

1-1 By: Neave, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Garcia) H.B. No. 1729
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 10, 2017;
 1-3 April 19, 2017, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-4 Criminal Justice; May 11, 2017, reported favorably by the
 1-5 following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 11, 2017, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15			X	
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to establishing and funding a grant program for testing
 1-20 evidence collected in relation to sexual assaults or other sex
 1-21 offenses; authorizing voluntary contributions.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 521, Transportation Code,
 1-24 is amended by adding Section 521.012 to read as follows:

1-25 Sec. 521.012. VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION FOR EVIDENCE TESTING
 1-26 GRANT PROGRAM. (a) When a person applies for an original or
 1-27 renewal driver's license or personal identification certificate
 1-28 under this chapter, the person may contribute \$1 or more to the
 1-29 evidence testing grant program established under Section
 1-30 772.00715, Government Code.

1-31 (b) The department shall:

1-32 (1) include space on the first page of each
 1-33 application for an original or renewal driver's license or personal
 1-34 identification certificate that allows a person applying for an
 1-35 original or renewal driver's license or personal identification
 1-36 certificate to indicate the amount that the person is voluntarily
 1-37 contributing to the grant program; and

1-38 (2) provide an opportunity for the person to
 1-39 contribute to the grant program during the application process for
 1-40 an original or renewal driver's license or personal identification
 1-41 certificate on the department's Internet website.

1-42 (c) The department shall send any contribution made under
 1-43 this section to the comptroller for deposit to the credit of the
 1-44 evidence testing account established under Section 772.00716,
 1-45 Government Code, not later than the 14th day of each month. Before
 1-46 sending the money to the comptroller, the department may deduct
 1-47 money equal to the amount of reasonable expenses for administering
 1-48 this section.

1-49 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 522, Transportation Code,
 1-50 is amended by adding Section 522.0295 to read as follows:

1-51 Sec. 522.0295. VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION FOR EVIDENCE TESTING
 1-52 GRANT PROGRAM. (a) When a person applies for an original or
 1-53 renewal commercial driver's license under this chapter, the person
 1-54 may contribute \$1 or more to the evidence testing grant program
 1-55 established under Section 772.00715, Government Code.

1-56 (b) The department shall:

1-57 (1) include space on the first page of each
 1-58 application for an original or renewal commercial driver's license
 1-59 that allows a person applying for an original or renewal commercial
 1-60 driver's license to indicate the amount that the person is
 1-61 voluntarily contributing to the grant program; and

2-1 (2) provide an opportunity for the person to
2-2 contribute to the grant program during the application process for
2-3 an original or renewal commercial driver's license on the
2-4 department's Internet website.

2-5 (c) The department shall send any contribution made under
2-6 this section to the comptroller for deposit to the credit of the
2-7 evidence testing account established under Section 772.00716,
2-8 Government Code, not later than the 14th day of each month. Before
2-9 sending the money to the comptroller, the department may deduct
2-10 money equal to the amount of reasonable expenses for administering
2-11 this section.

2-12 SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 772, Government Code, is
2-13 amended by adding Sections 772.00715 and 772.00716 to read as
2-14 follows:

2-15 Sec. 772.00715. EVIDENCE TESTING GRANT PROGRAM. (a) In
2-16 this section:

2-17 (1) "Accredited crime laboratory" has the meaning
2-18 assigned by Section 420.003.

2-19 (2) "Criminal justice division" means the criminal
2-20 justice division established under Section 772.006.

2-21 (3) "Grant program" means the evidence testing grant
2-22 program established under this section.

2-23 (4) "Law enforcement agency" means:

2-24 (A) the police department of a municipality;

2-25 (B) the sheriff's office of a county; or

2-26 (C) a constable's office of a county.

2-27 (b) The criminal justice division shall establish and
2-28 administer a grant program and shall disburse funds to assist law
2-29 enforcement agencies or counties in testing evidence collected in
2-30 relation to a sexual assault or other sex offense.

2-31 (c) Grant funds may be used only for the testing by an
2-32 accredited crime laboratory of evidence that was collected in
2-33 relation to a sexual assault or other sex offense.

2-34 (d) The criminal justice division:

2-35 (1) may establish additional eligibility criteria for
2-36 grant applicants; and

2-37 (2) shall establish:

2-38 (A) grant application procedures;

2-39 (B) guidelines relating to grant amounts; and

2-40 (C) criteria for evaluating grant applications.

2-41 (e) The criminal justice division shall include in the
2-42 biennial report required by Section 772.006(a)(9) detailed
2-43 reporting of the results and performance of the grant program.

2-44 (f) The criminal justice division may use any revenue
2-45 available to the division to fund the grant program.

2-46 Sec. 772.00716. EVIDENCE TESTING ACCOUNT. (a) The
2-47 evidence testing account is created as a dedicated account in the
2-48 general revenue fund of the state treasury.

2-49 (b) Money in the account may be appropriated only to the
2-50 criminal justice division established under Section 772.006 for
2-51 purposes of the evidence testing grant program established under
2-52 Section 772.00715.

2-53 (c) Funds distributed under Section 772.00715 are subject
2-54 to audit by the comptroller.

2-55 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
2-56 a person who applies for an original or renewal driver's license,
2-57 commercial driver's license, or personal identification
2-58 certificate on or after January 1, 2018.

2-59 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

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