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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #515

Beat Patrol Overtime Grant Program Unencumbered Balance (Justice -- Law Enforcement Services)

[LFB 2023-25 Budget Summary: Page 373, #11]

CURRENT LAW

Under 2017 Act 59, \$1,000,000 PR annually was provided during the 2017-19 biennium only to support grants to cities to reimburse overtime costs for uniformed law enforcement officers whose primary duty is beat patrolling. The appropriation was originally funded with a one-time transfer of discretionary settlement revenues specified in 2017 Act 59.

Under the program, grants were utilized to support salary and fringe benefit costs only. Further, DOJ: (a) could not award a grant to an individual city in excess of \$400,000 for a calendar year; and (b) could only award grants to the 10 eligible cities submitting an application for a grant that have the highest rates of violent crime index offenses in the most recent full calendar year for which data is available under the FBI uniform crime reporting system. In addition, a city was required to have a population of 25,000 or more in order to be eligible to receive a beat patrol overtime grant. A city could receive a grant for a calendar year if the city applied before September 1st of the preceding calendar year and provided DOJ all of the following: (a) the reasons why uniformed law enforcement officers assigned to beat patrol need to work overtime; (b) the status of the hiring and training of new uniformed law enforcement officers who will have beat patrol duties; and (c) a proposed plan of expenditures of the grant monies.

In 2018, the City of Milwaukee received a grant of \$150,000 under the program. Four cities received grant funding under the program in 2018 of \$100,000 and the remaining five cities received grant funding of \$90,000.

Annual funding provided for the beat patrol overtime grant program was provided on a one-time basis, and was, therefore, not continued after the 2017-19 biennium. However, statutory provisions creating the beat patrol overtime grant program and the appropriation for the grant program did not have a sunset date. Further, due to the reimbursement nature of the grant program, not all funds granted were expended.

Current base funding for the appropriation is \$0. [Note that under current law, the appropriation is to be used for police overtime grants, rather than the beat patrol program.]

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The police overtime grants appropriation is an annual appropriation with an unencumbered revenue balance of \$190,800. AB 43/SB 70 would provide expenditure authority of the same amount to enable DOJ to provide one time grants in 2023-24 to eligible cities to reimburse overtime costs for uniformed law enforcement officers whose primary duty is beat patrolling. [Alternative 1] If grants are distributed in the same proportion as in 2018, Milwaukee would receive \$28,620; the next four cities would receive grants of \$19,080, and the remaining cities, \$17,172. [Note that the cities eligible for grants could be different in 2023-24 than in 2017-18.]

2. Since the funding was provided on a one-time basis and the program has not had funding since 2019, the Committee could lapse \$190,800 to the general fund. [Alternative 2]

3. Given that the police overtime grant program was intended to be one-time in nature in 2017-19 biennium, the PR appropriation and associated statutory language could be repealed at the end of the 2023-25 biennium under either Alternative 1 or 2. [Alternative 3]

4. In no action is taken, funding would remain in the appropriation. [Alternative 4]

ALTERNATIVES

1. Provide \$190,800 in increased expenditure authority in 2023-24 for beat patrol overtime grants.

ALT 1	Change to Base
PR	\$190,800

2. Lapse \$190,800 to the general fund from the beat patrol overtime grants appropriation.

ALT 2	Change to Base
GPR-REV	\$190,800

3. In addition to Alternative 1 or 2, repeal the police overtime grant program at the end of the 2023-25 biennium.

4. Take no action.

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