

By: Otto

H.B. No. 3655

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the State Bar of Texas membership dues and minimum continuing legal education requirements for an attorney employed by the office of the attorney general.

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

SECTION 1. Section 81.054, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsections (m) and (n) to read as follows:

(m) A member is not required to pay a membership fee for a year in which the member is employed as a full-time attorney by the office of the attorney general.

(n) The state bar shall adopt rules governing the proration of a membership fee paid by an attorney who is not employed by the office of the attorney general for an entire year.

SECTION 2. Section 81.113(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), the state bar shall credit an attorney licensed in this state with meeting the minimum continuing legal education requirements of the state bar for a reporting year if during the reporting year the attorney is employed full-time as an attorney by:

- (1) the senate;
- (2) the house of representatives;
- (3) a committee, division, department, or office of the senate or house;

- (4) the Texas Legislative Council;
- (5) the Legislative Budget Board;
- (6) the Legislative Reference Library;
- (7) the office of the state auditor; ~~[or]~~
- (8) the Sunset Advisory Commission; or
- (9) the office of the attorney general.

SECTION 3. (a) Sections 81.054(m) and (n), Government Code, as added by this Act, apply to a membership fee for membership or renewal of membership in the State Bar of Texas that becomes due on or after the effective date of this Act. A membership fee for membership or renewal of membership that becomes due before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the membership fee becomes due, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

(b) Section 81.113(a), Government Code, as amended by this Act, applies only to the requirements for a continuing legal education compliance year that ends on or after September 1, 2012. The requirements for continuing legal education for a compliance year that ends before September 1, 2012, are covered by the law and rules in effect when the compliance year ended, and that law and those rules are continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect January 1, 2012.