

HOUSE BILL NO. 4797

August 21, 2025, Introduced by Reps. Morgan, Myers-Phillips, Hoskins, Breen, McFall, Byrnes, Glanville, Mentzer, Steckloff, Arbit, Price, Skaggs, MacDonell, Paiz, Dievendorf, Foreman, Wilson, B. Carter and Conlin and referred to Committee on Appropriations.

A bill to provide for a grant program for certain public broadcast stations; to create the public media fund and provide for the distribution of money from the public media fund; to make appropriations for the grant program; and to provide for the powers and duties of certain state governmental officers and entities.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act may be cited as the "securing access to
2 vibrant, enlightening education and local media outlets act".

3 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Department" means the department of education.

1 (b) "Director" means the director of the department or the
2 director's designee.

3 (c) "Fund" means the public media fund created in section 4.

4 (d) "Grant program" means the grant program described in
5 section 4.

6 (e) "Public broadcast station" means that term as defined in
7 47 USC 397.

8 Sec. 4. (1) The director shall operate a grant program to
9 provide money to public broadcast stations. To apply for a grant, a
10 public broadcast station must submit an application to the
11 department, on a form and in a manner as prescribed by the
12 director, that includes all of the following:

13 (a) A description of the public broadcast station's mission
14 and programming content and the educational, cultural, civic, or
15 locally responsive services that the public broadcast station
16 provides to residents of this state.

17 (b) Documentation that demonstrates that the public broadcast
18 station is based in this state and serves audiences of this state.

19 (c) Documentation that demonstrates the public broadcast
20 station's need for financial support, including, but not limited
21 to, any current or prior reduction in support from the federal
22 government, if applicable.

23 (d) The public broadcast station's proposed use of grant
24 funds, including, but not limited to, how the funding will maintain
25 or enhance access to public interest programming and services.

26 (e) Financial statements or budget summaries from the current
27 fiscal year and immediately preceding fiscal year, and a projected
28 operating plan for the immediately following fiscal year.

29 (2) Each year, the director shall accept applications during

1 the period that begins on January 2 and ends on March 15. The
2 director shall, not later than June 15 of each year, determine
3 whether a public broadcast station that submitted an application
4 during the acceptance period is eligible for a grant and issue a
5 letter of approval or denial to the public broadcast station. The
6 director shall use the following criteria in making a determination
7 under this subsection:

8 (a) The public broadcast station provides programming that
9 serves educational, cultural, civic, or informational needs of
10 communities in this state.

11 (b) The public broadcast station demonstrates a commitment to
12 broad public access, noncommercial operation, editorial
13 independence, and a mission aligned with public interest
14 broadcasting.

15 (c) The public broadcast station's proposed use of the grant
16 money is reasonably related to sustaining or expanding services
17 that meet public media needs, including, but not limited to,
18 programming, staffing, technical infrastructure, or advertising and
19 outreach.

20 (3) The director shall not approve a grant for more than
21 \$1,500,000.00.

22 Sec. 5. (1) The public media fund is created in the state
23 treasury.

24 (2) The state treasurer shall direct the investment of money
25 in the fund and credit interest and earnings from the investments
26 to the fund. Money in the fund at the close of the fiscal year does
27 not lapse to the general fund.

28 (3) The department is the administrator of the fund for audits
29 of the fund.

- 1 (4) The director shall expend money from the fund on
2 appropriation, only for 1 or more of the following purposes:
3 (a) To provide grants to public broadcast stations under the
4 grant program.
5 (b) To operate the grant program.
6 (5) For the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025,
7 \$13,000,000.00 is appropriated from the general fund to the fund.