.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
INDICATED.

(B) “COUNTY REWARD PROGRAM” MEANS A PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY A
COUNTY THAT OFFERS REWARD MONEY TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PROVIDES
QUALIFYING INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE INVESTIGATION OF A MURDER OR AN
ATTEMPTED MURDER INVOLVING A FIREARM.

(C) “FUND” MEANS THE CRIME SOLVERS REWARD FUND.

(D) “LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 3–201
OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.

(E) “QUALIFYING INFORMATION” MEANS INFORMATION PROVIDED TO A
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT DIRECTLY LEADS TO THE IDENTIFICATION,
ARREST, AND CONVICTION OF THE PERPETRATOR OF A CRIME.

11–1202.

(A) THERE IS A CRIME SOLVERS REWARD FUND IN THE DEPARTMENT.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO LAW
ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OR COUNTY REWARD PROGRAMS TO ISSUE REWARDS TO
INDIVIDUALS WHO PROVIDE QUALIFYING INFORMATION TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT
AGENCY RELEVANT TO THE INVESTIGATION OF A MURDER OR AN ATTEMPTED
MURDER INVOLVING A FIREARM.

(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

(D) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT
SUBJECT TO § 7–302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

1 **(2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,**
2 **AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.**

3 **(E) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:**

4 **(1) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;**

5 **(2) MONEY MADE AVAILABLE TO THE FUND THROUGH FEDERAL**
6 **PROGRAMS OR PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS;**

7 **(3) INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND; AND**

8 **(4) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR**
9 **THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.**

10 **(F) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND**
11 **IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.**

12 **(2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO**
13 **THE FUND.**

14 **(G) (1) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY TO AWARD GRANTS TO A LAW**
15 **ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR A COUNTY REWARD PROGRAM IN ORDER FOR THE LAW**
16 **ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR THE COUNTY REWARD PROGRAM TO PROVIDE REWARD**
17 **MONEY TO INDIVIDUALS WHO PROVIDE A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY WITH**
18 **QUALIFYING INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE INVESTIGATION OF A MURDER OR AN**
19 **ATTEMPTED MURDER INVOLVING A FIREARM.**

20 **(2) FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A REWARD FROM A LAW**
21 **ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR A COUNTY REWARD PROGRAM UNDER THIS SUBTITLE,**
22 **THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR COUNTY REWARD PROGRAM SHALL ESTABLISH**
23 **THAT THE INDIVIDUAL:**

24 **(I) PROVIDED CREDIBLE QUALIFYING INFORMATION;**

25 **(II) DID NOT DIRECTLY PARTICIPATE IN THE CRIME; AND**

26 **(III) COOPERATED WITH THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.**

27 **(H) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2026, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE**
28 **DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
29 **§ 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON:**

(1) THE NUMBER OF REWARDS ISSUED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND COUNTY REWARD PROGRAMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE; AND

(2) THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY PROVIDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.
11-1203.

(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) THE REGULATIONS SHALL INCLUDE:

(1) CRITERIA EXPLAINING HOW ELIGIBLE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND COUNTY REWARD PROGRAMS MAY APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE FUND; AND

(2) CRITERIA FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF AVAILABLE FUNDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.

Article – State Finance and Procurement

6-226.

(a) (2) (i) 1. This subparagraph does not apply in fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General Fund of the State.

(ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply to the following funds:

204. the Victims of Domestic Violence Program Grant Fund;
[and]

205. the Proposed Programs Collaborative Grant Fund; AND

206. THE CRIME SOLVERS REWARD FUND.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2025.