

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
78R4197 MTB-D

S.B. 527  
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As Filed

### **DIGEST AND PURPOSE**

Currently, Texas law authorizes a rapid transit authority to commission officers to enforce transit laws on transit property, but not laws in general and not to protect those who use transit authority services. Expanding the security force and its mission will improve the safety of the general population. As proposed, S.B. 527 authorizes a rapid transit authority to commission security personnel as peace officers with all the related powers and rights. S.B. 527 also expands transit authority peace officers' arresting jurisdiction from offenses committed against transit authority property to include offenses committed against transit authority users.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 451.108, Transportation Code, by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (d), as follows:

- (a) Authorizes a rapid transit authority to establish a security force, and employ and commission security personnel as peace officers.
- (b) Includes in the exemption clause both Subsection (c) and Subsection (d). Includes in the authorization for a peace officer to make an arrest, an offense that involves transit authority users, in addition to the transit authority system itself, and to enforce all laws, not just traffic laws. Makes a conforming change.
- (d) Provides that a peace officer commissioned under this section and meeting certain criteria, has all powers, privileges, and immunities of peace officers in the transit authority system's counties of service and support, while acting in connection with and on the property of the authority.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2003.