

By: Creighton

S.B. No. 2127

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 voluntary 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

1 activity;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.