

By: Burrows

H.B. No. 892

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a law enforcement agency accreditation grant program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 772, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 772.0079 to read as follows:

Sec. 772.0079. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY ACCREDITATION GRANT PROGRAM. (a) In this section, "criminal justice division" means the criminal justice division established under Section 772.006.

(b) This section applies only to a law enforcement agency employing one or more peace officers described by Article 2.12(1), (2), (3), (4), or (8), Code of Criminal Procedure.

(c) The criminal justice division shall establish and administer a grant program to provide to each law enforcement agency to which this section applies financial assistance for purposes of becoming accredited or maintaining accreditation:

(1) through the Texas Police Chiefs Association Law Enforcement Agency Best Practices Accreditation Program;

(2) by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.;

(3) by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators; or

(4) by an association or organization designated by the criminal justice division under Subsection (h).

(d) The amount of a grant awarded under this section may not

1 exceed \$50,000.

2 (e) The criminal justice division shall establish:

3 (1) eligibility criteria for grant applicants;

4 (2) grant application procedures;

5 (3) guidelines relating to grant amounts;

6 (4) procedures for evaluating grant applications;

7 (5) procedures for monitoring the use of a grant
8 awarded under the program and ensuring compliance with any
9 conditions of a grant; and

10 (6) procedures for revoking a grant awarded under the
11 program if the law enforcement agency:

12 (A) is not accredited within the period specified
13 by the rules adopted under Subsection (i); or

14 (B) does not renew or otherwise maintain the
15 agency's accreditation.

16 (f) Not later than December 1 of each year, the criminal
17 justice division shall submit to the Legislative Budget Board a
18 report that provides the following information for the preceding
19 state fiscal year:

20 (1) the name of each law enforcement agency that
21 applied for a grant under this section; and

22 (2) the amount of money distributed to each law
23 enforcement agency that received a grant under this section.

24 (g) The criminal justice division may use any revenue
25 available for purposes of this section.

26 (h) The criminal justice division, with the assistance of
27 the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, shall periodically review

1 associations and organizations that establish standards of
2 practice for law enforcement agencies and that offer accreditation
3 to agencies that meet those standards. On a determination by the
4 criminal justice division that accreditation of law enforcement
5 agencies in this state by an association or organization would
6 benefit public safety, the commission may designate the association
7 or organization as an accrediting agency for purposes of Subsection
8 (c)(4).

9 (i) The criminal justice division shall adopt rules
10 requiring each law enforcement agency to which this section applies
11 to become accredited as described by Subsection (c). The rules must
12 require law enforcement agencies to become accredited as follows:

13 (1) not later than September 1, 2026, for law
14 enforcement agencies employing 50 or more peace officers; and

15 (2) not later than September 1, 2027, for law
16 enforcement agencies employing fewer than 50 peace officers.

17 (j) The criminal justice division shall implement a program
18 to assist eligible applicants in becoming accredited as required by
19 the rules adopted under Subsection (i).

20 (k) A law enforcement agency that receives a grant awarded
21 under the program annually shall report the agency's accreditation
22 status, including the applicable accrediting agency described by
23 Subsection (c)(1), (2), (3), or (4), to the Texas Commission on Law
24 Enforcement.

25 (l) The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement shall post on
26 the commission's Internet website a list of all law enforcement
27 agencies that are currently accredited as described by Subsection

1 (c).

2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.