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H.B. 328
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Brewer and Robb Blasdel

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SUMMARY

- Requires the Director of Children and Youth, with the assistance of the Director of Natural Resources, to establish and administer a one-time grant program that reimburses local governments up to 75% for the acquisition, development, or rehabilitation of outdoor spaces, parks, playgrounds, pools, splash pads, and recreation centers.
- Specifies the grant application requirements and awarding priorities.
- Appropriates \$10 million each for FYs 2026 and 2027 for the grant program.
- Appropriates \$250,000 each for FYs 2026 and 2027 to establish learning labs within local government subdivision recreation centers.
- Names the bill the Fit, Safe, and Strong Communities Act.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Fit, Safe, and Strong Communities Act

Grant program

The bill, named the Fit, Safe, and Strong Communities Act, requires the Department of Children and Youth (DCY) Director to establish and administer, with the assistance of the Director of Natural Resources, a one-time grant program that reimburses local government entities up to 75% for the acquisition, development, or rehabilitation of outdoor spaces, parks, playgrounds, pools, splash pads, and recreation centers.

A local government entity, including a township, village, city, county, park district, joint recreation district, and conservancy district, may apply to the DCY Director for the grant. The applicant must include the following in the application:

- Proof that the applicant holds the title to or has a nonrevocable lease of at least 15 years to the property listed for the grant;

- A plan that details the proposed development or rehabilitation of the property;
- A plan to partner with a nonprofit organization or community partner for the development of the property.

Local government entities applying for the grant must be given priority if they include either of the following in the application:

- A plan developed with a nonprofit organization or community partner that includes initiatives to create play area capacity within their communities, including how to create ongoing sustainability to support capacity-expanding initiatives and identify the needs it would address;
- A plan to develop a learning lab on the property.

Under the bill, a “learning lab” is a dedicated space within a facility designed for educational activities that focus on teaching new skills, promoting knowledge of health and wellness, or providing technology training in an accessible setting for engagement by all members of the community.¹

Appropriation

The bill appropriates the following from the General Revenue Fund for FYs 2026 and 2027:

- \$10 million each fiscal year to reimburse local government entities for the acquisition, development, or rehabilitation of outdoor spaces, parks, playgrounds, pools, splash pads, and recreation centers.
- \$250,000 each fiscal year to establish learning labs within local government subdivision recreation centers.²

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	06-03-25

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¹ Sections 1 and 4.

² Section 2.