

1-1 By: Hagenbuch S.B. No. 2177
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 10, 2025; March 24, 2025, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Criminal Justice;
1-4 May 5, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7,
1-5 Nays 0; May 5, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	Flores	X		
1-9	Parker	X		
1-10	Hagenbuch	X		
1-11	Hinojosa of Hidalgo	X		
1-12	Huffman	X		
1-13	King	X		
1-14	Miles	X		

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the creation of a grant program to assist local law
1-18 enforcement agencies in solving violent and sexual offenses.

1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-20 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 772, Government Code, is
1-21 amended by adding Section 772.00791 to read as follows:

1-22 Sec. 772.00791. GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST LOCAL LAW
1-23 ENFORCEMENT IN SOLVING VIOLENT AND SEXUAL OFFENSES. (a) In this
1-24 section:

1-25 (1) "Clearance by arrest" means that, with respect to
1-26 an offense reported to a law enforcement agency, the agency:

1-27 (A) has:

1-28 (i) arrested and charged at least one
1-29 suspect with the commission of the offense; and

1-30 (ii) turned the suspect over to the court
1-31 for prosecution; or

1-32 (B) has cited an individual younger than 18 years
1-33 of age and required the individual to appear in juvenile court or
1-34 before another juvenile authority with respect to the offense,
1-35 regardless of whether an arrest occurred.

1-36 (2) "Clearance by exception" means that, with respect
1-37 to an offense reported to a law enforcement agency, the agency:

1-38 (A) has confirmed the suspect's identity;

1-39 (B) has sufficient evidence for arrest;

1-40 (C) knows the suspect's specific location; and

1-41 (D) has encountered factors beyond law
1-42 enforcement control that hinder the arrest, charging, and
1-43 prosecution of the suspect.

1-44 (3) "Clearance rate" means, with respect to an offense
1-45 or category of offense reported to a law enforcement agency, a
1-46 fraction:

1-47 (A) the numerator of which is the number of
1-48 offenses cleared by the agency through clearance by arrest and
1-49 clearance by exception; and

1-50 (B) the denominator of which is the total number
1-51 of offenses reported to the agency.

1-52 (4) "Criminal justice division" means the criminal
1-53 justice division established under Section 772.006.

1-54 (5) "Sexual offense" means an offense under any of the
1-55 following provisions of the Penal Code:

1-56 (A) Section 21.11 (indecenty with a child);

1-57 (B) Section 22.011 (sexual assault); or

1-58 (C) Section 22.021 (aggravated sexual assault).

1-59 (6) "Violent offense" means an offense under any of
1-60 the following provisions of the Penal Code:

1-61 (A) Section 19.02 (murder);

- 2-1 (B) Section 19.03 (capital murder);
- 2-2 (C) Section 20.04 (aggravated kidnapping);
- 2-3 (D) Section 22.02(a)(2) (aggravated assault with
- 2-4 a deadly weapon); or
- 2-5 (E) Section 29.03 (aggravated robbery).

2-6 (b) This section applies only to a law enforcement agency
 2-7 employing one or more peace officers described by Article 2A.001(1)
 2-8 or (3), Code of Criminal Procedure.

2-9 (c) The criminal justice division shall establish and
 2-10 administer a grant program through which a law enforcement agency
 2-11 may apply for a grant designed to improve clearance rates for
 2-12 violent and sexual offenses.

- 2-13 (d) The criminal justice division shall establish:
- 2-14 (1) eligibility criteria for grant applications;
 - 2-15 (2) grant application procedures;
 - 2-16 (3) guidelines relating to grant amounts; and
 - 2-17 (4) procedures for evaluating grant applications.

2-18 (e) Grant money awarded under this section may be used to
 2-19 pay for:

- 2-20 (1) hiring, training, and retaining personnel to:
- 2-21 (A) investigate violent and sexual offenses;
- 2-22 (B) collect, process, and forensically test
 2-23 evidence; or
- 2-24 (C) analyze violent and sexual offenses,
 2-25 including temporal and geographical trends;
- 2-26 (2) acquiring, upgrading, or replacing technology or
 2-27 equipment related to evidence collection, evidence processing, or
 2-28 forensic testing; and
- 2-29 (3) upgrading record management systems to achieve
 2-30 compliance with the reporting requirements under Subsection (f).

2-31 (f) A law enforcement agency that receives a grant awarded
 2-32 under the program annually shall report:

- 2-33 (1) the clearance rate and the percentage of the
 2-34 clearance rate that is clearance by arrest and the percentage that
 2-35 is clearance by exception for:
- 2-36 (A) violent offenses;
- 2-37 (B) sexual offenses; and
- 2-38 (C) each offense listed in Subsection (a)(5) or
 2-39 (6);
- 2-40 (2) the average duration between the date of the
 2-41 offense and the date of clearance for:
- 2-42 (A) violent offenses;
- 2-43 (B) sexual offenses; and
- 2-44 (C) each offense listed in Subsection (a)(5) or
 2-45 (6); and
- 2-46 (3) the percentage of the grant amount used for each
 2-47 authorized use listed in Subsection (e).

2-48 (g) The criminal justice division shall periodically
 2-49 evaluate the practices employed by grant recipients to identify
 2-50 policies and procedures that have successfully improved clearance
 2-51 rates for violent and sexual offenses. The division may contract
 2-52 with a third party to conduct an evaluation under this subsection.

2-53 (h) The criminal justice division shall include in the
 2-54 biennial report required by Section 772.006(a)(9) a detailed
 2-55 reporting of the results and performance of the grant program
 2-56 administered under this section.

2-57 (i) A governmental entity may not reduce the amount of funds
 2-58 provided to a law enforcement agency because the agency received a
 2-59 grant under this section.

2-60 (j) The criminal justice division may use any revenue
 2-61 available for purposes of this section.

2-62 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
 2-63 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
 2-64 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
 2-65 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
 2-66 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

2-67 * * * * *