

By: Ellis

S.B. No. 339

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to entrance examination procedures for certain police officers under municipal civil service.

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

SECTION 1. Section 143.025, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (k) to read as follows:

(k) This section does not apply to a police department located in a municipality with a population of 1.5 million or more.

SECTION 2. Subchapter G, Chapter 143, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 143.1041 to read as follows:

Sec. 143.1041. ENTRANCE EXAMINATION FOR BEGINNING PEACE OFFICER POSITION IN POLICE DEPARTMENT. (a) In this section, "police officer training academy" means a police officer training academy operated or sponsored by a municipality to which this section applies.

(b) The commission shall provide for open, competitive, and free entrance examinations to provide eligibility lists for beginning peace officer positions in the police department. The examinations are open to each person who:

(1) makes a proper application;

(2) has been admitted to or is enrolled in a police officer training academy as an academy trainee; and

(3) meets the requirements prescribed by this chapter.

(c) The entrance examination may be administered to

1 examinees only after the examinees are admitted to a police officer
2 training academy and before the examinees graduate from the
3 academy.

4 (d) An eligibility list for a beginning peace officer
5 position in the police department may be created only as a result of
6 the examination. Except as provided by Subsection (f), the
7 examination must be held in the presence of each examinee. The
8 examination must be based on the examinee's general knowledge and
9 aptitude and must inquire into the examinee's general education and
10 mental ability. A person may not be appointed to the police
11 department except as a result of the examination.

12 (e) An examinee may not take an examination unless at least
13 one other examinee taking the examination is present.

14 (f) An entrance examination for beginning peace officer
15 positions in the police department must be held at one or more
16 locations in the municipality in which the police department is
17 located and may be held at additional locations outside the
18 municipality. An examination held at multiple locations must be
19 administered on the same day and at the same time at each location
20 at which it is given. To create one eligibility list, each member
21 of a police officer training academy class shall take the
22 examination at the same time and each examinee who takes that
23 examination shall:

24 (1) take the same examination; and

25 (2) be examined in the presence of other examinees.

26 (g) An additional five points shall be added to the
27 examination grade of an examinee who:

1 (1) served in the United States armed forces;

2 (2) received an honorable discharge from that service;

3 and

4 (3) made a passing grade on the examination.

5 (h) The grade to be placed on the eligibility list for each
6 examinee shall be computed by adding an examinee's points under
7 Subsection (g), if any, to the examinee's grade on the written
8 examination. Each examinee's grade on the written examination is
9 based on a maximum grade of 100 percent and is determined entirely
10 by the correctness of the examinee's answers to the questions. The
11 minimum passing grade on the examination is 70 percent. An examinee
12 must pass the examination to be placed on an eligibility list.

13 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
14 an examination administered for a position as a beginning peace
15 officer on or after the effective date of this Act. An examination
16 administered before the effective date of this Act and matters
17 dependent on the examination are governed by the law in effect at
18 the time the examination was administered, and the prior law is
19 continued in effect for this purpose.

20 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.