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H.B. 817
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Williams

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SUMMARY

- Establishes the NextGen Public Safety Pilot Program within the Department of Public Safety (DPS).
- Requires Lucas County or Toledo to meet specific requirements to qualify for a grant.
- Requires a grant recipient to submit a report to DPS by January 1, 2028.
- Appropriates a total of $7 million from the GRF to fund the program.
- Requires DPS to submit a report to the General Assembly and the Governor by January 1, 2032.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

NextGen Public Safety Pilot Program

Grants

The bill creates a two-year NextGen Public Safety Pilot Program to support the deployment of modern public safety technologies by local governments within Lucas County. The table below outlines grant recipients, specific information regarding each grant, and the amount and uses of each grant for FY 2026 and FY 2027. The Department of Public Safety (DPS) awards all grants.[1]

[1] Section 1(B).

NextGen Public Safety Pilot Program grants

Grant recipients	Grant specifications	FY 2026 and FY 2027 grant amount and uses
Lucas County or Toledo, if both of the following apply: ▪ The Board of Lucas County Commissioners or the Toledo City Council has entered into a contract to fund a jurisdiction-wide license plate reader system; and ▪ The county or city is maintaining that system at the time of application.	The Board or City Council must agree, in the application, to do both of following: ▪ Maintain that system for at least five years after receiving a grant; and ▪ Increase the existing number of license plate readers and cameras in the jurisdiction by 25% within one year after receiving the last grant. If those targets are missed, the funds will be recouped through local government fund (LGF) reductions.	$500,000 each fiscal year remitted to the Lucas County Sheriff's Office or the Toledo Police Department to purchase additional license plate readers and any associated technology and infrastructure.[2]
Toledo[3]if it has invested in public safety drone technology.	Public safety drones and associated technology and infrastructure purchased through grant money must comply with applicable federal laws and regulations including the "American Security Drone Act of 2023," and any other applicable conditions of national defense spending.	$750,000 each fiscal year remitted to the Toledo Police Department to purchase additional public safety drones and any associated technology and infrastructure.[4]
Toledo if it has invested in a stationary surveillance camera system network in public areas.	The camera system network must have a command system and a network and command	$1.5 million each fiscal year remitted to the Toledo Police Department, which must use $750,000 each year for additional staff and

[2] Section 1(B)(1) and (2)(a) and Sections 2, 3, and 4.

[3] Section 1(A). The bill specifies that a "major metropolitan city" with a population of 100,000 or more according to the most recent decennial census that is located within Lucas County is eligible for this type of grant awarded under Section 1(B)(3), as well as the grants awarded under Sections 1(B)(4) and (C). Toledo is the only city in Lucas County with a population of 100,000 or more.

[4] Section 1(B)(3) and Sections 2, 3, and 4.

Grant recipients	Grant specifications	FY 2026 and FY 2027 grant amount and uses
	center as of the effective date of the bill.	infrastructure to upgrade the command center and the remaining amount for additional stationary surveillance cameras.[5]
Toledo if it enacts an ordinance requiring all commercial businesses within the city to install front-facing security cameras.	Those cameras must be in 4K resolution, have continuous video feed, and retain footage for at least 30 days.	One-time grant of $500,000. The city must use $400,000 to establish a grant program to reimburse gas stations with 50 or fewer employees and that are compliant with the ordinance for the purchase, installation, and maintenance of the cameras and $100,000 to market, promote, and encourage compliance with the ordinance.[6]

Appropriation

The bill appropriates $3.75 million in FY 2026 and $3.25 million in FY 2027 from the General Revenue Fund to DPS for purposes of awarding NextGen Public Safety Pilot Program grants.[7]

Reports

If Lucas County or Toledo receives a grant, the county or city must submit a report to DPS by January 1, 2028. The report must detail the number of violent and nonviolent crime cases reported in FYs 2025, 2026, and 2027, the closure rate of those cases, and the number of outstanding violent and nonviolent crime cases.

Additionally, the bill requires DPS to submit a report to the General Assembly and the Governor by January 1, 2032. The report must evaluate the program's success and determine the potential for expanded statewide legislation. It also must detail the effectiveness or lack of effectiveness of the program on reducing crime rates and increasing closure rates of crimes.[8]

[5] Section 1(B)(4) and Sections 2, 3, and 4.

[6] Section 1(C) and Sections 2, 3, and 4.

[7] Sections 3 and 4.

[8] Section 1(D) and (E).

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	04-13-26