

By: Hall

S.B. No. 1471

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the rural constable's office salary assistance grant program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 130.912, Local Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (d), (e), and (g) and adding Subsection (e-1) to read as follows:

(d) The comptroller shall award a grant to a qualified county that applies for the grant using money appropriated to the comptroller for that purpose. The grant must be in the following applicable amount:

(1) \$75,000 for each constable precinct in the county if the county has a population of less than 10,000;

(2) \$100,000 for each constable precinct in the county if the county has a population of 10,000 or more and less than 50,000; and

(3) \$150,000 for each constable precinct in the county if the county has a population of 50,000 or more and 300,000 or less

~~[The comptroller may only award a grant to a county if the county agrees in writing to contribute at least 75 percent of the money required to meet the minimum annual salary requirement established under Subsection (e) for each qualified constable for which the county will also use grant money to provide that salary].~~

(e) A ~~[Subject to Subsection (d), a]~~ county that is awarded

1 a grant shall use or authorize the use of the grant money only:

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

3 (A) \$65,000 for the [~~\$45,000 to a qualified~~]

4 constable of each precinct; and

5 (B) \$45,000 for each deputy constable who makes
6 motor vehicle stops in the routine performance of the deputy
7 constable's duties;

8 (2) to increase the salary of a person described by
9 Subdivision (1);

10 (3) to hire additional deputies or staff for the
11 constable's office; or

12 (4) to purchase vehicles, firearms, and safety
13 equipment for the constable's office.

14 (e-1) A county that is awarded a grant may not use or
15 authorize the use of the grant money for a purpose other than to
16 meet the minimum salary requirements prescribed by Subsection
17 (e)(1) until those requirements are satisfied.

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

20 (1) a standardized application process, including the
21 form to be used to apply for a grant and the manner of submitting the
22 form;

23 (2) deadlines for:

24 (A) applying for the grant;

25 (B) disbursement of grant money; and

26 (C) spending grant money; and

27 (3) procedures for:

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

3 (B) the return of grant money that was not used by
4 a county for a purpose authorized by this section~~[, and~~

5 ~~[(4) standards to determine if a constable is a~~
6 ~~qualified constable].~~

7 SECTION 2. Section 130.912(a)(2), Local Government Code, is
8 repealed.

9 SECTION 3. Section 130.912, Local Government Code, as
10 amended by this Act, applies only to the award of a grant to a county
11 under the rural constable's office salary assistance grant program
12 during a fiscal year of the county that begins on or after the
13 effective date of this Act.

14 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.