By:  Creighton S.B. No. 2127

(In the Senate - Filed March 7, 2019; March 21, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs & Border Security; April 11, 2019, reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 4, Nays 3; April 11, 2019, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

               Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Campbell        X

Hall            X

Johnson             X

Lucio               X

Menéndez            X

Schwertner      X

Seliger         X

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 2127 By:  Campbell

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a border volunteer training program for peace officers employed by local law enforcement agencies.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter A, Chapter 411, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 411.02096 to read as follows:

Sec. 411.02096.  BORDER VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM; COMMISSION. (a) The department, in coordination with local law enforcement agencies, shall establish and administer a border volunteer training program for peace officers employed by local law enforcement agencies that will prepare the officers to:

(1)  collaborate and cooperate with and assist any law enforcement agency in the interdiction, investigation, and prosecution of criminal activity in the Texas-Mexico border region; and

(2)  collaborate and cooperate with and assist district attorneys, county attorneys, the border prosecution unit, and other prosecutors in the investigation and prosecution of allegations of criminal activity in the Texas-Mexico border region.

(b)  The training program under Subsection (a) must include:

(1)  information on criminal activity occurring along the Texas-Mexico border, including drug trafficking and trafficking of persons and other activity carried out by cartels, transnational gangs, and other groups engaged in organized criminal activity;

(2)  best practices for investigating and prosecuting the criminal activity described by Subdivision (1) and securing the Texas-Mexico border; and

(3)  an overview of the department's operations at the Texas-Mexico border, including any collaboration with the United States Customs and Border Protection.

(c)  If a peace officer described by Subsection (a) successfully completes the training program under this section and volunteers to assist the department and the United States Customs and Border Protection with securing the Texas-Mexico border, the department may:

(1)  commission the officer as an officer of the department; and

(2)  deploy the officer to assist the department and, as applicable, the United States Customs and Border Protection, in securing the Texas-Mexico border.

(d)  A commission under Subsection (c) expires as determined by the department. The department is not required to comply with Section 1701.303, Occupations Code, with respect to a peace officer commissioned under Subsection (c).

(e)  A volunteer peace officer deployed by the department under Subsection (c) is not entitled to compensation for the assistance provided.

SECTION 2.  Subchapter H, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 1701.359 to read as follows:

Sec. 1701.359.  BORDER VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM. The commission may:

(1)  recognize, or with the consent of the Department of Public Safety administer, the border volunteer training program established under Section 411.02096, Government Code, as a continuing education program for officers; and

(2)  credit an officer who successfully completes the program described by Subdivision (1) with the appropriate number of continuing education hours.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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