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Sec. 18.65.670. Village public safety officers program.

(a) There is created in the Department of Public Safety a village public safety officer program to assist local governments and villages through nonprofit regional corporations to appoint, train, supervise, and retain persons to serve as village public safety officers to administer functions relative to

(1) the protection of life and property in rural areas of the state; and

(2) providing probation and parole supervision to persons under supervision by communicating with and monitoring the activities and progress of these persons at the direction of probation and parole officers.

(b) With funds appropriated for that purpose, the commissioner of public safety shall provide grants to nonprofit regional corporations for village public safety officers. The commissioner of public safety shall coordinate with the commissioner of corrections when providing grants under this section, and the commissioners shall jointly execute an agreement with the nonprofit regional corporations.

(c) The commissioner of public safety may adopt regulations related to village public safety officers, including minimum standards and training, criteria for community or corporation participation, and the interaction between the Department of Public Safety and village public safety officers. The commissioner of corrections may adopt regulations related to the functions of village public safety officers providing probation and parole supervision.

(d) *[Repealed, Sec. 30 ch 92 SLA 2004].*

Sec. 18.65.680. Regional public safety officers.

The commissioner of public safety may appoint regional public safety officers to

(1) provide an expanded public safety and law enforcement presence in rural areas of the state;

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- (2) provide oversight and training for the village public safety officer program;
- (3) administer functions relating to
 - (A) protecting life and property in the rural areas of the state;
 - (B) conducting investigations;
 - (C) conducting search and rescue missions;
 - (D) conducting local training programs in drug and alcohol awareness and prevention, water safety, and gun safety;
- (4) perform other duties relating to public safety as directed by the commissioner.