

Date of Hearing: April 27, 2022

**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

Chris Holden, Chair

AB 2062 (Salas) – As Introduced February 14, 2022

Policy Committee: Public Safety

Vote: 7 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to establish a grant program to incentivize a peace officer to seek employment with a local law enforcement agency serving an underserved community (grant program). Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires the BSCC, upon appropriation, to grant \$50 million in funds to any law enforcement agency to supplement a salary for any officer who agrees to work for a law enforcement department in an underserved community and to live in the community they serve.
- 2) Specifies that grant funds are meant to supplement a law enforcement officer's salary for five years where the officer:
  - a) Works in a police or sheriff's department that is in an underserved community that has had a homicide rate higher than the state average for the past five years or more.
  - b) Lives within a five-mile radius of the primary police department or sheriff's office in which they work.
  - c) Is either a police officer licensed on or after January 1, 2023, or is a peace officer licensed prior to January 1, 2023, who transfers on or after January 1, 2023, to an agency in an underserved community from an agency that is not in an underserved community.
- 3) Requires a law enforcement agency to issue an annual report to the BSCC that includes information about any officer receiving funding, the amount of funds used to supplement an officer's salary and if any officer has left an agency since receiving grant funds.
- 4) Requires BSCC, on or before July 1, 2028, to provide an annual report to the Legislature about the number of grants issued to law enforcement during the duration of the grant program and the efficacy of the grant program in retaining officers in underserved communities.
- 5) Provides a sunset for the grant program of January 1, 2029.

This bill appropriates \$50 million dollars from the General Fund (GF) for the grant program. BSCC estimates it will require five percent of the total grant amount, or approximately \$2.5 million, over five years to administer the grant program. BSCC additionally estimates it will require at least six years of administrative and local assistance spending authority to ensure the program is ready to begin shortly after this bill is enacted.

#### **FISCAL EFFECT:**

This bill appropriates \$50 million dollars from the General Fund (GF) for the grant program. BSCC estimates it will require five percent of the total grant amount, or approximately \$2.5 million, over five years to administer the grant program. BSCC additionally estimates it will require at least six years of administrative and local assistance spending authority to ensure the program is ready to begin shortly after this bill is enacted.

#### **COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

AB 2062 is an innovative investment in creating neighborhood cops who are part of the community they serve and live in. Our neighborhoods are safer when we have strong, positive interactions between our community members and local law enforcement.

- 2) **Law Enforcement Retention in Underserved Communities.** Like many other professions, law enforcement is suffering a labor shortage. This is particularly true in small, underserved communities in the Central Valley where cities and counties do not have sufficient funds to properly attract and compensate competent law enforcement officers. Small Central Valley cities with limited resources are often left hiring officers who have been terminated from other larger law enforcement agencies for misconduct, inexperienced officers and officers that are not from, or do not reflect the demographic make-up of the community. Both the Los Angeles Times and the San Jose Mercury News in 2019 reported on the City of McFarland's struggles to retain qualified law enforcement because of its lack of resources.
- 3) **BSCC Grant Authority.** This bill allocates \$50 million from the GF to supplement an officer's salary if the officer agrees to live and work in an underserved community. The Corrections Planning and Grant Programs Division of BSCC is responsible for administering state and federal grant programs to community-based organizations, tribes and local governments, including grant programs financing public safety initiatives. For example, BSCC administers the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Fund, which uses state savings from Proposition 47, to issue grants for mental health services, substance use disorder treatment, and diversion programs for those in the criminal justice system.
- 4) **Related Legislation.** SB 472 (Caballero) requires the BSCC, contingent upon an appropriation by the Legislature, to solicit social innovation financing proposals from county boards of supervisors, and requires BSCC to select five counties to receive grant funding, beginning July 1, 2022. SB 472 was held on this committee's Suspense file.

**5) Prior Legislation.**

- a) AB 1837 (Atkins), Chapter 802, Statutes of 2014, enacted, until January 1, 2020, the initial SIFP, to be administered by BSCC, and authorized BSCC to award three counties grants in an amount of not less than \$300,000 and not more than \$2 million, up to a maximum of \$5 million.
- b) AB 1056 (Atkins), Chapter 802, Statutes of 2015, extended the SIFP's sunset date to January 1, 2022.

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