

By: Patterson

H.B. No. 541

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a presumption in regard to the eligibility of public
3 safety employees who have contracted coronavirus disease
4 (COVID-19) for certain benefits.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 607, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 607.0541 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 607.0541. CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19). A public
9 safety employee who suffers from coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
10 resulting in disability or death is presumed to have contracted the
11 disease during the course and scope of employment as a public safety
12 employee.

13 SECTION 2. (a) Except as otherwise provided by this
14 section, Section 607.0541, Government Code, as added by this Act,
15 applies only to a claim for benefits or compensation filed on or
16 after the effective date of this Act. A claim filed before that
17 date is governed by the law as it existed on the date the claim was
18 filed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

19 (b) A person who on or after February 1, 2020, but before the
20 effective date of this Act, filed a claim for benefits or
21 compensation related to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and whose
22 claim was subsequently denied may file another claim on or after the
23 effective date of this Act, and the changes in law made by this Act
24 apply to that claim.

1 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.