

By: Lozano

H.B. No. 2951

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the rural sheriff's office and constable's office
3 salary assistance grant programs.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 130.911(a), Local Government Code, is
6 amended by adding Subdivision (3) to read as follows:

7 (3) "Qualified emergency dispatcher" means a person
8 who provides communication support services for a sheriff's office
9 by responding to requests for assistance in emergencies.

10 SECTION 2. Section 130.911(e), Local Government Code, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 (e) A county that is awarded a grant shall use or authorize
13 the use of the grant money only:

14 (1) to provide a minimum annual salary of at least:

15 (A) \$75,000 for the county sheriff;

16 (B) \$45,000 for each deputy who makes motor
17 vehicle stops in the routine performance of their duties; ~~and~~

18 (C) \$40,000 for each jailer whose duties include
19 the safekeeping of prisoners and the security of a jail operated by
20 the county; and

21 (D) \$40,000 for each qualified emergency
22 dispatcher;

23 (2) to increase the salary of a person described by
24 Subdivision (1);

1 (3) to hire additional deputies or staff for the
2 sheriff's office; or

3 (4) to purchase vehicles, firearms, and safety
4 equipment for the sheriff's office.

5 SECTION 3. Section 130.912(a), Local Government Code, is
6 amended by adding Subdivision (4) to read as follows:

7 (4) "Qualified emergency dispatcher" means a person
8 who provides communication support services for a constable's
9 office by responding to requests for assistance in emergencies.

10 SECTION 4. Sections 130.912(d), (e), and (g), Local
11 Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

12 (d) The comptroller shall award a grant to a qualified
13 county that applies for the grant using money appropriated to the
14 comptroller for that purpose. The comptroller may only award a
15 grant to a county if the county agrees in writing to contribute at
16 least 75 percent of the money required to meet the minimum annual
17 salary requirement established under Subsection (e) for each
18 qualified constable and qualified emergency dispatcher for which
19 the county will also use grant money to provide that salary.

20 (e) Subject to Subsection (d), a county that is awarded a
21 grant shall use or authorize the use of the grant money only to
22 provide a minimum annual salary of:

23 (1) \$45,000 to a qualified constable; and

24 (2) \$40,000 to a qualified emergency dispatcher.

25 (g) The comptroller shall adopt rules necessary to
26 implement this section, including rules that establish:

27 (1) a standardized application process, including the

1 form to be used to apply for a grant and the manner of submitting the
2 form;

3 (2) deadlines for:

4 (A) applying for the grant;

5 (B) disbursement of grant money; and

6 (C) spending grant money;

7 (3) procedures for:

8 (A) monitoring the disbursement of grant money to
9 ensure compliance with this section; and

10 (B) the return of grant money that was not used by
11 a county for a purpose authorized by this section; and

12 (4) standards to determine if a constable or emergency
13 dispatcher is a qualified constable or qualified emergency
14 dispatcher.

15 SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
16 the award of a grant to a county during a fiscal year of the county
17 that begins on or after the effective date of this Act.

18 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.