

HOUSE BILL NO. 4661

June 17, 2025, Introduced by Reps. VanderWall, Byrnes, Dievendorf, Rogers, Tsernoglou, Coffia, Weiss, Miller, Glanville, Pohutsky, Foreman, Conlin, Price, Hoskins, Longjohn, Prestin, Roth, Harris and Morgan and referred to Committee on Appropriations.

A bill to establish a crime victim communication modernization grant program to provide grants to certain state and local governmental officers to modernize communication with victims of crime and other individuals; to create the crime victim communication modernization fund and provide for the distribution of money from the fund; to provide for appropriations; 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 may be cited as the "crime victim
2 communication modernization act".

3 Sec. 3. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Department" means the department of technology,
5 management, and budget.

6 (b) "Fund" means the crime victim communication modernization
7 fund created in section 7.

8 (c) "Law enforcement agency" means an entity that is
9 established and maintained in accordance with the laws of this
10 state and is authorized by the laws of this state to appoint or
11 employ law enforcement officers.

12 (d) "Law enforcement officer" means an individual licensed
13 under the Michigan commission on law enforcement standards act,
14 1965 PA 203, MCL 28.601 to 28.615.

15 (e) "Local unit of government" means a political subdivision
16 of this state, including a school district, community college
17 district, intermediate school district, city, village, township,
18 county, and authority, if the political subdivision has as its
19 primary purpose the providing of local governmental services for
20 residents in a geographically limited area of this state and has
21 the power to act primarily on behalf of that area.

22 (f) "Office" means the office of the Michigan public safety
23 communications system established within the department.

24 (g) "Program" or "grant program" means the crime victim
25 communication modernization program created in section 5.

26 Sec. 5. (1) The crime victim communication modernization
27 program is established to provide grants to state or local agencies
28 or officials, law enforcement agencies, or local units of
29 government, to modernize communication with crime victims and other

1 individuals.

2 (2) The office shall establish standards for use by state or
3 local agencies or officials, law enforcement agencies, or local
4 units of government, to modernize communication with crime victims
5 and other individuals. Standards established by the office must
6 include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

7 (a) Methods to provide all of the following:

8 (i) Automated updates and messages to a crime victim or an
9 individual without requiring the crime victim or individual to
10 download an application, create an account, or register through a
11 website, telephone call, or other method, including, but not
12 limited to, an email or text message.

13 (ii) Support messaging and survey functions in multiple
14 languages that are appropriate for each community in which the
15 messaging or function is deployed. Messages and survey responses
16 must roll up to an English-language dashboard for review by a state
17 or local agency or official, a law enforcement agency, or a local
18 unit of government. A crime victim or individual must be able to
19 choose the language interface that the crime victim or individual
20 wishes to use.

21 (b) Utilization of communication technology to create a
22 community engagement process that saves time and reduces costs.
23 Communication technology utilized under this subdivision must meet
24 the following criteria:

25 (i) Ensure transparency, accountability, and effective
26 communication from the beginning through the end of an individual's
27 interaction with the criminal justice and public safety functions
28 of a state or local agency or official, law enforcement agency, or
29 local unit of government.

1 (ii) Provide and enhance notification capabilities, including
2 an increase in outgoing notifications to crime victims and other
3 individuals from a state or local agency or official, law
4 enforcement agency, or local unit of government.

5 (iii) Provide relevant feedback that allows a state or local
6 agency or official, law enforcement agency, or local unit of
7 government to benchmark community perception.

8 (iv) Automatically provide 1-to-1 updates and related
9 information to individuals through email or text messages. Items
10 under this subparagraph include dashboards to capture trends over a
11 period of time, additional opt-in campaigns allowing individuals to
12 participate in a 1-to-many message format to receive information on
13 issues important to the community and regarding law enforcement
14 campaigns, a public-facing online web-based portal where an
15 individual can opt in to receive additional emails and text
16 messages regarding the incident, case, or any other item determined
17 appropriate by the office.

18 (v) Provide the capability to allow individuals to leverage
19 conversational AI to power human-like, bidirectional real-time
20 communication with individuals through voice, text messages, and
21 emails, including a virtual agent that responds and asks questions
22 based on the individual's queries and responses, resolving issues
23 and minimizing the need for human engagement.

24 (vi) Enable an agency to track and audit the message traffic
25 sent to partner agencies in order to ensure that privacy and
26 security protections are maintained.

27 (vii) Provide automatic text messages and emails, including
28 hyperlinks to resources and PDF attachments containing resources,
29 to individuals who interact with a state or local agency or

1 official, law enforcement agency, or local unit of government.
2 Subject to existing state laws, text messages or emails provided
3 under this subparagraph may include any of the following
4 information:

5 (A) The creation of an incident report.

6 (B) Updates on the involvement of the state or local agency or
7 official, law enforcement agency, or local unit of government
8 regarding an incident.

9 (C) Whether a report was filed and received.

10 (D) Notification that a case has been opened.

11 (E) Notification that an arrest has been made.

12 (F) Notification that a case is pending forensic results.

13 (G) Notification that a case has been sent to a prosecutor.

14 (H) Updates to crime victims with other relevant information.

15 (I) Notification that a case has been closed.

16 (J) Other items determined appropriate by the office.

17 (viii) Provide all of the following to an individual as soon as
18 practicable:

19 (A) Relevant contact information that relates to the incident
20 as soon as the incident has been assigned to a law enforcement
21 officer, prosecutor, or other governmental official for further
22 action or consideration.

23 (B) Any updates or changes to the information provided under
24 sub-subparagraph (A).

25 (C) Any updates or changes to the information previously
26 provided in any communication to that individual.

27 (3) The office may award a grant in accordance with this act
28 to, or enter into a contract with, a state or local agency or
29 official, law enforcement agency, or local unit of government that

1 does all of the following:

2 (a) Agrees to comply with this act and the standards
3 established by the office under this act.

4 (b) Submits an application to the office in the manner
5 prescribed by the office.

6 (c) Agrees to use the money awarded under this act for
7 purposes described under this act, and for no other purpose.

8 Sec. 7. (1) The crime victim communication modernization fund
9 is created in the department of treasury.

10 (2) The office is the administrator of the fund for auditing
11 purposes.

12 (3) The state treasurer may receive money from appropriations
13 or money or other assets from any source for deposit into the fund.
14 The state treasurer shall direct the investment of the fund. The
15 state treasurer shall credit to the fund interest and earnings from
16 fund investments. Money from grants or gifts received for the
17 purposes described under this act must be deposited into the fund
18 and used for the purposes described in this act.

19 (4) Money in the fund at the close of the fiscal year must
20 remain in the fund and must not lapse to the general fund.

21 (5) The office shall use the money in the fund, including the
22 interest and earnings, solely for the purposes described under this
23 act.

24 (6) The office shall ensure that grants awarded under the
25 program are used to comply with the standards established under
26 this act and are consistent with the laws of this state and
27 department policy to most efficiently and effectively comply with
28 this act.

29 (7) Money from the fund must be used for all of the following

1 purposes:

2 (a) By the office to comply with this act.

3 (b) By a state or local agency or official, law enforcement
4 agency, or local unit of government that demonstrates compliance
5 with technology and the standards established by the office.

6 (8) Money from the fund may be used for a program that is
7 similar to the program established under this act if the similar
8 program implemented or created by a state or local agency or
9 official, law enforcement agency, or local unit of government
10 before the effective date of this act. If a similar program already
11 exists before the effective date of this act, money in the fund may
12 be used to ensure that that similar program complies with this act.
13 A state or local agency or official, law enforcement agency, or
14 local unit of government is eligible to receive money from the fund
15 to establish and maintain the program under this act even if a
16 similar program already exists before the effective date of this
17 act.

18 Sec. 9. Money in the fund may be used to match funds for
19 federal grants if those funds are used for the purposes described
20 in this act.

21 Sec. 11. Not later than March 15 of each year, the office
22 shall send a report on the activities of the fund during the
23 preceding calendar year to each member of the legislature, the
24 governor, the clerk of the house of representatives, the secretary
25 of the senate, and the senate and house fiscal agencies.

26 Sec. 13. (1) For the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025,
27 there is appropriated and transferred from the general fund to the
28 fund \$7,000,000.00. The money transferred to the fund under this
29 subsection is appropriated and available for allocation as

1 authorized in section 7.

2 (2) The appropriation authorized under this section is a work
3 project appropriation and any unencumbered or unallotted funds are
4 carried forward into the following fiscal year. The following is in
5 compliance with section 451a of the management and budget act, 1984
6 PA 431, MCL 18.1451a:

7 (a) The purpose of the work project is to carry out the
8 activities and purposes described in section 7.

9 (b) The work project will be accomplished through the use of
10 state employees or contracts, or both.

11 (c) The total estimated completion cost of the work project is
12 \$7,000,000.00.

13 (d) The estimated completion date of the work project is
14 September 30, 2026.

15 Sec. 15. Not more than 1 year after the effective date of this
16 act, the office shall ensure that the standards established under
17 this act facilitate the modernized communication with and
18 notifications to crime victims as described under section 3a of the
19 William Van Regenmorter crimes victim's rights act, 1985 PA 87, MCL
20 780.753a.

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

23 Enacting section 2. This act does not take effect unless
24 Senate Bill No. ____ (request no. S02388'25) or House Bill No. 4662
25 (request no. H02388'25) of the 103rd Legislature is enacted into
26 law.