

By: Hunter

H.B. No. 1860

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a grant program to provide money for security at certain major events; authorizing fees.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 1507 (S.B. 456), Acts of the 76th Legislature, Regular Session, 1999 (Article 5190.14, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by adding Section 5D to read as follows:

Sec. 5D. MAJOR EVENTS SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM. (a) In this section, "event" means an event or a related series of events held in this state. The term includes any activity related to or associated with the event.

(b) In administering this section, the department may:

(1) enter into and enforce contracts with a county or a municipality and execute and deliver other instruments necessary to make and administer grants awarded under this section;

(2) impose and collect reasonable fees and charges in connection with grants made under this section and provide reasonable penalties for delinquent payment of fees or charges; and

(3) adopt rules necessary to implement the program.

(c) The department may only use money expressly appropriated by the legislature to the department for the grant program established by this section and may only use that money to make grants authorized by this section for a purpose specified in

1 Subsection (e)(3) of this section.

2 (d) A county or municipality that contains a site at which
3 an eligible event is or may be hosted may apply for and receive a
4 grant under this section. A grant recipient may use the money
5 provided through a grant under this section only for providing
6 security at the event for which the grant is awarded.

7 (e) To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an
8 event for which a county or municipality is applying must:

9 (1) be held annually;

10 (2) have had a total economic impact on the local
11 economy where the event was previously held of more than \$300
12 million in the immediately preceding year; and

13 (3) serve a state purpose or a public purpose of the
14 development and diversification of the economy of this state, the
15 elimination of unemployment or underemployment in this state, or
16 the development or expansion of commerce in this state.

17 (f) The department by rule shall establish an application
18 process, award process, and eligibility criteria for receiving a
19 grant under this section. The department shall also establish
20 criteria for prioritizing applicants for grants under this section
21 and reporting requirements for grants awarded under this section.

22 (g) The department shall compile an annual report
23 identifying the recipient of each grant awarded under this section
24 each state fiscal year, the amount awarded for each grant, and the
25 expenses paid through the grant. Each county or municipality that
26 receives a grant under this section must submit to the department
27 any information the department requires to compile the report

1 required under this subsection.

2 (h) A county or municipality that does not spend grant money
3 received under this section for security purposes as required by
4 this section must repay the amount of the grant that was in
5 noncompliance.

6 SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2016, the Economic
7 Development and Tourism Division of the governor's office shall
8 adopt the rules and eligibility standards required by Section 5D,
9 Chapter 1507 (S.B. 456), Acts of the 76th Legislature, Regular
10 Session, 1999 (Article [5190.14](#), Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), as
11 added by this Act.

12 SECTION 3. This Act does not make an appropriation. A
13 provision in this Act that creates a new governmental program,
14 creates a new entitlement, or imposes a new duty on a governmental
15 entity is not mandatory during a fiscal period for which the
16 legislature has not made a specific appropriation to implement the
17 provision.

18 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.