

## **PUBLIC SERVICE ASSISTANT GRANT PROGRAM**

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<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

**House Bill 5481 as introduced**  
**Sponsor: Rep. TC Clements**  
**Committee: Government Operations**  
**Complete to 10-27-21**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

### **SUMMARY:**

House Bill 5481 would amend the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards Act to require the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) to create, implement, and administer a program to award grants to law enforcement agencies for the purpose of hiring public service assistants. The bill defines public service assistants as specially trained, unarmed, part-time employees of a law enforcement agency with no arrest or criminal enforcement powers.

MCOLES would have to create, implement, and administer the public service assistant grant program by 30 days after the bill's effective date. Grants awarded to law enforcement agencies under the program would have to be used to establish a new program or expand a current one for the purpose of hiring public service assistants and could not be awarded to fill previously vacant public service assistant positions in an existing program previously operated by a law enforcement agency. MCOLES would have to provide the grants to eligible agencies on a first-come, first-served basis.

MCOLES could promulgate rules and procedures to implement the bill, including those governing the grant application and disbursement process and the method for establishing eligibility. A law enforcement agency would have to comply with the application process prescribed by MCOLES to be eligible for a grant.

The bill also would create the Public Service Assistants Fund as a separate fund in the Department of Treasury. The state treasurer could receive money or other assets from any source for deposit into the fund and would have to credit to the fund money appropriated to it. The state treasurer also would have to direct the investment of the fund and credit to the fund interest and earnings from those investments. Money left in the fund at the close of the fiscal year would stay in the fund and not lapse to the state's general fund. MCOLES would be the administrator of the fund for auditing purposes.

MCOLES would have to spend money from the fund to create, implement, and administer the public service assistant grant program and could not spend money from the fund for any other purpose.

MCL 28.611 and proposed MCL 28.611a

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

House Bill 5481 would likely increase costs for MCOLES by an indeterminate amount and would provide additional grant funding to law enforcement agencies. MCOLES would experience one-time costs for initial program activities (creating the application and application process), as well as ongoing costs for distribution and compliance monitoring. Any grant funding distributed would provide law enforcement agencies with additional funding to hire public service assistants. The bill would create the Public Service Assistants Fund as a state restricted fund, although the bill is silent on a funding mechanism to provide revenue to the fund.

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