

By: Holland

H.B. No. 208

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a border operations 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 OPERATIONS TRAINING PROGRAM. (a)

The department, in coordination with local law enforcement agencies, shall establish and administer a border operations 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:

(A) criminal activity occurring along the Texas-Mexico border, including drug trafficking and trafficking of persons and other activity carried out by cartels, transnational

1 gangs, and other groups engaged in organized criminal activity; and  
2 (B) methods for identifying northbound,  
3 southbound, and intrastate criminal activity associated with drug  
4 trafficking, trafficking of persons, and other organized criminal  
5 activity;

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

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

12 (c) The department shall identify opportunities for a peace  
13 officer described by Subsection (a) to assist in the department's  
14 duties related to border operations. The department may authorize  
15 the officer to assist in carrying out those duties.

16 (d) A peace officer authorized by the department to assist  
17 in carrying out duties related to the department's border  
18 operations as described by Subsection (c) is not entitled to  
19 compensation from the department for the assistance provided.

20 (e) The department may partner with federal agencies in  
21 administering the training program under Subsection (a) and  
22 facilitating any assistance provided by a peace officer under  
23 Subsection (c).

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

26 Sec. 1701.359. BORDER OPERATIONS TRAINING PROGRAM. The  
27 commission may:

1           (1) recognize, or with the consent of the Department  
2 of Public Safety administer or assist in administering, the border  
3 operations training program established under Section [411.02096](#),  
4 Government Code, as a continuing education program for officers;  
5 and

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

9           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.