

SENATE BILL NO. 143

BY SENATOR EDMONDS AND REPRESENTATIVES ADAMS, AMEDEE, BACALA, BOUDREAUX, BOYER, BRAUD, BROUSSARD, BRYANT, BUTLER, CARRIER, DICKERSON, FONTENOT, FREIBERG, HORTON, ILLG, JACKSON, MIKE JOHNSON, LACOMBE, MACK, MARTINEZ, NEWELL, OWEN, SAWYER, SCHAMERHORN, STAGNI AND VENTRELLA

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**

1 sufficient financial resources to provide adequate protective equipment,  
2 including bulletproof vests, for their commissioned peace officers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 (4) "Peace officer" shall have the same definition as provided in R.S.  
17 40:2402.

18 C.(1) There is hereby established in the state treasury, as a special fund,  
19 the "Commission on Law Enforcement Bulletproof Vest Fund" hereinafter  
20 referred to in this Section as the "fund".

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 the following:

24 (a) Any monies transferred or appropriated to the fund by the  
25 legislature.

26 (b) Donations, gifts, grants, or other revenue, including federal funds  
27 received for the purchase of bulletproof vests, collected for the purposes of this  
28 Section and received by the state treasurer.

29 (3) Monies in the fund shall be invested in the same manner as monies  
30 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 shall 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  
30 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature

1 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
2 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
3 effective on the day following such approval.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_