

By: Hughes, Fletcher, Anderson of Dallas,
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H.B. No. 1278

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to financial assistance paid to the survivors of certain
3 law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other public employees
4 killed in the line of duty.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 615.022, Government Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 615.022. PAYMENT TO SURVIVORS. (a) If there is an
9 eligible surviving spouse, the state shall pay \$500,000 [~~\$250,000~~]
10 to the eligible surviving spouse.

11 (b) If there is no eligible surviving spouse, the state
12 shall pay \$500,000 [~~\$250,000~~] in equal shares to surviving
13 children.

14 (c) If there is no eligible surviving spouse or child, the
15 state shall pay \$500,000 [~~\$250,000~~] in equal shares to surviving
16 parents.

17 SECTION 2. Sections 615.023(a) and (b), Government Code,
18 are amended to read as follows:

19 (a) The state shall pay to the duly appointed or qualified
20 guardian or other legal representative of an eligible surviving
21 minor child:

22 (1) \$400 [~~\$200~~] each month, if there is one surviving
23 child;

24 (2) \$600 [~~\$300~~] each month, if there are two surviving

1 children; or

2 (3) \$800 [~~\$400~~] each month, if there are three or more
3 surviving children.

4 (b) A child's entitlement to assistance payable under this
5 section ends on the last day of the month that includes the child's
6 18th birthday. At that time, payments to any other surviving minor
7 children shall be adjusted, as necessary, to conform to the amounts
8 payable under Subsection (a).

9 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply in
10 relation to a payment of assistance made to survivors of certain
11 public servants on or after the effective date of this Act
12 regardless of the date the death of the public servant occurs.

13 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.