

SENATE BILL 1215

By Oliver

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 9 and Title 49, relative to school safety grants.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 3, is amended by adding the following as a new part:

49-3-601.

(a) There is created within the state general fund a special account to be known as the school safety grant fund. The purpose of the fund is to support local education agencies (LEAs) and public charter schools with prevention, reduction, and response efforts with regard to school shootings.

(b) The department of education shall administer the fund.

(c) The fund is composed of money appropriated by the general assembly for the fund, and gifts, grants, and other donations received by the department for the fund.

(d) Subject to the availability of funds, the department shall allocate and disperse grants to LEAs and public charter schools that have had a shooting or other firearm-related death on school grounds on a school day while students were present. The department shall establish and publish guidelines for applications, including eligibility, and the award of grants. Priority for grants must be given to schools based on an evaluation of need, including the availability of school resource officers, the number of firearm-related incidents in the past two (2) school years, and the financial resources of the LEA or public charter school.

(e) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund for the benefit of the fund in accordance with § 9-4-603. Interest accruing on investments and deposits of the fund

must be credited to and remain part of the fund. Any unencumbered moneys and any unexpended balance of the fund remaining at the end of a fiscal year do not revert to the general fund, but must be carried forward until expended in accordance with this section.

(f) The department shall submit an annual report to the education and finance, ways and means committees of the senate and the committees of the house of representatives with jurisdiction over budget-related matters and primary and secondary education-related matters by March 1, 2026, and by March 1 of each subsequent year on the status of this program and the allocation of grant funds.

(g) The state board of education may promulgate rules necessary to effectuate this section. The rules must be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2025, the public welfare requiring it.