

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD  
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 11, 2025

**TO:** Honorable Cecil Bell, Chair, House Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs

**FROM:** Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB318** by Guillen (relating to the establishment of grant programs to provide financial assistance to qualified sheriff ’s departments in certain rural counties.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

**Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds** for HB318, Committee Report 1st House, Substituted: a negative impact of (\$300,000,000) through the biennium ending August 31, 2027. This analysis assumes the maximum amount of grants, as authorized by the bill, would be awarded in a fiscal year.

The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

General Revenue-Related Funds, Five- Year Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<b>Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds</b>
2026	(\$150,000,000)
2027	(\$150,000,000)
2028	(\$150,000,000)
2029	(\$150,000,000)
2030	(\$150,000,000)

All Funds, Five-Year Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<b>Probable (Cost) from General Revenue Fund 1</b>
2026	(\$150,000,000)
2027	(\$150,000,000)
2028	(\$150,000,000)
2029	(\$150,000,000)
2030	(\$150,000,000)

Fiscal Analysis

The bill would establish two grant programs to provide financial assistance to certain sheriffs' departments in counties with populations of less than 300,000. It would require the Comptroller to administer the Rural Sheriff's Deputy Shortage Relief Grant Program to award grants between \$50,000 and \$100,000 per fiscal year to counties for each qualified deputy position, \$50,000 per fiscal year for each qualified investigator position, and \$35,000 per fiscal year for each qualified emergency dispatcher. A qualified county would need to meet a certain deputy-to-resident ratio. The grant funding must be used to provide certain minimum salaries and to

purchase vehicles, firearms, and safety equipment. The total grants awarded could not exceed \$100 million in a state fiscal year.

The bill would require the Comptroller to administer the Rural Sheriff's Investigator Shortage Relief Grant Program to award grants between \$50,000 and \$100,000 per fiscal year to counties for each qualified deputy sheriff who fills a qualified investigator position and \$35,000 for each qualified investigative support staff member. A qualified county would need to meet a certain investigator-to-patrol ratio. The grant funding must be used to provide certain minimum annual salaries and to purchase vehicles, firearms, investigative tools, and safety equipment. The total grants awarded could not exceed \$50 million in a state fiscal year.

The bill would require the Comptroller to adopt rules as necessary to implement the provisions of the bill. It would also require the Comptroller to proportionally reduce each grant awarded if the total dollar amount of grants to which counties are entitled exceeds the annual maximums for each program.

### **Methodology**

This analysis assumes that the total amount of grants authorized by the bill for a fiscal year is awarded by the Comptroller: \$100,000,000 for the Rural Sheriff's Deputy Shortage Relief Grant Program and \$50,000,000 for the Rural Sheriff's Investigator Shortage Relief Grant Program.

It is assumed that any administrative or information technology costs could be absorbed using existing resources.

### **Local Government Impact**

The fiscal implications of the bill cannot be determined at this time.

**Source Agencies:** 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts

**LBB Staff:** JMc, SZ, LCO, CSmi, CMA, NV