

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

S.B. 1288  
By: Gallegos  
Defense Affairs and State-Federal Relations  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Currently, Texas law does not require municipalities to provide military leave time accounts for fire fighters or police officers or to maintain their health, dental, and life insurance coverage and benefits should a fire fighter or police officers be called to active military duty. Additionally, there is no authorization for a fire fighter or police officer to substitute voluntarily for a fire fighter or police officer who has been called to federal active military duty. S.B. 1288, as proposed, would require municipalities to provide a military leave time accounts for fire fighters or police officers and to maintain their health, dental, and life insurance coverage and benefits should a fire fighter or police officer be called to active duty. Also, this bill authorizes a fire fighter or police officer to substitute voluntarily for a fire fighter or police officer who has been called to federal active military duty, as lone as that fire fighter or police officer is qualified to perform the duties of the absent fire fighter or police officer.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

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

### **ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. S.B. 1288 requires a municipality to maintain separate military leave time accounts for the fire and police departments.

This section requires that a military leave time account benefit a fire fighter or police officer who meets certain criteria. It also allows for a fire fighter or police officer to donate any amount of accumulated vacation, holiday, or compensatory leave time to the military leave account for their respective department.

The bill would require a municipality to distribute equally the leave time donated to a military leave time account among all fire fighters or police officers who are eligible beneficiaries of that account. It also requires the municipality to credit and debit the applicable military leave time account on an hourly basis regardless of the cash value of the time donated or used.

This section requires the respective department to continue maintaining any health, dental, or life insurance coverage and benefits until receipt of written instructions from the fire fighter or police officer to change or discontinue coverage.

The bill authorizes a fire fighter or police officer to substitute voluntarily, without restriction as to amount of time, for a fire fighter or police officer called to active duty for a period to last twelve months or longer. It also requires the fire fighter or police officer who substitutes voluntarily to be qualified to perform the duties of the absent fire fighter or police officer.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003 unless it receives the votes necessary for immediate effect.