

By: Burnam

H.B. No. 915

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a minimum wage for public employees.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle A, Title 6, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 619 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 619. MINIMUM WAGE FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Sec. 619.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter, "local governmental entity," "public employee," and "state governmental entity" have the meanings assigned by Section 554.001.

Sec. 619.002. EXEMPTION. This chapter does not apply to a public employee whose salary is set by the Texas Constitution.

Sec. 619.003. PAYMENT OF MINIMUM WAGE. (a) A state or local governmental entity shall pay to a public employee a wage that is not less than the greater of:

(1) the minimum hourly wage determined under Section 619.004; or

(2) the federal minimum hourly wage.

(b) Each state and local governmental entity shall adjust its salary schedule as necessary beginning with the first full pay period that begins after a change in the minimum hourly wage determined in accordance with Subsection (a).

Sec. 619.004. CALCULATION OF MINIMUM WAGE. (a) The minimum hourly wage under Section 619.003(a)(1) is equal to the average

1 weekly wage, as determined under Subsection (b), divided by 40.

2 (b) The average weekly wage is equal to the federal poverty  
3 guideline for a family of four, as issued by the United States  
4 Department of Health and Human Services, divided by 52.

5 SECTION 2. (a) A state or local governmental entity shall  
6 adopt a salary schedule in accordance with Chapter 619, Government  
7 Code, as added by this Act, not later than October 1, 2003.

8 (b) A state or local governmental entity shall implement a  
9 salary schedule adopted under Subsection (a) of this section on the  
10 later of October 1, 2003, or the first day of the entity's first  
11 fiscal year that begins after the effective date of this Act.

12 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.