

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 appropriation;  
 11          providing an effective date.

12  
 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  
 18          Program.—

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

24           (2) The Law Enforcement Assistance Commission, a  
 25          commission as defined in s. 20.03, is created within the

26 department to establish program criteria, establish time periods  
27 for the acceptance of applications, establish and conduct a  
28 selection process, and make awards to recipients.

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

30 1. The executive director of the department, or his or her  
31 designee, who shall serve as the chair; and

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

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

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

42 Section 2. For the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the sum of  
43 \$500,000 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated to the Back-the-  
44 Blue Law Enforcement Assistance Program created by this act.

45 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.