

By: Davis

H.B. No. 127

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to a grant program in the Parks and Wildlife Department for
3 outreach to certain underserved populations; making an
4 appropriation.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 13, Parks and Wildlife
7 Code, is amended by adding Section 13.024 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 13.024. GRANT PROGRAM FOR OUTREACH TO UNDERSERVED
9 POPULATIONS. (a) In this section:

10 (1) "Nonprofit partner" has the meaning assigned by
11 Section 11.201.

12 (2) "Underserved population" means any group of people
13 who are:

14 (A) low income, inner city, or rural as
15 determined by the last census;

16 (B) minority;

17 (C) youth, including youth at risk and youth with
18 a physical, developmental, or intellectual disability or mental
19 illness; or

20 (D) female.

21 (b) The department shall develop and administer a grant
22 program for outreach to underserved populations to provide money to
23 municipalities, counties, and nonprofit partners for use to
24 increase:

1 (1) access to and use of the department's parks,
2 recreational areas, cultural resource sites and areas, and open
3 space areas by underserved populations; and

4 (2) participation of underserved populations in the
5 outdoor, historical, cultural, and recreation safety activities of
6 the department.

7 (c) The department may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and
8 donations from any public or private source for the purposes of this
9 section.

10 (d) The department shall adopt rules as necessary to
11 administer the grant program established under this section,
12 including rules regarding:

13 (1) the form and content of an application for a grant;

14 (2) grant eligibility requirements; and

15 (3) permitted uses of grants.

16 SECTION 2. (a) The amount of \$180,000,000 is appropriated
17 from the general revenue fund to the Parks and Wildlife Department
18 for the state fiscal year beginning September 1, 2021, for the
19 purpose of funding the grant program for outreach to underserved
20 populations established under Section 13.024, Parks and Wildlife
21 Code, as added by this Act.

22 (b) The unexpended balance of the money appropriated by
23 Subsection (a) of this section is appropriated for the same purpose
24 for the state fiscal year beginning September 1, 2022.

25 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
3 legislative session.