

By: West, et al.

S.B. No. 12

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a grant program to assist law enforcement agencies with the purchase of bulletproof vests and body armor.

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

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

Sec. 772.0073. BULLETPROOF VEST AND BODY ARMOR GRANT PROGRAM. (a) In this section, "criminal justice division" means the criminal justice division established under Section 772.006.

(b) The criminal justice division shall establish and administer a grant program to provide financial assistance to a law enforcement agency in this state that seeks to equip its peace officers with bulletproof vests, ballistic plates, and plate carriers.

(c) A vest or plate purchased with a grant received under this section must comply with a National Institute of Justice standard for rifle protection.

(d) A law enforcement agency may apply for a grant under this section only if the agency first adopts a policy addressing the:

(1) deployment and allocation of vests or plates to its officers; and

(2) usage of vests or plates by its officers.

1 (e) A law enforcement agency receiving a grant under this
2 section must, as soon as practicable after receiving the grant,
3 provide to the criminal justice division proof of purchase of
4 bulletproof vests, ballistic plates, and plate carriers, including
5 the price of each item and the number of each type of item
6 purchased.

7 (f) Not later than December 1 of each year, the criminal
8 justice division shall submit to the Legislative Budget Board a
9 report that provides the following information for the preceding
10 state fiscal year:

11 (1) the name of each law enforcement agency that
12 applied for a grant under this section;

13 (2) the amount of money distributed to each law
14 enforcement agency that received a grant under this section; and

15 (3) as reported under Subsection (e), the number of
16 vests, plates, and carriers purchased by each agency described by
17 Subdivision (2).

18 (g) The criminal justice division may use any revenue
19 available for purposes of this section.

20 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.