

HOUSE BILL No. 6156

June 12, 2018, Introduced by Reps. Hoitenga, Sabo, Cochran, Chang, Brinks, Lasinski, Guerra, Geiss, Greig, Green, Yancey, Gay-Dagnogo, Wittenberg, Rabhi and Jones and referred to the Committee on Law and Justice.

A bill to create the human trafficking victim assistance fund; to provide for use of the fund; and to provide for the powers and duties of certain state and local governmental officers and entities.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "human
2 trafficking victim assistance fund act".

3 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Commission" means the human trafficking commission
5 created in section 3 of the human trafficking commission act, 2014
6 PA 325, MCL 752.973.

7 (b) "Fund" means the human trafficking victim assistance fund
8 created in section 3.

9 (c) "Human trafficking victim" or "victim" means an individual

1 who has suffered a personal physical or psychological injury as a
2 direct result of his or her labor or sexual exploitation by another
3 person through force, fraud, or coercion.

4 Sec. 3. (1) The human trafficking victim assistance fund is
5 created in the state treasury. The fund must be administered by the
6 department of attorney general.

7 (2) The state treasurer may receive money and assets from any
8 source for deposit into the fund. The state treasurer shall direct
9 the investment of the fund. The state shall credit to the fund
10 interest and earnings from fund investments.

11 (3) Money in the fund at the close of the fiscal year shall
12 remain in the fund and shall not lapse to the general fund.

13 (4) The commission shall expend money from the fund, upon
14 appropriation, only for 1 or more of the following purposes:

15 (a) To provide grants to a program or organization that
16 provides victim services.

17 (b) To provide for the administrative costs from
18 implementation of this act.

19 (c) To provide education to communities on the dangers of
20 human trafficking

21 (d) To protect and support human trafficking victims.

22 (e) To prevent further instances of human trafficking in this
23 state.

24 Sec. 5. (1) A program or organization that provides victim
25 services may apply to the commission to receive a grant from the
26 fund as provided in this section.

27 (2) A program or organization that meets all of the following

1 criteria is eligible to receive a grant from the fund:

2 (a) An authorized representative from the organization or
3 program has completed a sworn affidavit of intent to use grant
4 funds for 1 or more of the purposes listed in subsection (7) and
5 the affidavit has been provided with the organization's or
6 program's application to the commission.

7 (b) The organization's or program's primary purpose, or if the
8 organization or program has multiple purposes, one of the
9 organization's or program's primary purposes is to provide need-
10 based free or reduced-fee services to individuals in its community.

11 (c) The organization or program provides all of the following:

12 (i) Services to individuals suffering from financial,
13 familial, or status-based hardships.

14 (ii) Services to individuals suffering from physical or
15 psychological injuries or conditions.

16 (iii) Any other services for any other purpose intended to
17 serve the public good.

18 (3) An eligible program or organization shall apply for a
19 grant on a form prescribed by the commission.

20 (4) The commission shall select a grant recipient based on a
21 full consideration of the needs and merits of the particular
22 organization or program. The commission may weigh a variety of
23 factors, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

24 (a) The need in the community to be served.

25 (b) The number of prospective beneficiaries.

26 (c) The quality of the aid to be provided.

27 (d) The financial need of the organization or program.

1 (e) The identifiable successes of the prospective service.

2 (f) The accessibility of services to intended beneficiaries.

3 (g) Any other factor relating to the organization's or
4 program's ability to provide effective assistance.

5 (5) The commission shall award a grant to an organization or
6 program selected under subsection (4) upon confirmation that the
7 fund created in section 3 contains a sufficient balance to cover
8 the grant request.

9 (6) A grant awarded to a program or organization under this
10 section is for a period of 2 years. An organization or program that
11 has been awarded a grant under this section may reapply for a grant
12 every 2 years.

13 (7) A program or organization that has been awarded a grant
14 under this section shall only use the grant funds to provide all of
15 the following to human trafficking victims:

16 (a) Victim services.

17 (b) Counseling services or therapy.

18 (c) Medical services.

19 (d) Housing and housing assistance.

20 (e) Vocational or educational training and assistance.

21 (f) Financial training and assistance.

22 (g) Legal aid.

23 Enacting section 1. This act takes effect 90 days after the
24 date it is enacted into law.