
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 405

AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPAIRED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT AND DRUG RECOGNITION TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary to administer an impaired driving enforcement and drug recognition training program. Under the program, the secretary must provide grants to municipalities and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to fund or reimburse them for providing training to police officers who receive advanced roadside impaired driving enforcement (ARIDE) training or drug recognition expert (DRE) training (see BACKGROUND – *ARIDE and DRE Police Training*).

More specifically, the OPM secretary may provide grants to municipalities or DESPP to (1) reimburse costs for providing the training, so long as it occurred no earlier than July 1, 2026, or (2) pay for future trainings. Municipalities and DESPP may apply for a grant in a way the secretary sets.

Relatedly, the bill establishes a separate, non-lapsing impaired driving enforcement and drug recognition training account and requires the OPM secretary to use the account funds to administer the grant program. The account must contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in it, and starting in FY 27, the bill allocates 5% of the tax received on retail cannabis sales into the account. It correspondingly reduces, by 5%, the amount of tax revenue the social equity and innovation account receives under current law (from 65% to 60% in FYs 27 and 28 and from 75% to 70% starting in FY 29).

Lastly, the bill requires the OPM secretary to annually report, starting by January 1, 2028, on the grant program to the Public Safety and

Security Committee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

BACKGROUND

ARIDE and DRE Police Training

By law, a DRE is someone certified by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) as having met all requirements of the International Drug Evaluation and Classification Program. DREs conduct drug influence evaluations to enforce alcohol- and drug-impaired driving laws. ARIDE is a program developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with the IACP and the Technical Advisory Panel that focuses on impaired driving enforcement education for police officers.

Social Equity and Innovation Account

The social equity and innovation account's money must be allocated by the OPM secretary for purposes that the Social Equity Council determines further the principles of equity and may include providing (1) access to capital for businesses in any industry, (2) technical assistance for the start-up and operation of a business in any industry, (3) funding for workforce education in any industry, (4) funding community investments, and (5) funding investments in disproportionately impacted areas.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 29 Nay 0 (03/17/2026)