

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
82R18190 MAW-D

C.S.S.B. 1649
By: Watson, Davis
Transportation & Homeland Security
4/20/2011
Committee Report (Substituted)

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Border crime has been a growing concern in Texas for a number of years. Border communities bear a significant financial burden from drug and human trafficking crimes, including the cost of prosecuting individuals accused of those crimes.

In response to this situation, the 81st Legislature funded a \$4 million grant program for border region district attorneys working on issues related to border crime. The grant is administered through the criminal justice division of the governor's office. Funding came from the Operators and Chauffeurs License fund.

The Border Prosecution Unit was formed from the grant program for border district attorneys.

C.S.S.B. 1649 amends current law relating to a grant program to support the prosecution of certain crimes.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 772, Government Code, by adding Section 772.0071, as follows:

Sec. 772.0071. PROSECUTION OF BORDER CRIME GRANT PROGRAM. (a) Defines "border crime," "border region," "criminal justice division," and "eligible prosecuting attorney" in this section.

(b) Requires the criminal justice division in the governor's office (criminal justice division) to establish and administer a grant program through which an eligible prosecuting attorney or the attorney's office may apply for a grant to support the prosecution of border crime in a county or counties under the jurisdiction of the attorney.

(c) Requires the criminal justice division to establish:

- (1) additional eligibility criteria for grant applicants;
- (2) grant application procedures;
- (3) guidelines relating to grant amounts;
- (4) procedures for evaluating grant applications; and
- (5) procedures for monitoring the use of a grant awarded under the program and ensuring compliance with any conditions of a grant.

(d) Authorizes undedicated and unobligated funds in the operators and chauffeurs license account to be appropriated only to the criminal justice division for the purpose of awarding grants under this section. Exempts the account from the application of Section 403.095 (Use of Dedicated Revenue).

(e) Requires the criminal justice division to include in the biennial report required by Section 772.006(a)(9) (relating to requiring the criminal justice division to submit a biennial report) a detailed reporting of the results and performance of the grant program administered under this section.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2011.