

SUBJECT: Establishing a required sexual assault training program for peace officers

COMMITTEE: Homeland Security & Public Safety — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 6 ayes — Guillen, Jarvis Johnson, Bowers, Canales, Goodwin, Holland
3 nays — Dorazio, Harless, Troxclair

WITNESSES: For — Justin Wood, Children’s Advocacy Centers of Texas; Michael Sweeney, Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (*Registered, but did not testify*); Chris Jones, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas; M Paige Williams, Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot; Heather Vasek, DHR Health, Hidalgo County; Juliana Gonzales, SAFE Alliance; Carlos Ortiz, San Antonio Police Officer's Association; Heather Bellino, Texas Advocacy Project; Jennifer Mudge, Texas Council on Family Violence; Reed Clay, Texas Health Resources; AJ Louderback, Texas Sheriff's Regional Alliance; and 12 individuals)

Against — None

On — Cullen Grissom, Texas Commission on Law Enforcement

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that the Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force should be continued with additional training to account for both child sexual abuse and adult sexual assault.

DIGEST: HB 2650 would make the Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force permanent by removing provisions setting the task force to expire on September 1, 2023. The bill also would specify that provisions governing state agency advisory committees would not apply to the composition or duration of the task force or to the designation of the task force's presiding officer.

The bill would require the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE), in consultation with the Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force,

to establish a basic education and training program on child sexual abuse and adult sexual assault, including the use of best practices and trauma-informed response techniques to effectively recognize, investigate, and document those cases. The training program would be required to consist of at least eight hours of instruction.

The bill would require TCOLE, as part of the minimum curriculum requirements, to require an officer to complete the basic education and training program, unless the officer had completed other training equivalent to the basic education and training program as determined by TCOLE. An officer would be required to complete the program by the end of the first full continuing education training period after the date the officer was licensed, unless the officer had completed the program as part of the officer's basic training course. The minimum curriculum requirements would apply only to an officer that first began to satisfy those requirements on or after January 1, 2024.

TCOLE would be required to establish the training program by January 1, 2024.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.