

By: Giddings

H.B. No. 2619

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2619:

By: Guerra

C.S.H.B. No. 2619

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a grant program administered by the governor's criminal
3 justice division to implement programs, practices, and services to
4 maintain peace officers' mental health.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 772, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 772.0073 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 772.0073. PEACE OFFICER MENTAL HEALTH GRANT PROGRAM.

9 (a) In this section:

10 (1) "Law enforcement agency" means an agency of the
11 state or an agency of a political subdivision of the state
12 authorized by law to employ peace officers.

13 (2) "Criminal justice division" means the criminal
14 justice division established under Section 772.006.

15 (b) The criminal justice division shall establish and
16 administer a grant program through which a law enforcement agency
17 may apply for a grant to implement programs, practices, and
18 services designed to address the direct or indirect emotional harm
19 suffered by peace officers employed by the law enforcement agency
20 in the course of the officers' duties or as the result of the
21 commission of crimes by other persons.

22 (c) Grant money awarded under this section may be used to
23 pay for:

24 (1) mental health counseling and other mental health

1 care;

2 (2) personnel costs incurred by the department as a
3 result of providing direct services and supporting activities under
4 an implemented program, practice, or service;

5 (3) skills training for department personnel related
6 to providing direct services under an implemented program,
7 practice, or service; and

8 (4) evaluation of an implemented program, practice, or
9 service to determine its effectiveness.

10 (d) Information obtained in the administration of a
11 program, practice, or service funded by a grant made under this
12 section is confidential and is not subject to disclosure under
13 Chapter 552.

14 (e) A law enforcement agency may not use against a peace
15 officer in a departmental proceeding any information obtained in
16 the administration of a program, practice, or service funded by a
17 grant made under this section.

18 (f) The criminal justice division shall establish:

19 (1) eligibility criteria for grant applicants;

20 (2) grant application procedures;

21 (3) guidelines relating to grant amounts;

22 (4) procedures for evaluating grant applications; and

23 (5) procedures for monitoring the use of a grant
24 awarded under the program and ensuring compliance with any
25 conditions of a grant.

26 (g) The criminal justice division shall evaluate and
27 compare the programs, practices, and services implemented by each

1 law enforcement agency that receives a grant under this section to
2 determine the most successful programs, practices, and services for
3 maintaining the mental health of peace officers.

4 (h) The criminal justice division may contract with a third
5 party to conduct the evaluations and comparison described by
6 Subsection (g).

7 (i) The criminal justice division shall include in the
8 biennial report required by Section 772.006(a)(9) a detailed
9 reporting of the results and performance of the grant program
10 administered under this section.

11 (j) The criminal justice division may use any available
12 funds to implement this section.

13 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.