

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of grant programs to provide financial assistance to qualified sheriff's offices, constable's offices, and prosecutor's offices in rural counties.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 130, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 130.911, 130.912, and 130.913 to read as follows:

Sec. 130.911. RURAL SHERIFF'S OFFICE SALARY ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM. (a) In this section:

(1) "Grant" means a grant authorized to be awarded by the comptroller under the rural sheriff's office salary assistance grant program established by this section.

(2) "Qualified county" means a county with a population of 300,000 or less.

(b) The comptroller shall establish and administer the rural sheriff's office salary assistance grant program to support the state purpose of ensuring professional law enforcement throughout the state by providing financial assistance to sheriff's offices in qualified counties.

(c) Not later than the 30th day after the first day of a qualified county's fiscal year, the county may submit an application for a grant to the comptroller. A county may submit only one application each fiscal year.

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

5            (1) \$250,000 if the county has a population of less  
6 than 10,000;

7            (2) \$350,000 if the county has a population of 10,000  
8 or more and less than 50,000; or

9            (3) \$500,000 if the county has a population of 50,000  
10 or more and 300,000 or less.

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

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

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

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

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

20            (2) to increase the salary of a person described by  
21 Subdivision (1);

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

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

26        (f) A county that is awarded a grant may not use or authorize  
27 the use of the grant money for a purpose other than to meet the

1 minimum salary requirements prescribed by Subsection (e)(1) until  
2 those requirements are satisfied.

3 (g) A county may not reduce the amount of funds provided to  
4 the sheriff's office because of grant funds provided under this  
5 section.

6 (h) The comptroller shall adopt rules necessary to  
7 implement this section, including rules that establish:

8 (1) a standardized application process, including the  
9 form to be used to apply for a grant and the manner of submitting the  
10 form;

11 (2) deadlines for:

12 (A) applying for the grant;

13 (B) disbursement of grant money; and

14 (C) spending grant money; and

15 (3) procedures for:

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

18 (B) the return of grant money that was not used by  
19 a county for a purpose authorized by this section.

20 Sec. 130.912. RURAL CONSTABLE'S OFFICE SALARY ASSISTANCE  
21 GRANT PROGRAM. (a) In this section:

22 (1) "Grant" means a grant authorized to be awarded by  
23 the comptroller under the rural constable's office salary  
24 assistance grant program established by this section.

25 (2) "Qualified constable" means a constable elected to  
26 an office created on or before January 1, 2023, who primarily makes  
27 motor vehicle stops in the routine performance of the constable's

1 duties.

2 (3) "Qualified county" means a county with a  
3 population of 300,000 or less.

4 (b) The comptroller shall establish and administer the  
5 rural constable's office salary assistance grant program to support  
6 the state purpose of ensuring professional law enforcement  
7 throughout the state by providing financial assistance to  
8 constable's offices in qualified counties.

9 (c) Not later than the 30th day after the first day of a  
10 qualified county's fiscal year, the county may submit an  
11 application for a grant to the comptroller. A county may submit  
12 only one application each fiscal year.

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

21 (e) Subject to Subsection (d), a county that is awarded a  
22 grant shall use or authorize the use of the grant money only to  
23 provide a minimum annual salary of \$45,000 to a qualified  
24 constable.

25 (f) A county may not reduce the amount of funds provided to  
26 the constable's office because of grant funds provided under this  
27 section.

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

3           (1) a standardized application process, including the  
4 form to be used to apply for a grant and the manner of submitting the  
5 form;

6           (2) deadlines for:

7                   (A) applying for the grant;

8                   (B) disbursement of grant money; and

9                   (C) spending grant money;

10          (3) procedures for:

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

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

15          (4) standards to determine if a constable is a  
16 qualified constable.

17       Sec. 130.913. RURAL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE SALARY ASSISTANCE  
18 GRANT PROGRAM. (a) In this section:

19           (1) "Grant" means a grant authorized to be awarded by  
20 the comptroller under the rural prosecutor's office salary  
21 assistance grant program established by this section.

22           (2) "Qualified prosecutor's office" means, in a  
23 jurisdiction with a population of 300,000 or less, the office of a  
24 district attorney, criminal district attorney, or county attorney  
25 with criminal prosecution duties.

26       (b) The comptroller shall establish and administer the  
27 rural prosecutor's office salary assistance grant program to

1 support the state purpose of ensuring professional legal  
2 representation of the people's interests throughout the state by  
3 providing financial assistance to qualified prosecutor's offices.

4 (c) Not later than the 30th day after the first day of a  
5 qualified prosecutor's office's fiscal year, the prosecutor's  
6 office may submit an application for a grant to the comptroller. A  
7 prosecutor's office may submit only one application each fiscal  
8 year.

9 (d) The comptroller shall award a grant to a qualified  
10 prosecutor's office that applies for the grant using money  
11 appropriated to the comptroller for that purpose. The grant must be  
12 in the following applicable amount:

13 (1) \$100,000 if the prosecutor's office's jurisdiction  
14 has a population of less than 10,000;

15 (2) \$175,000 if the prosecutor's office's jurisdiction  
16 has a population of 10,000 or more and less than 50,000; or

17 (3) \$275,000 if the prosecutor's office's jurisdiction  
18 has a population of 50,000 or more and 300,000 or less.

19 (e) A prosecutor's office that is awarded a grant shall use  
20 or authorize the use of the grant money only:

21 (1) to increase the salary of an assistant attorney,  
22 an investigator, or a victim assistance coordinator employed at the  
23 office; or

24 (2) to hire additional staff for the office.

25 (f) A county may not reduce the amount of funds provided to a  
26 prosecutor's office because of grant funds provided under this  
27 section.

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

3           (1) a standardized application process, including the  
4 form to be used to apply for a grant and the manner of submitting the  
5 form;

6           (2) deadlines for:

7                   (A) applying for the grant;

8                   (B) disbursement of grant money; and

9                   (C) spending grant money; and

10          (3) procedures for:

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

13                   (B) the return of grant money that was not used by  
14 a qualified prosecutor's office for a purpose authorized by this  
15 section.

16       SECTION 2. A qualified county or prosecutor's office, as  
17 defined by Section 130.911, 130.912, or 130.913, Local Government  
18 Code, as added by this Act, may not apply for a rural sheriff's  
19 office salary assistance grant, rural constable's office salary  
20 assistance grant, or rural prosecutor's office salary assistance  
21 grant before January 1, 2024.

22       SECTION 3. Not later than January 1, 2024, the comptroller  
23 of public accounts shall comply with the requirements of Sections  
24 130.911, 130.912, and 130.913, Local Government Code, as added by  
25 this Act.

26       SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 22 passed the Senate on March 28, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0; May 21, 2023, Senate refused to concur in House amendments and requested appointment of Conference Committee; May 23, 2023, House granted request of the Senate; May 28, 2023, Senate adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 22 passed the House, with amendments, on May 16, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 139, Nays 0, one present not voting; May 23, 2023, House granted request of the Senate for appointment of Conference Committee; May 28, 2023, House adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 0, two present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor