

By: Duncan

S.B. No. 496

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of the judicial and court personnel training fund.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 56.003(a) and (f), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) Unless the legislature specifically appropriates or provides additional money for purposes of this subsection, the [The] court of criminal appeals may not use more than three percent of the money appropriated in any one fiscal year to hire staff and provide for the proper administration of this chapter.

(f) The court of criminal appeals shall grant legal funds to law enforcement officers, law students, and other participants, and to statewide professional associations of prosecuting attorneys, criminal defense attorneys who regularly represent indigent defendants in criminal matters, and justices of the peace, and other entities. The association's or entity's purposes must include providing continuing legal education, technical assistance, and other support programs.

SECTION 2. Section 56.004(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The legislature shall appropriate funds from the judicial and court personnel training fund to the court of criminal appeals to provide for continuing legal education, technical

1 assistance, and other support programs for prosecuting attorneys
2 and their personnel, criminal defense attorneys who regularly
3 represent indigent defendants in criminal matters, ~~and~~ justices
4 of the peace and their court personnel, law enforcement officers,
5 law students, and other participants.

6 SECTION 3. Sections 56.006(a) and (b), Government Code, are
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (a) The court of criminal appeals may adopt rules for
9 programs relating to education and training for attorneys, judges,
10 justices of the peace, district clerks, county clerks, law
11 enforcement officers, law students, other participants, and court
12 personnel, including court coordinators, as provided by Section
13 56.003 and for the administration of those programs, including
14 rules that:

15 (1) require entities receiving a grant of funds to
16 provide legislatively required training; and

17 (2) base the awarding of grant funds to an entity on
18 qualitative information about the entity's programs or services and
19 the entity's ability to meet financial performance standards.

20 (b) The court of criminal appeals, for the proper
21 administration of this chapter and as part of its oversight of
22 training programs for attorneys, judges, justices of the peace,
23 district clerks, county clerks, law enforcement officers, law
24 students, other participants, and court personnel, including court
25 coordinators, as provided by Section 56.003, shall monitor both the
26 financial performance and the program performance of entities
27 receiving a grant of funds under this chapter.

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