

By: Reynolds

H.B. No. 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to peace officers and law enforcement agencies.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 180, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 180.008 to read as follows:

Sec. 180.008. REQUIRED PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR CERTAIN PEACE OFFICERS. (a) A law enforcement agency of a municipality or county shall adopt a policy requiring a peace officer to participate in at least eight hours of community events in the municipality or county not later than the 60th day after the date the peace officer begins employment with the agency.

(b) The law enforcement agency may grant extensions of the period described by Subsection (a) based on reasonable grounds.

SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Sections 1701.165 and 1701.166 to read as follows:

Sec. 1701.165. GRANT PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN AGENCIES. (a) The commission shall establish and administer a grant program through which eligible municipalities and counties may apply for a grant to provide increased compensation to peace officers employed by the law enforcement agency of the municipality or county based on criteria described by Subsection (b) and any additional criteria the commission adopts by rule.

(b) In awarding grants under the grant program, the

1 commission shall consider the extent to which the peace officers  
2 employed by the law enforcement agency of the applicant  
3 municipality or county:

4 (1) hold bachelor's degrees or higher from an  
5 institution of higher education or private or independent  
6 institution of higher education, as those terms are defined by  
7 Section 61.003, Education Code;

8 (2) reside in the applicable municipality or county;  
9 and

10 (3) have received certificates of distinction under  
11 Section 1701.4025.

12 (c) The commission may establish:

13 (1) additional eligibility criteria for grant  
14 applicants;

15 (2) grant application procedures;

16 (3) guidelines relating to grant amounts;

17 (4) procedures for evaluating grant applications; and

18 (5) procedures for monitoring the use of a grant  
19 awarded under the program and ensuring compliance with any  
20 conditions of a grant.

21 (d) The commission may use any revenue available for  
22 purposes of this section.

23 Sec. 1701.166. ANNUAL EVALUATION OF CERTAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT  
24 AGENCIES. (a) The commission shall annually evaluate each law  
25 enforcement agency of a municipality or county for professionalism  
26 based on criteria described by Subsection (b) and any additional  
27 criteria the commission adopts by rule.

1        (b) In conducting an evaluation of a law enforcement agency  
2 under Subsection (a), the commission shall consider whether:

3            (1) at least half of the peace officers of the agency  
4 reside in the applicable municipality or county;

5            (2) the peace officers of the agency in supervisory  
6 positions hold bachelor's degrees or higher from an institution of  
7 higher education or private or independent institution of higher  
8 education, as those terms are defined by Section 61.003, Education  
9 Code;

10           (3) the peace officers of the agency each perform 30 or  
11 more hours of community service annually;

12           (4) the agency has a citizens academy or youth  
13 enrichment program; and

14           (5) the peace officers of the agency are certified as  
15 special officers for offenders with mental impairments under  
16 Section 1701.404.

17        (c) The commission shall make available on the commission's  
18 Internet website the results of the evaluations.

19        (d) The commission may establish and administer a grant  
20 program and use any revenue available for purposes of this  
21 subsection to award grants to agencies that receive positive  
22 evaluations. The commission may adopt rules to administer the  
23 grant program.

24        SECTION 3. Section 1701.253, Occupations Code, is amended  
25 by adding Subsection (q) to read as follows:

26        (q) As part of the minimum curriculum requirements, the  
27 commission shall require an officer to complete a training program

1 on implicit bias that consists of not less than eight hours of  
2 training.

3 SECTION 4. Section 1701.351, Occupations Code, is amended  
4 by adding Subsection (a-2) to read as follows:

5 (a-2) As part of the continuing education programs under  
6 Subsection (a), a peace officer must complete a training and  
7 education program developed by the commission that includes not  
8 less than:

9 (1) four hours of training on implicit bias; and

10 (2) eight hours of training on de-escalation and  
11 crisis intervention techniques.

12 SECTION 5. Subchapter I, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, is  
13 amended by adding Section 1701.4025 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 1701.4025. CERTIFICATE OF DISTINCTION FOR CERTAIN  
15 ACHIEVEMENTS. (a) The commission shall issue a certificate of  
16 distinction to an officer who:

17 (1) performs more than 40 hours of community service  
18 during a continuing education training period described by Section  
19 1701.351(a);

20 (2) completes more than 50 hours of continuing  
21 education programs approved by the commission during a continuing  
22 education training period described by Section 1701.351(a); or

23 (3) provides more than 25 hours of instruction in  
24 continuing education programs approved by the commission in a  
25 calendar year.

26 (b) The commission shall adopt rules for the administration  
27 of this section, including rules for reporting community service

1 hours and hours providing instruction in continuing education  
2 programs.

3 (c) The commission may use the employment records of an  
4 employing law enforcement agency in determining whether an officer  
5 qualifies for a certificate of distinction.

6 SECTION 6. Section 180.008, Local Government Code, as added  
7 by this Act, applies only to a peace officer first employed on or  
8 after the effective date of this Act.

9 SECTION 7. Not later than September 1, 2022, the Texas  
10 Commission on Law Enforcement shall:

11 (1) begin conducting evaluations under Section  
12 1701.166, Occupations Code, as added by this Act; and

13 (2) adopt rules necessary to implement that section.

14 SECTION 8. Section 1701.253(q), Occupations Code, as added  
15 by this Act, applies only to a person who submits an application for  
16 a peace officer license under Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, on or  
17 after January 1, 2022. A person who submits an application for a  
18 peace officer license under Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, before  
19 January 1, 2022, is governed by the law in effect immediately before  
20 the effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in  
21 effect for that purpose.

22 SECTION 9. Not later than January 1, 2022, the Texas  
23 Commission on Law Enforcement shall develop the training and  
24 education program required by and adopt rules necessary to  
25 implement Section 1701.351(a-2), Occupations Code, as added by this  
26 Act.

27 SECTION 10. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.