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H.B. No. 4102

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishing and funding a grant program for testing evidence collected in relation to sexual assaults or other sex offenses; authorizing voluntary contributions.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 502, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 502.414 to read as follows:

Sec. 502.414. VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION FOR EVIDENCE TESTING GRANT PROGRAM. (a) When a person registers or renews the registration of a motor vehicle under this chapter, the person may contribute any amount to the evidence testing grant program established under Section 772.00715, Government Code.

(b) The department shall provide, in a conspicuous manner, an opportunity to contribute to the evidence testing grant program in any registration renewal system used by the department.

(c) If a person makes a contribution under this section and does not pay the full amount of a registration fee, the county assessor-collector may credit all or a portion of the contribution to the person's registration fee.

(d) The county assessor-collector shall send any contribution made under this section to the comptroller for deposit to the credit of the evidence testing account established under Section 772.00716, Government Code, at least once every three months. Before sending the money to the comptroller, the

1 department may deduct money equal to the amount of reasonable
2 expenses for administering this section.

3 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 772, Government Code, is
4 amended by adding Sections 772.00715 and 772.00716 to read as
5 follows:

6 Sec. 772.00715. EVIDENCE TESTING GRANT PROGRAM. (a) In
7 this section:

8 (1) "Accredited crime laboratory" has the meaning
9 assigned by Section 420.003.

10 (2) "Criminal justice division" means the criminal
11 justice division established under Section 772.006.

12 (3) "Grant program" means the evidence testing grant
13 program established under this section.

14 (4) "Law enforcement agency" means:

15 (A) the police department of a municipality;

16 (B) the sheriff's office of a county; or

17 (C) a constable's office of a county.

18 (b) The criminal justice division shall establish and
19 administer a grant program and shall disburse funds to assist law
20 enforcement agencies or counties in testing evidence collected in
21 relation to a sexual assault or other sex offense.

22 (c) Grant funds may be used only for the testing by an
23 accredited crime laboratory of evidence that was collected in
24 relation to a sexual assault or other sex offense.

25 (d) The criminal justice division:

26 (1) may establish additional eligibility criteria for
27 grant applicants; and

1 (2) shall establish:

2 (A) grant application procedures;

3 (B) guidelines relating to grant amounts; and

4 (C) criteria for evaluating grant applications.

5 (e) The criminal justice division shall include in the
6 biennial report required by Section 772.006(a)(9) detailed
7 reporting of the results and performance of the grant program.

8 (f) The criminal justice division may use any revenue
9 available to the division to fund the grant program.

10 Sec. 772.00716. EVIDENCE TESTING ACCOUNT. (a) The
11 evidence testing account is created as a dedicated account in the
12 general revenue fund of the state treasury.

13 (b) Money in the account may be appropriated only to the
14 criminal justice division established under Section 772.006 for
15 purposes of the evidence testing grant program established under
16 Section 772.00715.

17 (c) Funds distributed under Section 772.00715 are subject
18 to audit by the comptroller.

19 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.