

By: Middleton

S.B. No. 689

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a public safety dual credit grant program by the Texas Education Agency.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter 2, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.9081 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.9081. PUBLIC SAFETY DUAL CREDIT GRANT PROGRAM. (a) From funds appropriated or otherwise available for the purpose, the agency shall establish and administer a program to provide grants to eligible students who enroll while in high school in a dual credit public safety degree or certificate program at a public institution of higher education.

(b) The commissioner by rule shall establish eligibility criteria to receive a grant under this section. The criteria must:

(1) require a student to enter into an agreement with the agency to:

(A) complete the student's public safety degree or certificate program within a period prescribed by commissioner rule; and

(B) on completion of the student's degree or certificate program and any other prerequisites for employment as a peace officer or other public safety officer in this state, complete a number of years of employment as a peace officer or other public safety officer in this state, as prescribed by commissioner

1 rule; and

2 (2) provide that a student who establishes initial  
3 eligibility for a grant under this section remains eligible for a  
4 grant under this section for the duration of the student's  
5 enrollment in a public safety degree or certificate program at a  
6 public institution of higher education as long as the student  
7 continues to:

8 (A) make satisfactory academic progress toward  
9 the degree or certificate; and

10 (B) meet other requirements prescribed by  
11 commissioner rule.

12 (c) The amount of a grant awarded to a student under this  
13 section is equal to the cost of tuition and required fees incurred  
14 by the student for enrollment in a public safety degree or  
15 certificate program at a public institution of higher education.

16 (d) A student receiving a grant under this section may use  
17 the money only to pay the cost of tuition and required fees incurred  
18 by the student for enrollment in a public safety degree or  
19 certificate program at a public institution of higher education.

20 (e) The agency may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and  
21 donations from any public or private source for the purpose of this  
22 section.

23 (f) The commissioner shall adopt rules to establish and  
24 administer the grant program under this section.

25 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
26 of this Act, the Texas Education Agency shall establish the public  
27 safety dual credit grant program under Section 29.9081, Education

1 Code, as added by this Act.

2       SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.