

BILL ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 2829
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Law Enforcement
Committee Report (Substituted)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Under current law, commissioned state peace officers, such as state troopers and other officers working at the Department of Public Safety (DPS), are paid according to a uniform pay scale. However, some of the state's commissioned peace officers work in a region where a second language is prevalent in the peace officer's assigned area, and proficiency in the second language would enhance the officer's effectiveness in performing his or her duties. C.S.H.B. 2829 authorizes supplemental pay for DPS commissioned officers who display proficiency in a second language that is beneficial to protecting the public safety.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 2829 amends Chapter 411 of the Government Code by adding Section 411.0161, which authorizes the Department of Public Safety to pay a supplement not to exceed \$100 a month to an officer commissioned by the department who is proficient in both English and a second language. To receive the supplemental pay, the Department of Public Safety must determine that the second language is beneficial to protecting the public safety and the officer must be able to demonstrate proficiency in the second language by reading, writing, and demonstrated conversation skills. Supplemental pay under this section is in addition to an officer's regular salary.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL TO SUBSTITUTE

C.S.H.B. 2829 modifies the original by requiring the Department of Public Safety to determine that the second language is beneficial to protecting the public safety for an officer to be eligible to receive supplemental pay. The original required the second language to be predominantly used in and around the area where the commissioned officer was stationed to be eligible to receive supplemental pay. The substitute provides that the supplemental pay not exceed \$100, whereas the original provided that the supplemental pay is equal to \$100.