

By: Huffman

S.B. No. 1706

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a grant program to fund domestic violence high risk teams.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 402, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 402.038 to read as follows:

Sec. 402.038. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HIGH RISK TEAMS GRANT PROGRAM. (a) A domestic violence high risk team is a multidisciplinary team that coordinates efforts to increase the safety of victims of family violence, as that term is defined by Section 71.004, Family Code, by monitoring and containing perpetrators while providing victim services. The team may be composed of law enforcement officers, prosecutors, community supervision and corrections departments, victim advocates, nonprofit organizations that provide services or shelter to victims of family violence, and medical personnel. The team members work together to share information and communicate to provide the best possible responses to victims at high risk.

(b) Using money appropriated for the purpose, the attorney general may award grants to domestic violence high risk teams in communities in this state.

(c) The attorney general shall request proposals for the award of grants under this section. The attorney general shall evaluate the proposals and award grants based on the need for

1 domestic violence services in the community in which the team is
2 located and the effectiveness or potential effectiveness of the
3 team.

4 (c-1) In awarding grants under this section, the attorney
5 general shall prioritize a municipality with a population of more
6 than 1.18 million and located predominantly in a county that has a
7 total area of less than 1,000 square miles. This subsection expires
8 September 1, 2017.

9 (d) A grant recipient may use grant money received under
10 this section only to fund the activities of a domestic violence high
11 risk team in reducing or preventing incidents of domestic violence
12 and providing domestic violence services to victims.

13 (e) The attorney general shall establish procedures to
14 administer the grant program, including a procedure for the
15 submission of a proposal and a procedure to be used by the attorney
16 general in evaluating a proposal.

17 (f) To supplement any appropriations for the grant program,
18 the attorney general shall apply for any available federal grant
19 funds for the prevention of domestic violence.

20 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.