

By Senators Grimsley and Stargel

26-00465B-18

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Back-the-Blue Law Enforcement
3 Assistance Program; creating s. 943.1719, F.S.;
4 creating the Back-the-Blue Law Enforcement Assistance
5 Program within the Department of Law Enforcement;
6 specifying the purpose of and funding for the program;
7 creating the Law Enforcement Assistance Commission
8 within the department; authorizing the commission to
9 determine specified criteria and requirements for and
10 recipients of the program; providing an effective
11 date.

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13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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15 Section 1. Section 943.1719, Florida Statutes, is created
16 to read:

17 943.1719 Back-the-Blue Law Enforcement Assistance Program.-

18 (1) There is created the Back-the-Blue Law Enforcement
19 Assistance Program within the department to provide awards to
20 local law enforcement agencies to support their training efforts
21 and equipment and capital improvements needs. Awards shall be
22 provided if funds are appropriated for that purpose by law.

23 (2) The Law Enforcement Assistance Commission, a commission
24 as defined in s. 20.03, is created within the department to
25 establish program criteria, establish time periods for the
26 acceptance of applications, establish and conduct a selection
27 process, and make awards to recipients.

28 (a) The commission is composed of the following members:

29 1. The executive director of the department, or his or her

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30 designee, who shall serve as the chair; and

31 2. Two sheriffs and two police chiefs, each appointed by
32 the Governor.

33 (b) For initial appointments of members specified in
34 subparagraph (a)2., one sheriff and one police chief shall be
35 appointed to serve 2-year terms. Thereafter, each such member
36 shall be appointed to serve a 4-year term.

37 (3) Funds specifically appropriated for the program shall
38 be awarded annually by the commission to local law enforcement
39 agencies. The total awards may not exceed the funding
40 appropriated for the program.

41 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.