

By: Madla, Van de Putte

S.B. No. 482

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain chaplains killed in the line of duty.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(4) a paid jailer;

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

(6) a member of the class of employees of the institutional division or the state jail division of the Texas

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (A) renders fire-fighting services without

1 remuneration;

2 (B) consists of not fewer than 20 active members,
3 a majority of whom are present at each meeting; and

4 (C) conducts a minimum of two drills each month,
5 each two hours long; [~~or~~]

6 (13) an individual who:

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

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

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

15 (14) an individual who is employed or formally
16 designated as a chaplain for:

17 (A) an organized volunteer fire-fighting unit or
18 other fire department of this state or of a political subdivision of
19 this state;

20 (B) a law enforcement agency of this state or of a
21 political subdivision of this state; or

22 (C) the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

23 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act to Section
24 615.003, Government Code, relating to the death of certain
25 chaplains applies only in relation to a death that occurs on or
26 after the effective date of this Act. Matters regarding
27 eligibility, payment, and benefits under Chapter 615, Government

1 Code, in relation to a death that occurs before the effective date
2 of this Act are governed by the law in effect when the death occurs,
3 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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