

BILL ANALYSIS

S.B. 1188
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Criminal Jurisprudence
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Under current law, Texas lacks a provision that provides for supplemental pay for a Department of Public Safety (DPS) officer who is proficient in a second language. Presently, numerous ethnic groups live in Texas and an officer's proficiency in a secondary language can be vital in volatile situation. Furthermore, the ability of a DPS law enforcement agent to speak a second language is crucial because Texas borders Mexico. Senate Bill 1188 authorizes supplemental pay for DPS officers who are proficient in a second language.

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

Senate Bill 1188 amends the Government Code to authorize the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to pay a supplement not to exceed \$100 a month to a commissioned officer who is proficient in both English and a second language, if DPS determines that the second language is beneficial to protecting the public safety and the commissioned officer is able to demonstrate proficiency in the second language by reading, writing, and demonstrating conversation skills in the second language.

The bill also provides for supplemental pay for a commissioned DPS officer who has obtained certain educational degrees. These types of supplemental pay may only made if the legislature specifically appropriates money for the purpose.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2005.