

By: Anchia

H.B. No. 1057

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to business leave time for certain municipal firefighters and police officers.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 142, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 142.014 to read as follows:

Sec. 142.014. BUSINESS LEAVE TIME ACCOUNT FOR FIREFIGHTERS IN CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES. (a) This section applies only to firefighters employed by a municipality with a population of one million or more that has not adopted Chapter 174 and to which Chapter 143 does not apply.

(b) In this section:

(1) "Business leave" means leave taken for the purpose of attending to the business of an employee organization.

(2) "Employee organization" includes:

(A) the Dallas Fire Fighters Association;

(B) the Dallas Black Fire Fighters Association;

and

(C) the Dallas Hispanic Firefighters Association.

(c) If the constitution and bylaws of an employee organization authorize the employee organization to participate in the establishment and maintenance of a business leave time account as provided by this section, a firefighter who is a member of an

1 employee organization may donate not more than one hour of
2 accumulated leave time for each calendar quarter to the business
3 leave time account of the employee organization to which the
4 firefighter belongs. The municipality shall establish and maintain
5 a separate business leave time account for each employee
6 organization that has approved or ratified the use of business
7 leave time by its members under this section and has a specific
8 provision in the constitution and bylaws of that employee
9 organization.

10 (d) Only a firefighter who is a member of an employee
11 organization may use for business leave purposes the time donated
12 to the account of the employee organization. A firefighter may use
13 for business leave purposes the time donated under this section
14 without receiving a reduction in salary and without reimbursing the
15 municipality.

16 (e) A request to use for business leave purposes the time in
17 an employee organization's time account must be in writing and be
18 submitted to the municipality by the president or the equivalent
19 officer of the employee organization or by that officer's designee.

20 (f) The municipality shall grant a request for business
21 leave that complies with Subsection (e) unless:

22 (1) denial of the request is necessary because of an
23 emergency; or

24 (2) a grant of the request will result in having an
25 insufficient number of firefighters to carry out the normal
26 functions of the municipality.

27 (g) The municipality shall account for the time donated to

1 each account and used from each account. The municipality shall
2 credit and debit an account on an hour-for-hour basis regardless of
3 the cash value of the time donated or used.

4 (h) An employee organization may not use for business leave
5 purposes more than 4,000 hours from its business leave time account
6 under this section in a calendar year unless the municipality
7 approves the use of hours in excess of 4,000. This subsection does
8 not prevent an employee organization from accumulating more than
9 4,000 hours, but only addresses the total number of donated hours
10 that an employee organization may use in any calendar year.

11 (i) The use of business leave by a firefighter under this
12 section is not a break in service for any purpose and is treated as
13 any other paid leave.

14 SECTION 2. Sections 142.013(b) and (c), Local Government
15 Code, are amended to read as follows:

16 (b) In this section:

17 (1) "Business leave" means leave taken for the purpose
18 of attending to the business of an employee organization.

19 (2) "Employee organization" includes:

20 (A) the Texas Peace Officers Association;

21 (B) the Dallas Police Association;

22 (C) the Dallas Fraternal Order of Police; ~~and~~

23 (D) the Latino Peace Officers Association; and

24 (E) the Black Police Association of Greater
25 Dallas.

26 (c) If the constitution and bylaws of an employee
27 organization authorize the employee organization to participate in

1 the establishment and maintenance of a business leave time account
2 as provided by this section, a [A] police officer may donate not
3 more than two hours for each month of accumulated vacation or
4 compensatory time to the business leave time account of the [an]
5 employee organization. The municipality shall establish and
6 maintain a business leave time account for each employee
7 organization.

8 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
12 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.