

1-1 By: Ellis S.B. No. 339  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 26, 2007; February 14, 2007,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Intergovernmental  
1-4 Relations; February 28, 2007, reported favorably by the following  
1-5 vote: Yeas 3, Nays 0; February 28, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to entrance examination procedures for certain police  
1-9 officers under municipal civil service.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Section 143.025, Local Government Code, is  
1-12 amended by adding Subsection (k) to read as follows:

1-13 (k) This section does not apply to a police department  
1-14 located in a municipality with a population of 1.5 million or more.

1-15 SECTION 2. Subchapter G, Chapter 143, Local Government  
1-16 Code, is amended by adding Section 143.1041 to read as follows:

1-17 Sec. 143.1041. ENTRANCE EXAMINATION FOR BEGINNING PEACE  
1-18 OFFICER POSITION IN POLICE DEPARTMENT. (a) In this section,  
1-19 "police officer training academy" means a police officer training  
1-20 academy operated or sponsored by a municipality to which this  
1-21 section applies.

1-22 (b) The commission shall provide for open, competitive, and  
1-23 free entrance examinations to provide eligibility lists for  
1-24 beginning peace officer positions in the police department. The  
1-25 examinations are open to each person who:

1-26 (1) makes a proper application;

1-27 (2) has been admitted to or is enrolled in a police  
1-28 officer training academy as an academy trainee; and

1-29 (3) meets the requirements prescribed by this chapter.

1-30 (c) The entrance examination may be administered to  
1-31 examinees only after the examinees are admitted to a police officer  
1-32 training academy and before the examinees graduate from the  
1-33 academy.

1-34 (d) An eligibility list for a beginning peace officer  
1-35 position in the police department may be created only as a result of  
1-36 the examination. Except as provided by Subsection (f), the  
1-37 examination must be held in the presence of each examinee. The  
1-38 examination must be based on the examinee's general knowledge and  
1-39 aptitude and must inquire into the examinee's general education and  
1-40 mental ability. A person may not be appointed to the police  
1-41 department except as a result of the examination.

1-42 (e) An examinee may not take an examination unless at least  
1-43 one other examinee taking the examination is present.

1-44 (f) An entrance examination for beginning peace officer  
1-45 positions in the police department must be held at one or more  
1-46 locations in the municipality in which the police department is  
1-47 located and may be held at additional locations outside the  
1-48 municipality. An examination held at multiple locations must be  
1-49 administered on the same day and at the same time at each location  
1-50 at which it is given. To create one eligibility list, each member  
1-51 of a police officer training academy class shall take the  
1-52 examination at the same time and each examinee who takes that  
1-53 examination shall:

1-54 (1) take the same examination; and

1-55 (2) be examined in the presence of other examinees.

1-56 (g) An additional five points shall be added to the  
1-57 examination grade of an examinee who:

1-58 (1) served in the United States armed forces;

1-59 (2) received an honorable discharge from that service;

1-60 and

1-61 (3) made a passing grade on the examination.

1-62 (h) The grade to be placed on the eligibility list for each  
1-63 examinee shall be computed by adding an examinee's points under  
1-64 Subsection (g), if any, to the examinee's grade on the written

2-1 examination. Each examinee's grade on the written examination is  
2-2 based on a maximum grade of 100 percent and is determined entirely  
2-3 by the correctness of the examinee's answers to the questions. The  
2-4 minimum passing grade on the examination is 70 percent. An examinee  
2-5 must pass the examination to be placed on an eligibility list.

2-6 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
2-7 an examination administered for a position as a beginning peace  
2-8 officer on or after the effective date of this Act. An examination  
2-9 administered before the effective date of this Act and matters  
2-10 dependent on the examination are governed by the law in effect at  
2-11 the time the examination was administered, and the prior law is  
2-12 continued in effect for this purpose.

2-13 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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