

AN ACT

relating to the use of the judicial and court personnel training fund.

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

SECTION 1. Section 56.003, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(a) Unless the legislature specifically appropriates or provides additional money for purposes of this subsection, the [The] court of criminal appeals may not use more than three percent of the money appropriated in any one fiscal year to hire staff and provide for the proper administration of this chapter.

(g) The court of criminal appeals shall grant legal funds to statewide professional associations and other entities that provide innocence training programs related to defendants' claims of factual innocence following conviction to law enforcement officers, law students, and other participants.

SECTION 2. Subsection (b), Section 56.004, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The legislature shall appropriate funds from the judicial and court personnel training fund to the court of criminal appeals to provide for:

(1) continuing legal education, technical assistance, and other support programs for prosecuting attorneys and their

1 personnel, criminal defense attorneys who regularly represent
2 indigent defendants in criminal matters, and justices of the peace
3 and their court personnel; and

4 (2) innocence training programs for law enforcement
5 officers, law students, and other participants.

6 SECTION 3. Section 56.006, Government Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 56.006. RULES; OVERSIGHT. (a) The court of criminal
9 appeals may adopt rules for programs relating to education and
10 training for attorneys, judges, justices of the peace, district
11 clerks, county clerks, law enforcement officers, law students,
12 other participants, and court personnel, including court
13 coordinators, as provided by Section 56.003 and for the
14 administration of those programs, including rules that:

15 (1) require entities receiving a grant of funds to
16 provide legislatively required training; and

17 (2) base the awarding of grant funds to an entity on
18 qualitative information about the entity's programs or services and
19 the entity's ability to meet financial performance standards.

20 (b) The court of criminal appeals, for the proper
21 administration of this chapter and as part of its oversight of
22 training programs for attorneys, judges, justices of the peace,
23 district clerks, county clerks, law enforcement officers, law
24 students, other participants, and court personnel, including court
25 coordinators, as provided by Section 56.003, shall monitor both the
26 financial performance and the program performance of entities
27 receiving a grant of funds under this chapter.

S.B. No. 496

1 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

David Newhall
President of the Senate

Jim Caddick
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 496 passed the Senate on March 28, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0. _____

Patsy Saw
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 496 passed the House on May 8, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, two present not voting. _____

Robert Haney
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

21 MAY 07
Date

RICK PERRY
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
3:15 PM O'CLOCK

ROGER WILLIAMS
Secretary of State