

By: Hegar

S.B. No. 1477

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 431, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 431.019 to read as follows:

Sec. 431.019. DIFFERENTIAL PAY AND BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYEES OF EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICTS. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a person who is an officer or employee of an emergency services district and who is a member of the state military forces or a reserve component of the state or federal armed forces may be provided differential pay, provided that the governing body of the district, in its sole discretion, votes to provide such differential pay and the employee's military pay is less than the employee's gross pay from the emergency services district, through a policy covering all similarly situated employees. The combination of differential pay and military pay may not exceed the employee's actual gross pay from the emergency services district.

(b) For purposes of Subsection (a), military pay does not include money the employee receives:

(1) for service in a combat zone;

(2) as hardship pay; or

(3) for being separated from the employee's family.

1       (c) The differential pay provided by Subsection (a) shall  
2 begin when the benefits allowed under Section 431.005 are exhausted  
3 and continue until the employee's active military duty terminates.

4       (d) In addition to the differential pay provided by  
5 Subsection (a), an employee of an emergency services district who  
6 is a member of the state military forces or a reserve component of  
7 the state or federal armed forces may be provided an extension of  
8 the employee's and the employee's dependents' insurance benefits  
9 provided by the political subdivision if the governing body of the  
10 district votes to provide such benefit. The time period for  
11 extension of these insurance benefits shall begin when the benefits  
12 allowed under Section 431.005 are exhausted and continue until the  
13 employee's active military duty terminates.

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