

By: King

S.B. No. 21

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to law enforcement agency accreditation, including a grant
3 program to assist agencies in becoming accredited; making an
4 appropriation.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 403, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 403.0303 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 403.0303. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY ACCREDITATION GRANT
9 PROGRAM. (a) In this section, "law enforcement agency" has the
10 meaning assigned by Section 1701.171, Occupations Code.

11 (b) The comptroller shall establish and administer a grant
12 program to provide financial assistance for purposes of becoming
13 accredited as required by the rules adopted under Section 1701.171,
14 Occupations Code, to each law enforcement agency that employs fewer
15 than 250 peace officers.

16 (c) To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a
17 law enforcement agency must have executed a contract with an
18 accrediting entity described by Section 1701.171(b), Occupations
19 Code, and complete an initial assessment by the accrediting entity.

20 (d) Based on the results of the initial assessment completed
21 under Subsection (c), a law enforcement agency may request grant
22 funds for reimbursement of an accreditation fee, staff overtime, or
23 temporary staffing necessary to become accredited.

24 (e) Grant money provided under this section may only be used

1 by a law enforcement agency for the purposes of becoming
2 accredited. A law enforcement agency may not receive more than one
3 grant under this section.

4 (f) The amount of a grant awarded under this section may not
5 exceed \$30,000.

6 (g) The comptroller shall establish:

7 (1) eligibility criteria for grant applicants;

8 (2) grant application procedures;

9 (3) guidelines relating to grant amounts;

10 (4) procedures for evaluating grant applications,
11 including prioritizing applications from law enforcement agencies
12 employing fewer than 100 peace officers;

13 (5) procedures for monitoring the use of a grant
14 awarded under the program and ensuring compliance with any
15 conditions of a grant; and

16 (6) procedures for revoking a grant awarded under the
17 program if the law enforcement agency is not accredited within the
18 period specified by the rules adopted under Section 1701.171,
19 Occupations Code.

20 (h) Not later than December 1 of each year, the comptroller
21 shall submit to the Legislative Budget Board a report that provides
22 the following information for the preceding state fiscal year:

23 (1) the name of each law enforcement agency that
24 applied for a grant under this section; and

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

27 (i) The comptroller may use any revenue available for

1 purposes of this section.

2 (j) Notwithstanding any other law or rule, beginning
3 September 1, 2029, a law enforcement agency must be accredited as
4 provided by the rules adopted under Section 1701.171, Occupations
5 Code, to be eligible to receive any grant supporting law
6 enforcement operations or equipment acquisition administered by
7 the comptroller other than a grant under this section.

8 SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, is
9 amended by adding Section 1701.171 to read as follows:

10 Sec. 1701.171. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY ACCREDITATION. (a)
11 In this section, "law enforcement agency" means:

12 (1) a law enforcement agency that employs at least 20
13 peace officers described by Article 2.12(1), (3), (4), (8), or
14 (10), Code of Criminal Procedure, to answer emergency calls for
15 service or conduct patrol operations, traffic enforcement, or
16 criminal investigations; or

17 (2) a school district police department.

18 (b) The commission shall adopt rules requiring each law
19 enforcement agency to become accredited and maintain
20 accreditation:

21 (1) through the Texas Police Chiefs Association Law
22 Enforcement Agency Best Practices Accreditation Program;

23 (2) by the Commission on Accreditation for Law
24 Enforcement Agencies, Inc.;

25 (3) by the International Association of Campus Law
26 Enforcement Administrators;

27 (4) by an accreditation program developed by the

1 Sheriffs' Association of Texas; or

2 (5) by an association or organization designated by
3 the commission as provided by Subsection (e).

4 (c) The rules adopted under Subsection (b) must require a
5 law enforcement agency that is not already accredited to:

6 (1) execute a contract with an approved accrediting
7 entity not later than September 1, 2027; and

8 (2) become accredited not later than September 1,
9 2029.

10 (d) The commission shall implement a program to assist law
11 enforcement agencies in becoming accredited as required by the
12 rules adopted under Subsection (b).

13 (e) The commission shall periodically review associations
14 and organizations that establish standards of practice for law
15 enforcement agencies and that offer accreditation to agencies that
16 meet those standards. On a majority vote of the commission that
17 accreditation of law enforcement agencies in this state by an
18 association or organization would benefit public safety, the
19 commission may designate the association or organization as an
20 accrediting entity for purposes of Subsection (b)(5).

21 (f) A law enforcement agency shall annually report the
22 agency's accreditation status, including the applicable
23 accrediting entity described by Subsection (b), to the commission.

24 (g) The commission shall post on the commission's Internet
25 website a list of all law enforcement agencies that are currently
26 accredited or under contract with an accrediting entity as
27 described by Subsection (b).

1 SECTION 3. (a) Not later than September 1, 2024, the Texas
2 Commission on Law Enforcement shall adopt the rules required by
3 Section 1701.171, Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

4 (b) Not later than October 1, 2024, the comptroller shall
5 establish the grant program required by Section 403.0303,
6 Government Code, as added by this Act.

7 SECTION 4. The amount of \$24,540,000 is appropriated from
8 the general revenue fund to Fiscal Programs - Comptroller of Public
9 Accounts for the state fiscal year beginning September 1, 2024, to
10 implement the grant program required by Section 403.0303,
11 Government Code, as added by this Act.

12 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
16 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
17 legislative session.