
VIRGINIA STATE BUDGET

2025 Session

Budget Amendments - HB1600 (Conference Report)

Bill Order » Item 394 #2c

Local Drone Replacement

Item 394 #2c

First Year - FY2025

Second Year - FY2026

Public Safety and Homeland Security

Department of Criminal Justice Services	\$1,000,000	\$0	GF
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Language

Page 505, line 25, strike "\$235,665,783" and insert "\$236,665,783".

Page 513, after line 47, insert:

"AA. 1. Included in the appropriation for this item is \$1,000,000 the first year from the general fund for the Department of Criminal Justice Services to administer and provide grant funding for an Unmanned Aircraft Trade and Replace Program. For the purposes of this program, the Department may only distribute grant funds to local law enforcement agencies, local fire or ambulance service providers, or other local first responders to support the replacement of unmanned aircraft systems manufactured or assembled by an entity, including its subsidiaries, affiliates, or partners, that is domiciled in a country defined as a foreign adversary pursuant to § 55.1-507, Code of Virginia, with unmanned aircraft systems that are not covered unmanned aircraft systems manufactured or assembled by a covered foreign entity as defined in § 1822 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2024."

2. To be eligible for the grant funding, a local law enforcement agency, local fire or ambulance service provider, or local first responder must relinquish the drone manufactured by the entity domiciled in a country defined as a foreign adversary. Grant funds shall be provided per drone based upon the drone's replacement costs, but shall not exceed \$25,000 per drone. Grant funds may only be used to purchase an equal number of drones that are in compliance with, without exception or waiver, the replacement criteria described in subsection AA.1.

3. The Department shall coordinate with the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, Virginia State Police, Virginia Association of Counties, Virginia Municipal League, Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, Virginia Ambulance Association, and the Virginia Sheriffs' Association to set any additional criteria for awarding the grants. This appropriation shall be one-time and shall be removed from the base budget after the biennium. Any remaining balance at year-end shall be carried forward to the subsequent fiscal year. The Department shall seek to distribute available funding geographically and, should multiple grant application rounds be necessary to support that goal, shall prioritize agencies that have not yet received funding under this program.

4. Of this amount, the Director is authorized to expend reasonable amounts for state administration of the program including up to one temporary position."

Explanation

(This amendment provides \$1.0 million from the general fund the first year in one-time funding for a grant program to assist local law enforcement and other first responders with replacing drones manufactured by foreign adversaries with drones that meet the criteria in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2024.)