

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

March 9, 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.), **As Introduced**

Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds for HB318, As Introduced: 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>	<i>Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds</i>
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>	<i>Probable (Cost) from General Revenue Fund 1</i>
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 sheriff who fills a qualified deputy position. A qualified county would need to meet a certain deputy-to-resident ratio. The grant funding must be used to provide a minimum annual salary of \$45,000 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. A qualified county would need to meet a certain investigator-to-patrol ratio. The grant funding must be used to provide a minimum annual salary of \$45,000 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