

By: Springer

S.B. No. 43

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the provision of state aid to certain counties for  
3 increased costs incurred when officers employed by the Department  
4 of Public Safety are reassigned to another area of the state to  
5 secure the border.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

7 SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 130, Local Government  
8 Code, is amended by adding Section 130.911 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 130.911. STATE AID TO CERTAIN COUNTIES ADVERSELY  
10 AFFECTED BY REASSIGNMENT OF CERTAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FOR  
11 BORDER SECURITY. (a) This section applies only to a county that  
12 has a population of 100,000 or less.

13 (b) A county that during the county's fiscal year incurs  
14 increased costs associated with operating the county sheriff's  
15 office because officers employed by the Department of Public Safety  
16 who were assigned to perform law enforcement duties in the county  
17 were reassigned to locations outside the county to secure the  
18 international border of this state with the United Mexican States  
19 is entitled to an assistance payment from the state.

20 (c) The amount of the assistance payment to which a county  
21 is entitled is equal to the lesser of the following amounts:

22 (1) the amount equal to the increased costs described  
23 by Subsection (b) during the county fiscal year for which the  
24 payment is requested; or

1           (2) the amount equal to the product of:

2                   (A) the number of hours that officers employed by  
3 the Department of Public Safety would have spent performing law  
4 enforcement duties in the county during the county fiscal year for  
5 which the payment is requested if those officers had not been  
6 reassigned to locations outside the county for the purpose  
7 described by Subsection (b); and

8                   (B) the average hourly wage of a patrol officer  
9 employed by the Department of Public Safety during the county  
10 fiscal year for which the payment is requested.

11           (d) A county must submit an application to the comptroller  
12 not later than the 30th day after the last day of the county fiscal  
13 year for which the assistance payment is requested to receive a  
14 payment under this section. The application must be made on a form  
15 prescribed by the comptroller.

16           (e) The comptroller shall review each application to  
17 determine whether a county is entitled to an assistance payment  
18 under this section. If the comptroller determines that the county  
19 is entitled to the payment, the comptroller shall remit the payment  
20 from available funds to the county not later than the 30th day after  
21 the date the application for the payment is made. A county is  
22 entitled to only one assistance payment under this section for each  
23 county fiscal year.

24           (f) The Department of Public Safety shall provide to the  
25 commissioners court of a county or the comptroller any information  
26 requested by the commissioners court or the comptroller, including  
27 information described by Subsection (c)(2)(B).

1        (g) The comptroller shall adopt rules necessary to  
2 implement and administer this section.

3        SECTION 2. Section 130.911, Local Government Code, as added  
4 by this Act, applies only to a county fiscal year that begins on or  
5 after January 1, 2022.

6        SECTION 3. Not later than January 1, 2022, the comptroller  
7 of public accounts shall adopt rules as required by Section  
8 130.911(g), Local Government Code, as added by this Act.

9        SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
13 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the  
14 legislative session.