

By: Hegar

S.B. No. 503

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to funding for the continuing education of certain peace officers.

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

SECTION 1. Section 772.006, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) The criminal justice division shall administer a grant program under which grants are awarded to support local law enforcement agencies in this state in providing for the continuing education of persons licensed under Chapter 1701, Occupations Code.

Amounts awarded under this subsection:

(1) must be based on need, as determined by the criminal justice division; and

(2) are in addition to amounts reimbursed under Section 1701.157, Occupations Code.

SECTION 2. Sections 1701.157(a) and (b), Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) Not later than March 1 of each calendar year, the comptroller shall allocate money deposited during the preceding calendar year in the general revenue fund to the credit of the law enforcement officer standards and education fund account for expenses related to the continuing education of persons licensed under this chapter as follows:

(1) 20 percent of the money is allocated to ~~all~~ local

1 law enforcement agencies in this state that meet the eligibility
2 requirements described by Subsection (b) in equal shares; and

3 (2) 80 percent of the money is allocated to ~~[all]~~ local
4 law enforcement agencies in this state that meet the eligibility
5 requirements described by Subsection (b) in a share representing a
6 fixed amount for each position in the agency, as of January 1 of the
7 preceding calendar year, that is reserved to a person who:

8 (A) is licensed under this chapter;

9 (B) works as a peace officer on the average of at
10 least 32 hours a week; and

11 (C) is compensated by a political subdivision of
12 this state at least at the minimum wage and is entitled to all
13 employee benefits offered to a peace officer by the political
14 subdivision.

15 (b) To be eligible for an allocation of money under
16 Subsection (a), a ~~[Not later than November 1 of each calendar year,~~
17 ~~each]~~ local law enforcement agency must ~~[shall]~~ report to the
18 comptroller not later than November 1 of the preceding calendar
19 year:

20 (1) the number of agency positions described by
21 Subsection (a)(2) reserved as of January 1 of the calendar ~~[that]~~
22 year covered by the report;

23 (2) the number of agency positions described by
24 Subsection (a)(2) filled as of January 1 of the calendar year
25 covered by the report;

26 (3) the percentage of any money received by the agency
27 under Subsection (a) in the calendar year covered by the report used

1 by the agency during that year;

2 (4) the number of training hours received through the
3 use of any money received by the agency under Subsection (a) in the
4 calendar year covered by the report; and

5 (5) that the agency has complied with all applicable
6 laws regarding the use of any money received by the agency under
7 Subsection (a) in the calendar year covered by the report.

8 SECTION 3. (a) If funds are available for that purpose, the
9 criminal justice division of the governor's office shall award the
10 first grants under Section 772.006(d), Government Code, as added by
11 this Act, in the state fiscal year beginning September 1, 2007.

12 (b) The changes in law made by this Act to Section 1701.157,
13 Occupations Code, apply to allocations made on or after January 1,
14 2008, for expenses incurred by local law enforcement agencies
15 during calendar year 2007.

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