

ASSEMBLY, No. 2880

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 1, 1997

By Assemblywoman FARRAGHER, Assemblymen T. SMITH,
Corodemus, Arnone and LeFevre

1 AN ACT concerning assistance for the provision of youth services,
2 supplementing chapter 17B of Title 52 of the Revised Statutes and
3 amending P.L.1993, c.220.

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

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8 1. (New section) As used in this act:

9 "Eligible municipality" means a municipality with a population
10 exceeding 10,000, according to the 1990 federal decennial census, and
11 a crime rate per one-thousand population exceeding the statewide
12 average, as reported in the Uniform Crime Report for 1995.

13 "PAL program" means a program of sports, recreation or cultural
14 activities sponsored by a local Police Athletic League chapter and
15 recognized by the New Jersey Police Athletic League.

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17 2. (New section) a. A program to encourage and support PAL
18 programs in municipalities with high crime rates is hereby established.
19 This program shall be under the direction of the Attorney General and
20 shall provide grant funding for eligible PAL programs pursuant to the
21 provisions of this act.

22 b. An eligible municipality may apply to the Attorney General for
23 a grant under this act to be used for operational expenses of an active
24 PAL program. Eligible municipalities that do not have active PAL
25 programs may apply for a grant to initiate such a program.

26 c. As a condition for receiving a State grant, a PAL program in an
27 eligible municipality shall match the grant with equal amounts of
28 municipal funding and funding from other sources. These matching
29 amounts may be in the form of a cash or in-kind contribution.

30 d. Grant applications shall explain in detail how the requested
31 funds will be expended, the source and intended expenditure of the
32 matching funds required by subsection c. of this section, program
33 staffing, the population which will be served and how the effectiveness

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 of the program will be measured. Applications shall contain such
2 additional information as the Attorney General may deem appropriate.

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4 3. Section 10 of P.L.1993, c.220 (C.52:17B-168) is amended to
5 read as follows:

6 10. a. Pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,
7 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the Attorney General shall promulgate
8 guidelines for the receipt of program funds, procedures to ensure
9 grantee accountability, and any other rules and regulations necessary
10 to carry out the purposes of this act.

11 b. Program grants shall be awarded in two annual cycles. Grants to
12 municipalities with a fiscal year starting January 1 shall be announced
13 no later than October 30 and shall be awarded on January 1. Grants to
14 municipalities with a fiscal year starting July 1 shall be announced no
15 later than April 30 and shall be awarded on July 1.

16 c. The Attorney General shall promptly notify eligible
17 municipalities regarding the program established by this act and make
18 available to them grant applications and guidelines within 30 days of
19 this act's effective date.

20 d. Notwithstanding any law or regulation to the contrary, a
21 municipality may expend grant moneys in the local budget year in
22 which they are received.

23 e. Of the moneys deposited into the fund, not more than \$375,000
24 shall be allocated to the Attorney General to enable the Division of
25 Criminal Justice to provide technical and operational assistance to
26 grantees, which shall include (1) assistance in implementing an
27 effective community policing program, including training and the
28 development of operational plans, schedules and strategies, and (2)
29 coordination of and assistance with violent offender removal
30 programs.

31 f. Of the moneys deposited into the fund, 2 percent annually shall
32 be reserved for grants to Police Athletic League programs pursuant to
33 P.L. .c. (C.) (now pending in the Legislature as this bill).

34 (cf: P.L.1993, c.220, s.10)

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36 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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39 STATEMENT

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41 The Police Athletic League (PAL) plays a vital role in guiding
42 at-risk youth toward productive citizenship in more than 70 New
43 Jersey municipalities. PAL programs offer a varied menu of athletics,
44 recreation and cultural activities for youths ranging from
45 three-year-olds in day care to teenagers in boxing tournaments. These
46 activities are designed to provide healthy outlets for youthful energy

1 and to establish mutual respect between the police and this
2 impressionable age group. PAL accomplishes these objectives on a
3 financial "shoestring," relying upon contributions from the community
4 and staffing by volunteers, who are often police officers.

5 This bill is intended to provide support to existing PAL programs
6 and to encourage the establishment of these low-cost, high-impact
7 programs. It creates a State program that would provide operating
8 grants for PAL programs in eligible municipalities. These would
9 include municipalities with populations exceeding 10,000, according
10 to the 1990 decennial census, whose crime rates per one-thousand
11 population exceed the statewide average, as reported in the Uniform
12 Crime Report for 1995.

13 An eligible municipality would be permitted to apply to the Attorney
14 General for grants for an existing PAL program or to establish such a
15 program. Grant funding would be required to be matched with equal
16 amounts of municipal funding and funding from other sources. These
17 matching funds may be provided in-kind.

18 Funding for these grants would be derived from earmarking 2
19 percent of the moneys in the Safe and Secure Communities Fund for
20 PAL programs. This fund was established by the "Safe and Secure
21 Communities Program," P.L.1993, c.220 (C.52:17B-159 et seq.),
22 which provides grants to municipalites for community policing
23 programs. The fund is expected to receive an appropriation of \$3.6
24 million in FY 1998, in addition to about \$6 million in penalty moneys.

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Creates PAL grant program.