88R1241 JTZ-D

By:  Spiller, Sherman, Sr., Dean, Ashby H.B. No. 626

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the salaries of sheriffs and to state assistance payments to offset the cost of sheriff's salaries in certain counties.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter E, Chapter 152, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 152.0715 and 152.0716 to read as follows:

Sec. 152.0715.  STATEWIDE MINIMUM SALARY OF SHERIFFS. Notwithstanding any other law, the commissioners court of a county shall provide for each fiscal year a salary of at least $75,000 for the county's sheriff.

Sec. 152.0716.  STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PAY SALARIES OF SHERIFFS OF CERTAIN COUNTIES. (a) This section applies only to a county with a population of 50,000 or less.

(b)  To serve the state purpose of ensuring professional law enforcement throughout the state, a county is entitled to an assistance payment from the state for each county fiscal year to assist the county in paying the sheriff's salary required by Section 152.0715 as follows:

(1)  if a county has a population of 25,000 or less, the county is entitled to a payment of $25,000; and

(2)  if a county has a population of more than 25,000, the county is entitled to a payment of $10,000.

(c)  Not later than the 30th day after the first day of a county's fiscal year, the county must submit an application in the form and manner prescribed by comptroller rule to the comptroller to receive the assistance payment.

(d)  The comptroller shall remit the applicable assistance payment to which a county is entitled from available state funds not later than the 30th day after the date the comptroller receives the county's application for the assistance payment.

(e)  The comptroller shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

SECTION 2.  The changes in law made by this Act apply only to a county fiscal year that begins on or after January 1, 2024.

SECTION 3.  Not later than January 1, 2024, the comptroller of public accounts shall adopt rules as required by Section 152.0716(e), Local Government Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.