

By: Walle

H.B. No. 4318

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a grant program for crime victim notification systems.

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. GRANT PROGRAM FOR CRIME VICTIM NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Criminal justice division" means the criminal justice division established under Section 772.006.

(2) "Law enforcement agency" means an agency of the state or an agency of a political subdivision of the state authorized by law to employ peace officers.

(3) "Victim" means a person who has suffered personal injury or death as a result of the criminal conduct of another.

(b) The criminal justice division shall establish and administer a grant program to provide financial assistance to a law enforcement agency for purposes of purchasing or developing a crime victim notification system.

(c) The criminal justice division shall establish:

(1) eligibility criteria for grant applicants;  
(2) grant application procedures;  
(3) criteria for evaluating grant applications and awarding grants;

(4) guidelines related to grant amounts; and

1           (5) procedures for monitoring the use of a grant  
2 awarded under this section and ensuring compliance with any  
3 conditions of the grant.

4           (d) A crime victim notification system for which a law  
5 enforcement agency seeks a grant under this section must:

6           (1) automatically, and without the requirement to  
7 download a software application to opt in to notifications, notify  
8 a victim or relative of a deceased victim by e-mail or text message  
9 of all of the following regarding a victim's case:

10                   (A) the date on which the incident report is  
11 created;

12                   (B) the case number;

13                   (C) the name of investigators who are assigned to  
14 the case;

15                   (D) the date:

16                           (i) an arrest is made;

17                           (ii) an affidavit alleging probable cause  
18 is presented to the attorney representing the state; and

19                           (iii) the defendant is arraigned under  
20 Chapter 26, Code of Criminal Procedure;

21                   (E) updates regarding biological evidence as  
22 defined by Article 38.43, Code of Criminal Procedure, including the  
23 results of a sexual assault examination kit, as applicable;

24                   (F) whether the case has been dismissed by the  
25 attorney representing the state; and

26                   (G) any other information relevant to the case;

27           (2) interface with the law enforcement agency's system

1 of records;

2 (3) provide configurable triggers to directly send  
3 messages;

4 (4) provide the capability:

5 (A) to attach informational brochures or other  
6 electronic attachments to the messages;

7 (B) for a person to check the case status;

8 (C) to transmit notifications in English or  
9 Spanish; and

10 (D) to respond to questions via artificial  
11 intelligence;

12 (5) monitor the number and types of messages sent and  
13 enable a user to visualize that data; and

14 (6) provide a survey tool so the law enforcement  
15 agency can solicit feedback on victims services.

16 (e) Information in the crime victim notification system is  
17 confidential and not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552.

18 (f) The criminal justice division may use any available  
19 revenue for purposes of this section.

20 (g) As a condition of receiving a grant under this section,  
21 a law enforcement agency shall annually report to the criminal  
22 justice division the number and types of notifications sent using  
23 the crime victim notification system.

24 (h) Not later than December 1 of each year, the criminal  
25 justice division shall compile the information described by  
26 Subsection (g) into a written report provided to the legislature.

27 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.