

By: King of Parker, Guillen, White, Bowers,  
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H.B. No. 323

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a law enforcement agency accreditation grant program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 772, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 772.0077 to read as follows:

Sec. 772.0077. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY ACCREDITATION 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 for purposes of:

(1) obtaining or maintaining recognition through the Texas Police Chiefs Association Law Enforcement Agency Best Practices Recognition Program;

(2) becoming accredited or maintaining accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.; or

(3) becoming accredited or maintaining accreditation by an association or organization designated by the criminal justice division under Subsection (g).

(c) The amount of a grant awarded under this section may not exceed \$50,000.

(d) The criminal justice division shall establish:

(1) eligibility criteria for grant applicants;

- 1           (2) grant application procedures;  
2           (3) guidelines relating to grant amounts;  
3           (4) procedures for evaluating grant applications; and  
4           (5) procedures for monitoring the use of a grant  
5 awarded under the program and ensuring compliance with any  
6 conditions of a grant.

7           (e) 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; and

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

15           (f) The criminal justice division may use any revenue  
16 available for purposes of this section.

17           (g) The criminal justice division, with the assistance of  
18 the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, shall periodically review  
19 associations and organizations that establish standards of  
20 practice for law enforcement agencies and that offer accreditation  
21 to agencies that meet those standards. On a determination by the  
22 criminal justice division that accreditation of law enforcement  
23 agencies in this state by an association or organization would  
24 benefit public safety, the commission may designate the association  
25 or organization as an accrediting agency for purposes of Subsection  
26 (b)(3).

27           (h) Subject to Subsection (i), the criminal justice

1 division shall adopt rules requiring each law enforcement agency of  
2 a municipality to obtain recognition or become accredited as  
3 described by Subsection (b). The rules must require the law  
4 enforcement agencies to obtain recognition or become accredited not  
5 later than September 1, 2028, or, for an agency with 10 or fewer  
6 peace officers, not later than September 1, 2031. The criminal  
7 justice division shall implement a program to assist the law  
8 enforcement agencies in obtaining recognition or becoming  
9 accredited.

10 (i) The rules adopted under Subsection (h) must provide that  
11 the requirement to obtain recognition or become accredited is only  
12 in effect if the criminal justice division determines the grant  
13 program established under this section is sufficiently funded to  
14 provide a grant to each eligible applicant for purposes of  
15 satisfying the requirement.

16 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.