

By: Springer, et al.

S.B. No. 22

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the establishment of grant programs to provide  
3 financial assistance to qualified sheriff's departments, district  
4 attorney's offices, and county attorney's offices in rural  
5 counties.

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 Sections 130.911 and 130.912 to read as  
9 follows:

10 Sec. 130.911. RURAL SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT SALARY ASSISTANCE  
11 GRANT PROGRAM. (a) In this section:

12 (1) "Grant" means a grant authorized to be awarded by  
13 the comptroller under the rural sheriff's department salary  
14 assistance grant program established by this section.

15 (2) "Qualified county" means a county with a  
16 population of 300,000 or less.

17 (b) The comptroller shall establish and administer the  
18 rural sheriff's department salary assistance grant program to  
19 support the state purpose of ensuring professional law enforcement  
20 throughout the state by providing financial assistance to sheriff's  
21 departments in qualified counties.

22 (c) Not later than the 30th day after the first day of a  
23 qualified county's fiscal year, the county may submit an  
24 application for a grant to the comptroller. A county may submit only

1 one application each fiscal year.

2 (d) The comptroller shall award a grant to a qualified  
3 county that applies for the grant using money appropriated to the  
4 comptroller for that purpose. The grant must be in the following  
5 applicable amount:

6 (1) \$250,000 if the county has a population of less  
7 than 10,000;

8 (2) \$350,000 if the county has a population of 10,000  
9 or more and less than 50,000; or

10 (3) \$500,000 if the county has a population of 50,000  
11 or more and 300,000 or less.

12 (e) A county that is awarded a grant shall use or authorize  
13 the use of the grant money only:

14 (1) to provide a minimum annual salary of at least:

15 (A) \$75,000 for the county sheriff;

16 (B) \$45,000 for each deputy who makes motor  
17 vehicle stops in the routine performance of their duties; and

18 (C) \$40,000 for each deputy whose duties include  
19 the safekeeping of prisoners and the security of a jail operated by  
20 the county;

21 (2) to increase the salary of a person described by  
22 Subdivision (1);

23 (3) to hire additional deputies or staff for the  
24 sheriff's department; or

25 (4) to purchase equipment for the sheriff's  
26 department.

27 (f) A county that is awarded a grant may not use or authorize

1 the use of the grant money for a purpose other than to meet the  
2 minimum salary requirements prescribed by Subsection (e)(1) until  
3 those requirements are satisfied.

4 (g) A county that is awarded a grant may not reduce the  
5 sheriff's department budget for the county's fiscal year following  
6 the fiscal year in which the comptroller awards the grant.

7 (h) The comptroller shall adopt rules necessary to  
8 implement this section, including rules that establish:

9 (1) a standardized application process, including the  
10 form to be used to apply for a grant and the manner of submitting the  
11 form;

12 (2) deadlines for:

13 (A) applying for the grant;

14 (B) disbursement of grant money; and

15 (C) spending grant money; and

16 (3) procedures for:

17 (A) monitoring the disbursement of grant money to  
18 ensure compliance with this section; and

19 (B) the return of grant money that was not used by  
20 a county for a purpose authorized by this section.

21 Sec. 130.912. RURAL DISTRICT AND COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
22 SALARY ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM. (a) In this section:

23 (1) "Grant" means a grant authorized to be awarded by  
24 the comptroller under the rural district and county attorney's  
25 office salary assistance grant program established by this section.

26 (2) "Qualified county" means a county with a  
27 population of 300,000 or less that has a district or county

1 attorney's office with criminal jurisdiction.

2 (b) The comptroller shall establish and administer the  
3 rural district and county attorney's office salary assistance grant  
4 program to support the state purpose of ensuring professional legal  
5 representation of the people's interests throughout the state by  
6 providing financial assistance to district and county attorney's  
7 offices in qualified counties.

8 (c) Not later than the 30th day after the first day of a  
9 qualified county's fiscal year, the county may submit an  
10 application for a grant to the comptroller. A county may submit only  
11 one application each fiscal year.

12 (d) The comptroller shall award a grant to a qualified  
13 county that applies for the grant using money appropriated to the  
14 comptroller for that purpose. The grant must be in the following  
15 applicable amount:

16 (1) \$100,000 if the county has a population of less  
17 than 10,000;

18 (2) \$175,000 if the county has a population of 10,000  
19 or more and less than 50,000; or

20 (3) \$275,000 if the county has a population of 50,000  
21 or more and 300,000 or less.

22 (e) A county that is awarded a grant shall use or authorize  
23 the use of the grant money only:

24 (1) to increase the salary of an assistant attorney or  
25 investigator employed at a district or county attorney's office  
26 described by Subsection (a)(2); or

27 (2) to hire additional staff for an office described

1 by that subsection.

2 (f) A county that is awarded a grant may not reduce the  
3 budget of a district or county attorney's office described by  
4 Subsection (a)(2) for the county's fiscal year following the fiscal  
5 year in which the comptroller awards the grant.

6 (g) The comptroller shall adopt rules necessary to  
7 implement this section, including rules that establish:

8 (1) a standardized application process, including the  
9 form to be used to apply for a grant and the manner of submitting the  
10 form;

11 (2) deadlines for:

12 (A) applying for the grant;

13 (B) disbursement of grant money; and

14 (C) spending grant money; and

15 (3) procedures for:

16 (A) monitoring the disbursement of grant money to  
17 ensure compliance with this section; and

18 (B) the return of grant money that was not used by  
19 a county for a purpose authorized by this section.

20 SECTION 2. A qualified county, as defined by Section  
21 130.911 or 130.912, Local Government Code, as added by this Act, may  
22 not apply for a rural sheriff's department salary assistance grant  
23 or a rural district and county attorney's office salary assistance  
24 grant before January 1, 2024.

25 SECTION 3. Not later than January 1, 2024, the comptroller  
26 of public accounts shall comply with the requirements of Sections  
27 130.911 and 130.912, Local Government Code, as added by this Act.

1 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.