



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME PREVENTION

House Bill 4450
Sponsor: Rep. Curtis Hertel
Committee: Appropriations

Complete to 8-1-89

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4450 AS INTRODUCED 3-15-89

The bill would create the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Assistance Act. Under the bill, a Neighborhood Crime Prevention Commission would be created within the Department of Management and Budget and a Neighborhood Crime Prevention Assistance Fund created to encourage eligible neighborhood organizations to engage in neighborhood crime prevention projects. The commission would consist of the director of the Department of State Police, or his or her designee; the attorney general, or his or her designee; and three individuals appointed by the governor, representing the interests of neighborhood organizations. Of the three, one would be chosen from a list of individuals provided by the Speaker of the House, and one from a list provided by the Senate Majority Leader. The bill would require that the commission promulgate rules to implement the act, including criteria to certify eligible neighborhoods, and commission meetings and writings would be required to conform to the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act, respectively.

Under the bill, a "neighborhood organization," meaning any nongovernmental organization serving an area with geographically definable boundaries, having elected officials, adopted bylaws, and a minimum membership of 50 households or ten percent of the households within its boundaries, could request approval of a crime prevention project by submitting a project application to the commission. The commission would be required to approve or disapprove a project application within 90 days after receiving it, and to detail the reasons for its decision in writing. The bill would require that the application contain all of the following information:

- Proof and certification that the neighborhood met eligibility criteria and that the organization conformed to the definition of a "neighborhood organization;"

- A detailed project work plan, including an assessment of the needs and objectives addressed by the project; a description of how the project would meet the stated objectives; and other project details, as required by the commission;

- A detailed project budget, including total project costs; project expenses by category of expense item; justification of administrative costs; and other budget details as required by the commission.

A project application could be submitted for a project life of more than one year. Upon receipt of the application, the commission would be required to provide a copy to the local unit of government and the county in which the project would be located for review and comments. The local unit of government or county could respond within 30 days after receiving the application. Comments by the local unit of government or county could include:

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- Whether the project would affect an existing or future program or project of the local unit of government or county.

- Information concerning the neighborhood organization submitting the application.

- Any other comments considered appropriate by the local unit of government or county.

Under the bill, the commission could provide a copy of the project application to any other person, group, community action agency, or division of federal, state, or local unit of government for review and comment. The commission could approve an application 60 days after receipt, whether or not comments had been received from entities that received copies of the application.

The bill would require a neighborhood organization whose project was approved by the commission to submit an annual report of the project to the commission not later than 90 days after the project year for each year in which the project was certified. The report would contain an assessment of how the project was attaining the project objectives, an independent audit of project expenditures, and any other information required by the commission. The commission would be required to submit an annual report to the legislature, not later than 90 days after the close of each fiscal year, containing a description, a status report, and an assessment of the effectiveness of each project it had approved, and the total disbursements authorized and total disbursements paid for each project.