

By: Kuempel

H.B. No. 2237

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the financial assistance for the eligible survivor of a  
3 member of an organized volunteer fire-fighting unit.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 615.003, Government Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 615.003. APPLICABILITY. This chapter applies only to  
8 eligible survivors of the following individuals:

9 (1) an individual elected, appointed, or employed as a  
10 peace officer by the state or a political subdivision of the state  
11 under Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, or other law;

12 (2) a paid probation officer appointed by the director  
13 of a community supervision and corrections department who has the  
14 duties set out in Section 76.002 and the qualifications set out in  
15 Section 76.005, or who was appointed in accordance with prior law;

16 (3) a parole officer employed by the pardons and  
17 paroles division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice who  
18 has the duties set out in Section 508.001 and the qualifications set  
19 out in Section 508.113 or in prior law;

20 (4) a paid jailer;

21 (5) a member of an organized police reserve or  
22 auxiliary unit who regularly assists peace officers in enforcing  
23 criminal laws;

24 (6) a member of the class of employees of the

1 institutional division or the state jail division of the Texas  
2 Department of Criminal Justice formally designated as custodial  
3 personnel under Section 615.006 by the Texas Board of Criminal  
4 Justice or its predecessor in function;

5 (7) a jailer or guard of a county jail who is appointed  
6 by the sheriff and who:

7 (A) performs a security, custodial, or  
8 supervisory function over the admittance, confinement, or  
9 discharge of prisoners; and

10 (B) is certified by the Commission on Law  
11 Enforcement Officer Standards and Education;

12 (8) a juvenile correctional employee of the Texas  
13 Youth Commission;

14 (9) an employee of the Texas Department of Mental  
15 Health and Mental Retardation who:

16 (A) works at the department's maximum security  
17 unit; or

18 (B) performs on-site services for the Texas  
19 Department of Criminal Justice;

20 (10) an individual who is employed by the state or a  
21 political or legal subdivision and is subject to certification by  
22 the Texas Commission on Fire Protection;

23 (11) an individual employed by the state or a  
24 political or legal subdivision whose principal duties are aircraft  
25 crash and rescue fire fighting;

26 (12) a member of an organized volunteer fire-fighting  
27 unit that:

1 (A) renders fire-fighting services without  
2 remuneration;

3 (B) consists of not fewer than 10 [~~20~~] active  
4 members, a majority of whom are present at each meeting; and

5 (C) conducts a minimum of two drills each month,  
6 each two hours long; or

7 (13) an individual who:

8 (A) performs emergency medical services or  
9 operates an ambulance;

10 (B) is employed by a political subdivision of the  
11 state or is an emergency medical services volunteer as defined by  
12 Section 773.003, Health and Safety Code; and

13 (C) is qualified as an emergency care attendant  
14 or at a higher level of training under Section 773.046, 773.047,  
15 773.048, 773.049, or 773.0495, Health and Safety Code.

16 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act to Section  
17 615.003, Government Code, relating to the death of a member of an  
18 organized volunteer fire-fighting unit applies only in relation to  
19 a death that occurs on or after the effective date of this Act.  
20 Matters regarding eligibility, payment, and benefits under Chapter  
21 615, Government Code, in relation to a death that occurs before the  
22 effective date of this Act are governed by the law in effect when  
23 the death occurs, and the former law is continued in effect for that  
24 purpose.

25 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.