

By: Latham

H.B. No. 2667

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to certain insurance-related matters involving rural
3 volunteer firefighters, volunteer police force members, or
4 emergency services districts.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 614.072(b), Government Code, is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 (b) The director may adopt rules necessary to assist rural
9 volunteer fire departments in the payment of:

10 (1) workers' compensation insurance;

11 (2) audit costs for workers' compensation claims in
12 any year in which there is an abnormally high number of wildfires;
13 and

14 (3) accidental death and disability insurance.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 614, Government Code, is amended by
16 adding Subchapter H to read as follows:

17 SUBCHAPTER H. INSURANCE COVERAGE REQUIRED FOR
18 VOLUNTEER POLICE FORCE MEMBERS

19 Sec. 614.121. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "volunteer
20 police force member" means:

21 (1) a person summoned under Section 341.011, Local
22 Government Code, to serve on a special police force;

23 (2) a police reserve force member appointed under
24 Section 341.012, Local Government Code; and

1 (3) any other person assigned by a state agency or
2 political subdivision to perform, without compensation, any duties
3 typically performed by a peace officer.

4 Sec. 614.122. INSURANCE COVERAGE REQUIRED. Each volunteer
5 police force member must be insured by the applicable state agency
6 or political subdivision against any injury suffered by the police
7 force member in the course and scope of performing the person's
8 assigned duties at the request of or under a contract with a state
9 agency or political subdivision.

10 SECTION 3. Section 775.084(i), Health and Safety Code, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 (i) This section does not apply to:

- 13 (1) the purchase or lease of real property;
- 14 (2) an item or service that the board determines can be
15 obtained from only one source;
- 16 (3) a contract for fire extinguishment and suppression
17 services, emergency rescue services, or ambulance services;
- 18 (4) an emergency expenditure;
- 19 (5) the purchase of vehicle fuel; [~~or~~]
- 20 (6) the purchase of firefighter bunker gear;
- 21 (7) the purchase of insurance coverage; or
- 22 (8) repairs funded by a payment made under an
23 insurance claim.

24 SECTION 4. Subchapter H, Chapter 614, Government Code, as
25 added by this Act, applies only to a volunteer police force member
26 performing assigned duties on or after January 1, 2008.

27 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.