

By: Hegar

S.B. No. 1477

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to differential pay and benefits for certain officers and employees of emergency services districts who are members of the armed forces.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 775, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 775.039 to read as follows:

Sec. 775.039. DIFFERENTIAL PAY AND BENEFITS FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICTS. (a) A board may provide differential pay to a district officer or employee who is a member of the state military forces or a reserve component of the United States armed forces who is called to active duty if:

(1) the board adopts a policy providing for differential pay for all similarly situated officers or employees; and

(2) the officer's or employee's military pay is less than the officer's or employee's gross pay from the district.

(b) The combination of differential pay and military pay may not exceed the officer's or employee's actual gross pay from the district.

(c) For purposes of this section, military pay does not include money the officer or employee receives:

(1) for service in a combat zone;

(2) as hardship pay; or

1           (3) for being separated from the officer's or  
2 employee's family.

3           (d) The differential pay provided by Subsection (a) begins  
4 when the benefits allowed under Section 431.005, Government Code,  
5 are exhausted and continues until the officer's or employee's  
6 active military duty terminates.

7           (e) The board may extend the insurance benefits provided by  
8 the district to a district officer or employee who is a member of  
9 the state military forces or a reserve component of the United  
10 States armed forces who is called to active duty and to the  
11 officer's or employee's dependents. The extension period begins  
12 when the benefits allowed under Section 431.005, Government Code,  
13 are exhausted and continues until the officer's or employee's  
14 active military duty terminates.

15           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.