

1-1 By: Howard of Travis, Rodriguez H.B. No. 554  
1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Watson)  
1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 4, 2011;  
1-4 May 5, 2011, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-5 Intergovernmental Relations; May 19, 2011, reported favorably by  
1-6 the following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 19, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-7 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-8 AN ACT

1-9 relating to the civil service status of emergency medical services  
1-10 personnel in certain municipalities.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Chapter 143, Local Government Code, is amended  
1-13 by adding Subchapter K to read as follows:

1-14 SUBCHAPTER K. CIVIL SERVICE STATUS OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
1-15 PERSONNEL IN CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES

1-16 Sec. 143.401. APPLICABILITY. (a) This subchapter applies  
1-17 only to a municipality:

1-18 (1) with a population of 460,000 or more that operates  
1-19 under a city manager form of government; and

1-20 (2) that employs emergency medical services personnel  
1-21 in a municipal department other than the fire department.

1-22 (b) In this subchapter, "emergency medical services  
1-23 personnel" has the meaning assigned by Section 773.003, Health and  
1-24 Safety Code. The term applies only to an individual certified under  
1-25 Chapter 773, Health and Safety Code.

1-26 Sec. 143.402. ELECTION TO ADOPT OR REPEAL SUBCHAPTER.

1-27 (a) A municipality may hold an election to adopt or repeal this  
1-28 subchapter as provided by this section.

1-29 (b) If the governing body of the municipality receives a  
1-30 petition requesting an election that is signed by a number of  
1-31 registered voters who reside in the municipality equal to at least  
1-32 10 percent of the number of voters who voted in the most recent  
1-33 municipal general election, the governing body shall order an  
1-34 election submitting to the voters the question of whether this  
1-35 subchapter should be adopted. The election must be held on the  
1-36 first authorized uniform election date prescribed by Chapter 41,  
1-37 Election Code, that occurs after the petition is filed and that  
1-38 allows sufficient time to comply with other requirements of law.

1-39 (c) The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or  
1-40 against the proposition: "Adoption of the emergency medical  
1-41 services personnel civil service law." If a majority of the votes  
1-42 received in the election favor adoption of this subchapter, the  
1-43 governing body shall implement this subchapter.

1-44 (d) A petition for a subsequent election to be held under  
1-45 Subsection (b) may not be filed for at least one year after the date  
1-46 of a previous election under that subsection. To be valid, a  
1-47 petition for a subsequent election must contain the signatures of a  
1-48 number of registered voters who reside in the municipality equal to  
1-49 at least 20 percent of the number of voters who voted in the most  
1-50 recent municipal general election. Any subsequent election must be  
1-51 held at the next municipal general election that occurs after the  
1-52 petition is filed.

1-53 (e) If the governing body of a municipality that has  
1-54 operated under this subchapter for at least one year receives a  
1-55 petition requesting an election to repeal this subchapter that is  
1-56 signed by at least 10 percent of the registered voters who reside in  
1-57 the municipality, the governing body shall order an election  
1-58 submitting to the voters the question of whether this subchapter  
1-59 should be repealed. If a majority of the votes received favor  
1-60 repeal of this subchapter, this subchapter is void in that  
1-61 municipality.

1-62 Sec. 143.403. STATUS OF EMPLOYEES IF SUBCHAPTER ADOPTED.

1-63 (a) Each person who is employed for more than six months as  
1-64 emergency medical services personnel serving in a municipality at

2-1 the time this subchapter is adopted in the municipality and who is  
2-2 entitled to civil service classification has the status of a civil  
2-3 service employee and is not required to take a competitive  
2-4 examination to remain in the position the person occupies at the  
2-5 time of the adoption.

2-6 (b) On adoption of this subchapter, the governing body of  
2-7 the municipality employing emergency medical services personnel  
2-8 shall classify the personnel in accordance with Section 143.021 and  
2-9 the duties performed by the personnel.

2-10 (c) To the extent it can be made applicable, each provision  
2-11 of this chapter, including the provisions relating to eligibility  
2-12 lists, examinations, promotions, appointments, educational  
2-13 incentive pay, longevity or seniority pay, certification pay,  
2-14 assignment pay, salary, vacation leave, and disciplinary appeals,  
2-15 applies to emergency medical services personnel covered by this  
2-16 subchapter.

2-17 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2-18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2-19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2-20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
2-21 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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