

By: Toth

H.B. No. 20

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the employment and licensing of border security officers employed by the Department of Public Safety.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 411, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 411.02091 to read as follows:

Sec. 411.02091. BORDER SECURITY OFFICERS. (a) The department may employ as a border security officer to assist department efforts along the Texas-Mexico border an individual who:

(1) has served in the United States armed forces and received an honorable discharge; and

(2) holds a border security officer license issued by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

(b) The department shall develop a training program for border security officers that complies with the requirements of Subchapter P, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code.

(c) The department shall deploy border security officers to serve along the Texas-Mexico border for 60 continuous days out of a 90-day period.

SECTION 2. Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subchapter P to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER P. BORDER SECURITY OFFICERS

Sec. 1701.751. BORDER SECURITY OFFICER LICENSE. (a) The commission shall adopt rules establishing a border security officer

1 license for border security officers of the Department of Public  
2 Safety.

3 (b) The rules adopted under Subsection (a) must provide for  
4 an application process for a border security officer license that  
5 is similar to the application process for a peace officer license.

6 Sec. 1701.752. ELIGIBILITY. A border security officer  
7 license may be issued only to an individual who served in the United  
8 States armed forces and received an honorable discharge and  
9 satisfies the eligibility requirements established by commission  
10 rule.

11 Sec. 1701.753. REQUIRED TRAINING. The commission, in  
12 consultation with the Department of Public Safety, shall establish  
13 training requirements for border security officers.

14 Sec. 1701.754. AUTHORITY OF BORDER SECURITY OFFICER. (a)  
15 An individual who holds a border security officer license has the  
16 same authority as a peace officer except as otherwise provided by  
17 commission rule.

18 (b) The commission, in consultation with the Department of  
19 Public Safety, shall adopt rules to implement this section.

20 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
24 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the  
25 legislative session.