

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 143

BY SENATOR EDMONDS

LAW ENFORCEMENT. Provides relative to funding of bulletproof vests for peace officers.  
(gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 40:2405.2, relative to the issuance of bulletproof vests to peace officers; to

3 provide relative to funding the acquisition and distribution of bulletproof vests; to

4 create the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement Bulletproof Vest Fund; to

5 provide for the purpose and use of the fund; to provide for eligibility; to provide for

6 administration by the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and

7 Administration of Criminal Justice; to provide for the transfer, deposit, and use of

8 monies in the fund; to provide for definitions; to require the promulgation of rules

9 and regulations with regard to the standards of bulletproof vests; to provide for an

10 effective date; and to provide for related matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. R.S. 40:2405.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 **§2405.2. Commission on Law Enforcement Bulletproof Vest Fund; creation of**

14 **fund; eligibility**

15 **A. The legislature hereby finds and declares all of the following:**

16 **(1) Smaller local law enforcement agencies within this state often lack**

17 **sufficient financial resources to provide adequate protective equipment,**

1 including bulletproof vests, for their commissioned peace officers.

2 (2) The provision of bulletproof vests is essential to protect the lives and  
3 safety of those officers who serve and protect the public.

4 (3) The establishment of a dedicated fund is necessary to assist local law  
5 enforcement agencies with limited financial capacity in acquiring bulletproof  
6 vests, thereby saving lives and enhancing officer safety.

7 B. For the purposes of this Section, the following terms shall mean:

8 (1) "Commission" means the Louisiana Commission on Law  
9 Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice.

10 (2) "Eligible law enforcement agency" means any local, municipal, or  
11 parish law enforcement agency within this state that employs fifteen or fewer  
12 full-time commissioned peace officers.

13 (3) "Fund" means the Commission on Law Enforcement Bulletproof  
14 Vest Fund established pursuant to this Section.

15 (4) "Peace officer" shall have the same definition as provided in R.S.  
16 40:2402.

17 C.(1) There is hereby established in the state treasury, as a special fund,  
18 the "Commission on Law Enforcement Bulletproof Vest Fund" that shall be  
19 administered by the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and  
20 Administration of Criminal Justice.

21 (2) After allocation of money to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund  
22 as provided in Article VII, Section 9(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, the  
23 treasurer shall deposit into the fund any monies transferred, donated, or  
24 appropriated to the fund by the legislature. The source of monies deposited into  
25 the fund may include grants, donations, gifts, and any federal funds received for  
26 the purchase of bulletproof vests, or any other monies that are made available  
27 from any other sources that are collected for the purposes of this Section.

28 (3) Monies in the fund shall be invested in the same manner as monies  
29 in the state general fund. Any interest earned on the investment of monies in the

1 fund shall be credited to the fund. Unexpended and unencumbered monies in  
2 the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund.

3 (4) The legislature may appropriate monies from the fund to the  
4 commission for any purpose authorized pursuant to this Section.

5 D.(1) Monies in the fund shall be used solely to provide financial  
6 assistance to eligible law enforcement agencies for the purchase of bulletproof  
7 vests for commissioned peace officers.

8 (2) In awarding funds pursuant to this Section, the commission shall give  
9 priority to eligible law enforcement agencies that demonstrate a lack of  
10 adequate bulletproof vests for their commissioned peace officers.

11 (3) The commission may consider the extent to which an agency lacks  
12 bulletproof vests, the number of officers without vests, and the agency's  
13 financial needs when determining awards.

14 (4) The commission may establish matching fund requirements or  
15 cost-sharing provisions as it deems appropriate.

16 E.(1) The Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and  
17 Administration of Criminal Justice shall adopt rules and regulations in  
18 accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act necessary for the  
19 administration and enforcement of this Section.

20 (2) The commission shall adopt rules with respect to all of the following:

21 (a) Standards for the issuance of bulletproof vests; that the vests shall  
22 meet United States Department of Justice, National Institute for Justice  
23 standards; and that the vests shall be wholly manufactured within nations that  
24 are a party to the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement entered into force  
25 on July 1, 2020.

26 (b) Application procedures and requirements.

27 (c) Criteria for awarding funds.

28 (d) Reporting and accountability requirements for recipient agencies.

29 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not

1 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
 2 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 3 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
 4 effective on the day following such approval.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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DIGEST

SB 143 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Edmonds

Proposed law creates the "Commission on Law Enforcement Bulletproof Vest Fund", as a special fund, in the state treasury to be administered by the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice.

Proposed law defines "commission", "eligible law enforcement agency", "fund", and "peace officer".

Proposed law requires monies in the fund to be invested in the same manner as monies in the general fund. Proposed law provides that interest earned on investment of monies be credited to the fund and requires that unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the fiscal year remain in the fund.

Proposed law requires the treasurer to deposit into the fund any monies transferred, donated, or appropriated to the fund by the legislature. The source of monies deposited into the fund may include grants, donations, gifts, and any federal funds received for the purchase of bulletproof vests, or any other monies that are made available from any other sources that are collected for the purposes of proposed law.

Proposed law authorizes the legislature to appropriate monies from the fund to the commission for any purpose authorized pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law requires monies in the fund to be used solely to provide financial assistance to eligible law enforcement agencies for the purchase of bulletproof vests for commissioned peace officers.

Proposed law provides that in awarding funds, the commission must give priority to eligible law enforcement agencies that demonstrate a lack of adequate bulletproof vests for their commissioned peace officers.

Proposed law authorizes the commission to consider the extent to which an agency lacks bulletproof vests, the number of officers without vests, and the agency's financial needs when determining awards. The commission may establish matching fund requirements or cost-sharing provisions as it deems appropriate.

Proposed law requires the commission to adopt rules with respect to all of the following:

- (1) Standards for the issuance of bulletproof vests.
- (2) Application procedures and requirements.
- (3) Criteria for awarding funds.

(4) Reporting and accountability requirements for recipient agencies.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 40:2405.2)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the original bill

1. Remove provision creating the "Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections Special Protective Equipment Fund".
2. Remove provision requiring the state treasurer, beginning July 1, 2026, and each July first thereafter, to deposit into the fund \$8,500,000 from the state general fund.
3. Create the "Commission on Law Enforcement Bulletproof Vest Fund" and provide for the transfer, deposit, and use of monies in the fund.
4. Authorize the legislature to appropriate monies from the fund to the commission for any purpose authorized pursuant to proposed law.
5. Require monies in the fund to be used solely to provide financial assistance to eligible law enforcement agencies for the purchase of bulletproof vests for commissioned peace officers and establish funding priorities and criteria.
6. Require the commission to adopt rules.
7. Make technical changes.