

By: King, Flores, West

S.B. No. 267

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to law enforcement agency accreditation, including a grant program to assist agencies in becoming accredited.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 403, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 403.0302 to read as follows:

Sec. 403.0302. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY ACCREDITATION GRANT PROGRAM. (a) The comptroller shall establish and administer a grant program to provide financial assistance for purposes of becoming accredited to each law enforcement agency that:

(1) is required to be accredited by the rules adopted under Section 1701.165, Occupations Code; and

(2) employs fewer than 250 peace officers.

(b) To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a law enforcement agency must have executed a contract with an accrediting entity described by Section 1701.165(b), Occupations Code, and complete an initial assessment by the accrediting entity.

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

(d) Grant money provided under this section may only be used by a law enforcement agency for the purposes of becoming accredited. A law enforcement agency may not receive more than one

1 grant under this section.

2 (e) The amount of a grant awarded under this section may not
3 exceed \$30,000.

4 (f) The comptroller shall establish:

5 (1) eligibility criteria for grant applicants;

6 (2) grant application procedures;

7 (3) guidelines relating to grant amounts;

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

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

14 (6) procedures for revoking a grant awarded under the
15 program if the law enforcement agency is not accredited within the
16 period specified by the rules adopted under Section 1701.165,
17 Occupations Code.

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

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

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

25 (h) The comptroller may use any revenue available for
26 purposes of this section.

27 (i) Notwithstanding any other law or rule, beginning

1 September 1, 2029, a law enforcement agency described by Section
2 1701.165, Occupations Code, must be accredited as provided by the
3 rules adopted under that section to be eligible to receive any grant
4 supporting law enforcement operations or equipment acquisition
5 administered by the comptroller other than a grant under this
6 section.

7 SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, is
8 amended by adding Section 1701.165 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 1701.165. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY ACCREDITATION. (a)
10 This section applies only to a law enforcement agency employing at
11 least 20 peace officers described by Article 2.12(1), (3), (4),
12 (8), or (10), Code of Criminal Procedure, to answer emergency calls
13 for service or conduct patrol operations, traffic enforcement, or
14 criminal investigations.

15 (b) The commission shall adopt rules requiring each law
16 enforcement agency to become accredited and maintain
17 accreditation:

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

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

22 (3) by the International Association of Campus Law
23 Enforcement Administrators;

24 (4) by an accreditation program developed by the
25 Sheriffs' Association of Texas; or

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

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

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

5 (2) become accredited not later than September 1,
6 2029.

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

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

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

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

25 SECTION 3. (a) Not later than December 1, 2023, the Texas
26 Commission on Law Enforcement shall adopt the rules required by
27 Section 1701.165, Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

1 (b) Not later than January 1, 2024, the comptroller shall
2 establish the grant program required by Section 403.0302,
3 Government Code, as added by this Act.

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