

By: Williams

S.B. No. 731

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to initial training and continuing education requirements for a constable.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 96, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 96.642 to read as follows:

Sec. 96.642. INITIAL TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR CONSTABLES. (a) The Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas shall establish and offer a program of initial training and a program of continuing education for constables. The curriculum for each program must relate to law enforcement management and civil process issues. The institute shall develop the curriculum for the programs. The curriculum must be approved by the Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education.

(b) Each constable must complete at least 40 hours of continuing education provided by the institute under this section each 48-month period.

(c) An individual appointed or elected to that individual's first position as constable must complete at least 40 hours of initial training for new constables in accordance with Subsections (d) and (e).

(d) A newly appointed or elected constable shall complete the initial training program for new constables not later than the second anniversary of that individual's appointment or election as

1 constable. The initial training program for new constables is in
2 addition to the training required by Chapter 1701, Occupations
3 Code. The first 48-month period under Subsection (b) begins, for an
4 individual who completes the initial training program for new
5 constables under this section, on the first anniversary of the date
6 the individual completed the initial training program.

7 (e) The institute by rule may provide for the waiver of:

8 (1) all or part of the required 40 hours of initial
9 training for new constables to the extent the new constable has
10 satisfactorily completed equivalent training during the 24 months
11 preceding the individual's appointment or election; or

12 (2) the continuing education requirements of
13 Subsection (b) for an individual who has satisfactorily completed
14 equivalent continuing education during the preceding 24 months.

15 (f) An individual who successfully completes the continuing
16 education requirements of Subsection (b) is exempt from any
17 continuing education the individual is required to complete in a
18 24-month period under Subchapter H, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code,
19 only if the individual completes the requirements of Subsection (b)
20 during that 24-month period. An individual who is exempt under this
21 subsection from required continuing education under Subchapter H,
22 Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, during a 24-month period, is not
23 exempt from any continuing education the individual is required to
24 complete under that subchapter in the subsequent 24-month period.

25 SECTION 2. (a) Not later than January 1, 2006, the Bill
26 Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas shall
27 establish the initial training and continuing education programs

1 required by Section 96.642, Education Code, as added by this Act.

2 (b) Section 96.642(c), Education Code, as added by this Act,
3 requiring newly appointed or elected constables to complete at
4 least 40 hours of initial training, applies only to an individual
5 newly appointed or elected as constable who takes office on or after
6 January 1, 2006.

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.