

By: Moody

H.B. No. 2953

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to a grant program to provide salary increases to  
3 full-time peace officers employed by certain local governments with  
4 limited tax bases.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 401, Government Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 401.106 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 401.106. GRANT PROGRAM FOR PEACE OFFICER PAY IN AREA  
9 WITH LIMITED TAX BASE. (a) In this section, "qualifying local  
10 government" means a county or municipality in which:

11 (1) the taxable value of property for ad valorem tax  
12 purposes is less than the amount established by rule under  
13 Subsection (b); and

14 (2) the average starting salary on September 1, 2019,  
15 for a peace officer employed full-time by the county or  
16 municipality is less than \$32,500 per year.

17 (b) The governor by rule shall establish a grant program to  
18 award grants to qualifying local governments to enhance public  
19 safety in this state by ensuring that the starting salaries of all  
20 peace officers employed by a qualifying local government is at  
21 least \$32,500 per year. The rules adopted under this subsection  
22 must:

23 (1) provide the maximum taxable value of property that  
24 may be located in a county or municipality in order for the county

1 or municipality to be considered a qualifying local government; and

2 (2) prescribe the manner by which:

3 (A) a qualifying local government applies for a  
4 grant; and

5 (B) grants will be allocated to applicants if the  
6 amount of grants for which qualifying local governments have  
7 applied exceeds the amount of money available for the grants.

8 (c) The governor shall award grants to qualifying local  
9 governments under this section from money appropriated to the  
10 governor for that purpose. The governor is not required to award a  
11 grant under this section during any period for which money is not  
12 appropriated for that purpose.

13 SECTION 2. (a) The comptroller of public accounts, using  
14 existing resources, shall conduct a study to determine the amount  
15 of money needed to fully fund the grant program under Section  
16 401.106, Government Code, as added by this Act, for the two-year  
17 period beginning September 1, 2021.

18 (b) Not later than January 1, 2021, the comptroller of  
19 public accounts shall submit a report on the study to the governor,  
20 the lieutenant governor, and each member of the legislature. The  
21 legislature may consider the report when making appropriations to  
22 the governor for the state fiscal biennium beginning September 1,  
23 2021.

24 (c) This section takes effect September 1, 2019.

25 SECTION 3. Except as otherwise provided by this Act, this  
26 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.