



# TREY WHARTON

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE ♦ DISTRICT 12

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## **Rep. Wharton's Law Enforcement Protection Bill Headed to the Governor**

AUSTIN, TX — HB 2217, authored by State Representative Trey Wharton (HD 12), passed both chambers of the Texas Legislature with strong bipartisan support and is now awaiting the signature of Governor Greg Abbott. The bill establishes a statewide grant program to help local law enforcement agencies outfit their vehicles with bullet-resistant windshields, windows, and door panels.

The Governor's Criminal Justice Division will administer the program and establish grant eligibility guidelines. This initiative will assist agencies with limited budgets in installing this life-saving technology that would otherwise be out of reach.

The legislation was inspired by the work of *Operation Safe Shield*, a nonprofit based in the Brazos Valley that has already equipped more than 140 patrol vehicles in the region with ballistic protection. HB 2217 builds on that foundation by expanding access to bullet-resistant equipment for local officers statewide, ensuring broader protection for those who serve on the front lines.

Outfitting patrol vehicles with bullet-resistant materials can be prohibitively expensive for many local departments, especially in rural or underserved areas. HB 2217 provides a critical funding mechanism to help close that gap and enhance officer safety across Texas.

HB 2217 was the first bill proudly filed by Representative Wharton after taking the oath of office. Senator Brent Hagenbuch (SD-30) sponsored the bill in the Senate and played a key role in its successful passage.

Once signed by the Governor, the legislation will go into effect on September 1, 2025.

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